

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit Rensselaer

Hi-Line Newsletter



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Life in the Day of NROTC

By: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci



Left: MIDN 1/C Zachary Crawford, Right: MIDN 2/C Jakob Yager

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (RPI NROTC) is a 4-year program designed to develop its students morally, mentally, and physically so they are prepared to lead sailors and marines in the fleet. According to Captain Daniel D. Arensmeyer, Commanding Officer RPI NROTC, a leader must establish themselves on three pillars; knowledge, character, and endurance. Through the combination of the academics of RPI and the military training of NROTC all three may be achieved.

The midshipmen of RPI NROTC come from all across the nation, from a variety of different backgrounds, and for different reasons. MIDN 1/C Zachary Crawford - a senior - hales from New Braunfels, Texas and is currently majoring in Industrial Management Engineering. MIDN Crawford comes from a long tradition of military service, with every male member on his father's side and some from his mother's serving in the US Armed Forces since before World War II. When asked why he joined, MIDN Crawford said: "I chose to serve in the United States military because I was raised on the idea that in order to reap the benefits of this country, I must first sacrifice to preserve them. I am the type of person who strives to have a substantial purpose behind everything I do. My true source of fulfillment is done through service of others, and using my gifts and skills to help others in any way I can. The military was a means to an education, a trade, provision, and a career where I can help others around the world."

This May MIDN 1/C Zachary Crawford will commission into the Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community, a very small community awarded the title of Special Operations.

MIDN 2/C Jakob Yager – a junior- on the other hand hales from Castleton, New York – just a few minutes' drive from campus - and has a deep connection with not only the United States Navy, but RPI NROTC as well. MIDN Yager's father, retired Lieutenant Commander Michael Yager, was stationed at RPI NROTC several years ago as a class advisor, and was a naval aviator who piloted the "mighty" P-3 Orion. In addition, MIDN Yager's older brother - Ensign Cole Yager - commissioned into the submarine service from RPI NROTC in May 2014. MIDN 2/C Yager is currently majoring in Civil Engineering and is hoping to follow in his father's footsteps and become a naval aviator.

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Life in the Day of NROTC Cont'd



Left: MIDN 3/C Amy Nelson, Right: MIDN 4/C James Carnes

Over the past several decades, the United States Armed Forces have taken great strides to reinvent itself in order to improve its warfighting abilities, such as the formation of the United States Air Force in 1947 and the formation of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) in 1981. One of the most significant strides however has been the incorporation of females into the very bones of its fighting force, and RPI NROTC is no exception. MIDN 3/C Amy Nelson – a sophomore – hails from Auburn, California. When asked why she had chosen to join the United States Armed Forces she stated: “I was inspired by my grandfather from a very young age to serve in the Armed Forces. As I got older, I was fortunate enough to travel a lot outside of the U.S. and see how lucky we are to be U.S. citizens. I decided I shouldn’t take that for granted and I wanted to pursue a career with something larger than myself.”

MIDN Nelson elected to attend RPI because of its cutting edge Nuclear Engineering program and hopes to put her education to use serving in the Navy’s nuclear surface fleet; aircraft carriers.

RPI NROTC does not solely train and commission sailors, but also marines, and we would be remiss if we forgot our brothers and sisters in green. The United States Marine Corps is the most tactically proficient and capable amphibious war fighting force in the history of the world. The title United States Marine is earned, and honors those who fought at the Battles of Veracruz, Belleau Wood, Saipan, and in a hundred different rice paddies and jungles in Vietnam. MIDN 4/C James A. Carnes – a freshman – is ambitious and eager to bear the title Marine. MIDN Carnes comes from Pulaski, New York and has no military heritage in his family and when asked why he elected to join he said: “I decided to join because I want to become a United States Marine.” It could not be more clear cut . MIDN Carnes embodies the whole spirit and ethos of the US Marine Corps and is working to become an infantry officer and will attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) in the summer of 2017 and will later commission as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation in May 2018.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has been regarded as one of the United States' top engineering schools. In 2012, *Business Insider* ranked RPI as the 4th on their list of “The World’s Best Engineering Schools,” and in 2014, *USA Today* ranked RPI as number 5 on its list of “The Top 10 Engineering Colleges in the U.S.” These great achievements by the institute are not earned lightly however, they have been forged over nearly two centuries since the schools founding in 1824. RPI puts a high demand on its students, which tests their knowledge and endurance. Many students view RPI’s academics as a gauntlet of fire necessary for their future success with companies who push the very boundaries of science and technology, such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics. For a select few students however, RPI’s gauntlet of fire is accompanied by the strict mental and physical training and fortitude of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. These are the midshipmen of RPI NROTC.

Midshipman Attends Naval Academy Leadership Conference

By: MIDN 4/C Lisa Brown

The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit at RPI sent MIDN 2/C William Ash to the annual United States Naval Academy Leadership Conference, from 25 January 2015 through 28 January 2015. The purpose of the conference is to share experiences and strategies about leadership, especially concerning government and the military from both undergraduate students and professionals from these fields. The United States Naval Academy Leadership Conference has been hosted since 1984. This year's theme was centered on an interconnected world through technology, which emphasized leading without letting technology damage the relationship between leaders and followers.



MIDN 2/C William Ash

MIDN Ash thoroughly enjoyed listening to Keynote speakers, panels, and speeches throughout the conference. While many of the speakers' messages seemed more conceptual about leadership, Clint Bruce's speech stood out to MIDN Ash because it focused more on the action aspects of leadership. Clint Bruce, a former U.S. Navy Seal, spoke about what he considered to be five habits of elite individuals, such as being curious, sharing your scars, and following the 10,000 rule. The 10,000 rule simply means that if you want to be good at a task, you need to put 10,000 hours into it or do something 10,000 times, such as

10,000 shots to be a good sniper. You need to push yourself and put in the same amount of effort to try to hit that mark for everything with which you want to succeed. What also made this speech memorable was that Clint Bruce included a story behind every point, making the lessons more relatable. MIDN Ash believes he learned the most from this speech.

In addition to listening to many valuable speakers, the students from all around the nation were also able to discuss what they just heard and share their leadership experiences with others. MIDN Ash enjoyed these breakout sessions because they allowed the students to also digest and reflect upon the information.

MIDN Ash believes potential leaders should learn more about technology because it is very influential on the world. Leaders should seek out more knowledge about technology because technology will just keep continuing to grow. Leaders are going to be much more visible to their followers due to social media because followers will be able to know what their leaders have done and are doing even when they are not together. So, leaders must be careful of what they put online. Additionally, MIDN Ash commented that one beneficial trait for the future would be, "Knowing how to interact with technology properly." MIDN Ash is even completing an IT minor to learn more about technology. He also believes that learning how to code will be important knowledge and thinks other students should learn this skill as well.

MIDN Ash was impressed that the speakers took time out of their busy schedules to inform students about technology, leadership, and the world. One of the most important things he took away from the conference was that "as a leader you have to set the example for your people." It is a common, but still very valuable philosophy. MIDN Ash would recommend any other students who have the opportunity to attend any conferences, like the United States Naval Academy Leadership Conference, they should definitely go and learn as much as they can.

Big Hopes for Midshipmen in the Field of Nuclear Power

By: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci

After the conclusion of the Manhattan Project with the dropping of the two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, many of the project's officials turned their focus to other uses of nuclear energy. At the time, a captain in the United States Navy by the name of Hyman G. Rickover envisioned the possibility of harnessing nuclear energy to propel a submarine.

"Birthing from this vision, along with several years of research and development, was the world's first nuclear powered submarine, the *USS Nautilus*, forever revolutionizing the United States Navy's submarine force as the most technologically advanced and capable naval force in the world," said Captain Daniel Arensmeyer, USN, commanding officer for the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Rensselaer.

Today, 61 years after the commissioning of the *USS Nautilus* in 1954, two midshipmen from Rensselaer's Naval ROTC program—MIDN 2/C Wesley Price and MIDN 2/C Amanda Gallo—are striving to further enhance the capabilities of nuclear power through their endeavors with its research and development.

Price is one of the top midshipmen in the program both here at Rensselaer and in the nation, according to the NROTC programs rankings. Pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering, he is also one of less than 20 upperclassmen at Rensselaer with a cumulative 4.0 GPA. As a result of his hard work and determination to master the elements of mechanical engineering, he was one of only three midshipmen in the nation selected for a 10-week summer intern-

ship with the United States Naval Reactor Program. The program is one of the most prestigious engineering programs in the U.S. Navy—a joint venture between the United States Navy and the U.S. Department of Energy to develop nuclear power. In February, Price interviewed with Naval Reactors, their decision currently hinges on Price's performance at his summer internship.

The ROTC programs are elective offerings for students who desire commissions in the armed forces. Gallo, who is a nuclear engineering major, has been awarded a summer internship as part of the U.S. Department of Energy Science Undergraduate Internship program. She will be study-



MIDN 2/C Amanda Gallo

ing at the Brookhaven National Lab in nuclear science with Nicholas Brown, a scientist in the Nuclear Science and Technology Department. The internship will revolve around Monte Carlo simulations to optimize material combinations for the first layer of shielding in a reactor core. Currently, Gallo, who is also a junior, holds a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and is scheduled to interview for service selection in the U.S. Navy submarine community in fall 2015.



MIDN 2/C Wesley Price

NROTCU RPI Community Service

By: MIDN 4/C Lisa Brown

For this semester, the theme for community service has been local outreach. MIDN 2/C Gallo, the Community Service Division Officer, wants there to be community service opportunities on campus so midshipmen do not have to deal with the hassle of finding transportation to volunteer events. On campus, midshipmen have tutored students weekly at Blitman Commons, helped out at the Center for Career and Professional Development's (CCPD) Career Fair and in the annual Relay for Life. But, midshipmen still have many opportunities off campus to volunteer, such as going to the Unity House, Oakwood Cemetery, and weekly trips to the USS *Slater* (DE 766).

The theme of local outreach is very important in order to give back to the community that is helping to shape us into officers ready to lead others. At Blitman Commons every Saturday morning and afternoon, MIDN 4/C Tischbein has arranged it so midshipmen can volunteer, once again, to tutor students in grades K-12. They tutor alongside other Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) students who are involved in Tutor Time, a pre-college program designed to help younger students, which is supported by RPI's Dean of Students Office. So far this semester midshipmen have volunteered for at least 50 hours at Tutor Time. In addition, MIDN 4/C Gavner helped organize midshipmen volunteers to work the CCPD's Spring Career Fair, supporting the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers (SPHE), who help to run the career fair. We are supporting our civilian peers at RPI who are starting to look for careers by volunteering at the career fair. Additionally, MIDN 3/C Robertson organized a Relay for Life team so that midshipmen could raise money to help find a cure for cancer.

Not only is it important to branch out and find new community service opportunities in order to support even more organizations, but it is also important to continue supporting those who we have been helping in the past. A great example of a long standing community opportunity for midshipmen is working on the USS *Slater*. Under the guidance of many knowledgeable veterans and two of our

own midshipmen who have dedicated many hours to the USS *Slater* over the years—MIDN 1/C Violette and MIDN 2/C Scott—we have helped to maintain the USS *Slater* to the point she appears as a sea-faring vessel capable of combat operations.



Work onboard the USS *Slater*

Midshipmen enjoy weekly trips to the USS *Slater* to help restore her to museum and functional quality. In fact, on 4 April 2015, a pump that the midshipmen and veterans have been working on pumped water for the first time in 24 years! Working on the USS *Slater* is a great way to give support to the veterans working to restore her to her former glory. MIDN 2/C Gallo is also organizing trips to Unity House, in order to help those in Troy living under the poverty line, and to Oakwood Cemetery to restore that as well.

With all of the amazing opportunities, midshipmen can always find somewhere to volunteer and give back to the community. Community service always makes a difference, no matter how big or how small. So go out and volunteer!

Joint Service Military Ball

By: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci

This year the midshipman, cadets, enlisted personnel, and officers of the NROTC, ROTC, and AFROTC celebrated the 64th Annual Joint Service Military Ball on 7 February 2015. Every year the ROTC Units from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute join together in a formal setting to strengthen the bonds and build comradery between the branches of the world's greatest fighting force to ever exist – the United States Armed Forces. This year's ball was perhaps one of the best joint service balls in many years from start to finish. The combination of the cocktail hour, the speeches, the singing of each service's respective song, the dining, and the dancing made it fun for all.

The ball commenced at the Hilton Albany located on Lodge Street in Albany, New York with cocktail hour from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Following this the guests gathered in the ball room. The Joint Service Color Guard lead by MIDN 3/C Tyler Reed performed a perfect and beautiful presentation of the colors. The colors consist of five flags presented during the playing of the nation's national anthem; the flag of the United States accompanied by a flag for each branch of service in attendance. Following this, guests paid tribute to the prisoners of war and missing in action who were unable to dine with them that night as a result of their bitter fate. These two ceremonies are the most important of the celebration as it pays tribute to all those who have gone before us to bear arms in defense of the United States.

Following these introductions, the Commanding Officer, NROTCU RPI Captain Daniel D. Arensmeyer, USN gave a brief and intriguing speech about the future paths and careers the midshipmen and cadets of the ROTC programs have selected stating at one instances that we would "soon be part of the few who are owed so much by so many." Though brief, his speech was enlightening to many and extremely motivating.



Dr. Walter L. Robb

Complimenting Captain Arensmeyer's speech the guest of honor gave a few remarks as well. This year's guest of honor was Dr. Walter L. Robb, President of Vantage Management Inc. Dr. Walter L. Robb has had a most impressive career in the research and development industry. Now the president of Vantage Management Inc., he was the General Electric Company's Senior Vice-President for Corporate Research and Development and a member of the company's Corporate Executive Council up until December 1992. Dr. Robb's speech revolved around the idea of taking risks, to which he accredits his success in life; in fact he published his life story under the title *Taking Risks*. This speech had the high potential to light a flame of leadership and wonder, and hopefully succeeded, within an attending midshipman, cadet, or even a guest and perhaps one day they will rise through the ranks to become the next Admiral Chester Nimitz or General George Patton.

The ball concluded with a fine dinner and the opening of the dance floor. With regards to the dance floor, the midshipmen and staff of RPI NROTC surrounded, engulfed, and conquered. It was not until 11:00 pm that the ball concluded and those in attendance left to return home.

Joint Service Military Ball Photographs

Taken by: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci



Military Appreciation Hockey Game

By: MIDN 4/C Daniel Seo



On 13 February 2015, RPI had the Military Appreciation Night, a traditional sports event where the community highly praises the military. Many military veterans along with the Naval, Army, and Air Force ROTC programs come to support all military personnel who have served in the past and those who are still serving. Major General Harold J. Greene, USA, who was a member of the Rensselaer Class of 1980, was killed in Afghanistan in August 2014 and was honored for his selfless sacrifices. He is the highest ranked military officer to be killed in combat in the Global War on Terrorism. During his time at RPI, he was a member of the Army's Reserve Officer Training Corps Program while pursuing a degree in industrial engineering.

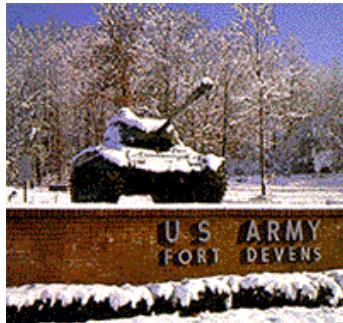
Luke Curadi, a defenseman on the hockey team, was also recognized as both his parents served in the military. His mother was a Civil Affairs Officers in the Army between 1989 and 1996. His father, a Chief Warrant Officer and pilot, served between 1983 and 2014 in the Army and Marine Corps. He went overseas in 1991 and 2009 to Iraq and to Afghanistan in 2002 and 2012.

To show support for the military, a drill was conducted by the Joint Service Color Guard and the National Anthem was performed by the Joint Service Vocalists. After the second period, midshipmen and cadets participated in a friendly competition. Each team of two conducted 70 ammo can presses which are 35 lbs. each, low crawled to the shooting line, performed 25 pushups and low crawled back. Then a partner mounted a sled while the other pushed them to the shooting line. Each partner shot two pucks while sitting on the sled. For each missed puck, both partners completed 10 pushups. Finally the other partner was pushed back on the sled, reversing the role from before. MIDN 1/C Snyder and MIDN 1/C Ellis who represented the NROTC's Marine options won the competition.

As for the hockey game, RPI fell to Brown 6-3. RPI's record lowered to 9-21-1 as Brown's record moved up to 6-17-1. At time 1:19 Jacob Laliberte was able to score, giving RPI a great start. At the end of the first period, Brown moved its score to 2-1. In the Second Period, the score came to 3-2 Brown. Brown maintained the lead for the win..

Marine Corps Spring FEX

By: MIDN 1/C Trevor Ellis



From 21 March 2015 through 24 March 2015, Marine options, candidates from the Albany recruiting, and a select volunteer group of Navy Midshipmen attended this semester's second field exercise. This field exercise was held at Army base Ft. Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts where it was a consistent balmy single digits the whole time. The point of this field exercise was to train Marine officer candidates in preparation for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and to ensure they all have the tools needed to graduate.

As most know, all Marine options will have to go to OCS in Quantico, Virginia for 6-weeks in between their junior and senior year. This school is built to test candidates mentally, physically, and overall in their leadership abilities. To ensure our Marine option midshipmen are ready, we devised a full schedule covering four days at the beginning of spring break. The Field Exercise (FEX) covered most areas that would be testable at OCS including night/day navigation, weapons handling, and a 9-mile hike starting early in the morning. The exhausting four days tested every single candidate in attendance especially during the sub-freezing temperatures.

Overall, a lot of lessons were learned by all the candidates who participated and everyone walked away with a better appreciation for hard work and discipline. All of this learned material, knowledge, and overall experience will benefit every candidate and staff member further on in the fleet.

Dining-In

By: MIDN 3/C Tanner Nichols



On 4 April 2015, the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit here at RPI executed its annual Dining-In Ceremony at Michael's Banquet House in Cohoes, NY. The purpose of this event is to build camaraderie within the unit as well as take part in a tradition of the Navy.

With origins as far back as the 18th century, the formal Dining-In event has been celebrated annually by most small units in the Navy. Serving as Mr. Vice, MIDN 2/C Robert Bishop, kept the entertainment going over the course of the night with various jokes and gags that ensured all in attendance had an enjoyable experience. One such gag involved sending participants to drink the "grog," of which there were two variations. The alcoholic variation was composed of white rum, dark rum, lime juice, grapefruit juice, honey syrup and club soda. The non-alcoholic variation was composed of club soda and equal parts lime juice, grapefruit juice, pineapple juice, and orange juice.

The midshipman responsible for putting together this event and ensuring its success was MIDN 1/C William Preuit. The entire unit looks forward to another fun and bonding Dining-In Ceremony next year.

MIT Regatta

By: MIDN 4/C Daniel Seo



On 11 April 2015, members of NROTCU RPI went to MIT to compete in the MIT Regatta. The MIT Regatta is a sailing event where college students come to compete. The teams competed against students from, Boston University, MIT, and Holy Cross. The midshipmen who competed were MIDN 1/C Gallo, MIDN 4/C Blake, MIDN 4/C Wendelken, MIDN 4/C Rabinowitz, MIDN 4/C Gelsthorpe, MIDN 4/C Franssen, MIDN 4/C Flynn, MIDN 4/C Brovarone, MIDN 3/C Jones, MIDN 2/C Scott, and MIDN 2/C Ofer. MIDN 1/C Gallo was the Officer in Charge (OIC) for this event. Sending down three teams in total, these midshipmen were able to win all of the trophies in the competition which include the awards: Best Team, Second Best Team, and Best School Overall.

Each team consisted of four people. Two people sailed in the first two races and the other two would race the same course again which was a port triangle course. An experienced midshipman was paired with an inexperienced midshipman to help develop skill, efficiency, and also encourage bonding and communication. The winds that day were high with speeds reaching 30 knots. In addition, the water was against them with choppy surfaces, so they had to double reef their sails by making them smaller so that the boats would not capsize. Some boats in the event still capsized. MIDN Brovarone/MIDN Jones' boat capsized but they were able to quickly and safely recover.

MIDN Scott placed first in his race and MIDN Gelsthorpe placed second in his. On their next race MIDN Gelsthorpe took first and MIDN Scott snatched second.

MIDN Scott/MIDN Flynn's boat and MIDN Ofer/MIDN Blake's boat won the award for the best team while MIDN Gelsthorpe won the award for the Second Best Boat.

Villanova MEC

By: MIDN 4/C Daniel Seo



On the days of 10 April 2015 and 11 April 2015, NROTCU RPI competed in the annual Villanova MEC (Military Excellence Competition). The MEC is a competition designed to allow midshipmen from other academies and universities to see who is the best in the categories of Combat Skill, Drill, and Athletics. These universities included St. Louis, Penn State, Villanova, Miami, Rochester, and South Carolina.

The Combat Skills category consisted of the ISMIT Tactical Assault Course, Crossfit, the Recon Challenge, and the BUD/S PFT. RPI's MIDN 2/C Robert Locker Jr. and MIDN 2/C Michael Miles took third place in the Recon Challenge, while the A Team for the Crossfit Team captained by MIDN 3/C Jeffrey Pistacchio won second place.

The Athletics event consists of the Crescendo Swim, the 4x100 IM Swim, the 4x100 Free Swim, the 5K Run, the 4x400 Relay, and the 4x100 Relay. Unfortunately RPI did not place in any athletic event this year.

The Drill events consist of the Platoon Trick, the Two Man Trick, the Individual Drill Routine, the Platoon Basic, the Squad Basic, and Color Guard. RPI's A Team won third place for Color Guard under the command of MIDN 4/C Luke Kuprenas. Furthermore, RPI's A Team for Squad Basic was able to win the first place under the command of MIDN 2/C Robert Locker Jr.

Joint Service Award Ceremony

By: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci

Every year since 1950, the Department of Military Science, Naval Science, and Air and Space Studies have jointly conducted the ROTC awards ceremony. This ceremony has become known as the Joint Service Awards Ceremony (JSAC) and takes place at the conclusion of each academic year. JSAC acknowledges the exceptional performance of current cadets and midshipmen of the AROTC, NROTC, and AFROTC programs of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and other colleges and universities in the capital region, such as Union College, Sienna College, University at Albany, and several others.

This year, as has become common practice for the event in recent years, JSAC was hosted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the state of the art Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in Troy, NY. The event kicked off promptly at 9:00 am with the entrance of the official party, consisting of the Professor of Military Science LtCol Patrick Lane, USA, Professor of Aerospace Studies LtCol Robert R. Robb, USAF, Professor of Naval Science CAPT Daniel D. Arensmeyer, USN, and the guest of honor the Honorable Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson. Following the presentation of the colors by the Joint Service Color Guard and the singing of the National Anthem by the Joint Service Vocalists, Father Ed Kacerguis of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation gave an innovation of prayer to our heavenly father.

The Honorable Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson followed with a speech that focused on RPI's accomplishments since its establishment in 1824, specifically focusing on the accomplishments by the schools ROTC alumni. Both Dr. Jackson's father and husband witnessed the horrors of combat in World War II and the Vietnam War respectively. Knowing firsthand the sacrifice required of military personnel, she consistently reinforced the pride and support that RPI and the other affiliated schools of the capital region have for their ROTC units. Her speech touched the hearts of all those in attendance with moments of pride, motivation, and sorrow as she spoke of the accomplishments of all those who had gone before and the sacrifices that too many made in defense of our nation and our way of life.

With twelve organizations in attendance cadets and midshipmen alike received great praise for their efforts in developing themselves morally, mentally, physically, and academically with the prospects of leading soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen in the near future. Perhaps the most distinguished award for an RPI midshipman to receive is the 2nd Lt Ian T. McVey Award. This award is given to the most outstanding senior Marine option midshipman who embodies the full spirit of the Marine Corps. This award is sponsored by the family of 2nd Lt Ian T. McVey, a 2007 graduate from NROTCU RPI who tragically died in 2008 while serving stateside in North Carolina, and through this award his spirit lives on. This semester on 1 May 2015, a plaque dedicated in his name for his exemplary service and patriotism was unveiled in the Wardroom and now hangs as an everlasting memorial. This year's award was presented to MIDN 1/C Katherine Boy who graduated Officer Candidate School (OCS) this past summer and will commission into the United States Marine Corps this May. MIDN 1/C Katherine Boy is also the Midshipman Commanding Officer for the spring 2015 semester.

Of course we cannot forget the Taylor Trophy. The Taylor Trophy was donated in memory of 2nd Lt. Robert Taylor, a graduate of the RPI Army ROTC who was killed in action during the Vietnam War on 14 March 1966 in Pleiku, Vietnam. For over 40 years it has inspired friendly competition and service camaraderie between the Army, Navy, and Air Force branches of the RPI ROTC programs. This year's Taylor Trophy was awarded to the Navy ROTC.

JSAC marks culmination of an academic year. JSAC honors those who are entering the service of the United States Armed Forces and those who have sacrificed everything, up to and including their lives in defense of this nation and its people's way of life.

Good luck to those commissioning this year and to those in years yet to come, and may God be with you.

JSAC Photographs

Taken by: MIDN 4/C Austin Freedman



Fair Winds & Following Seas

By: MIDN 2/C Zac Amicucci

This semester we bid fair well to LT Craig Famoso, USN and LtCol Patrick Blanchard, USMC.

LT Craig Famoso is a naval aviator who flew the SH-60R and SH-60S as a member of the HSC-7 Dusty Dogs. LT Famoso checked-in to NROTCU RPI in the summer of 2012 as Assistant Professor of Naval Science. Upon completion of his 3-year shore tour, LT Famoso elected to serve as a Tactical Action Officer (TAO) effectively disassociating himself from the aviation community. In his three years here at NROTCU RPI, LT Famoso helped to develop three classes of NROTC graduates on the pillars of knowledge, character, and endurance so they may successfully lead sailors and marines in the fleet. MIDN 1/C Kassandra Morales, had this to say about LT Famoso: "Since I was young I wanted to be an aviator. Thanks to the influence and mentorship of LT Famoso, I am one step closer to reaching this goal." MIDN 1/C Kasandra Morales will report to Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, FL for aviation preflight indoctrination (API) after commissioning this May. LT Famoso's next duty station is the USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN-77). He will be missed.

LT Craig Famoso's duties will be taken over by LT Michael Woodward, USN. LT Woodward is a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One on the EP-3E aircraft. LT Michael Woodward hails from the great state of Wisconsin.



LT Craig Famoso, USN

In addition to LT Famoso's departure from the unit is that of LtCol. Patrick Blanchard. LtCol. Blanchard is an NFO in the United States Marines Corps on the EA-6 Prowler platform and currently serves as the Marine Officer Instructor and Executive Officer here at NROTCU RPI. Through LtCol Blanchard's time here at RPI he has mentored three years' worth of midshipmen, in which four midshipmen have passed the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) and another four are set to attend OCS this upcoming summer. MIDN 1/C Katherine Boy, a Marine Option and the current Midshipman Commanding Officer (MCO) at NROTCU RPI said: "The trust and confidence instilled upon me by LtCol Blanchard as well as the training and leadership I experienced during his time here at NROTCU RPI has helped to develop me morally, mentally, and physical as a leader and has ultimately made me a better midshipman, leader, and future officer in the fleet." LtCol Blanchard is retiring from the Marine Corps at the end of this semester after 21-years of service. One of LtCol Blanchard's final instructions was for the midshipmen of this unit to "take care of each other." His leadership will forever guide and influence those midshipmen who were at NROCTU RPI from 2012 to 2015. He will be missed.



LtCol Patrick Blanchard, USMC



LT Michael Woodward, USN

Those of us at NROTCU RPI wish fair winds and following seas to LT Craig Famoso, USN and LtCol Patrick Blanchard, USMC and thank them for their instruction and guidance over the past three years.

Dear Alumni,

Each day, we sit in the same classrooms, walk the same hallways, and study the same courses as you once had. The times have changed, but our traditions and customs have not. I speak for the entire unit when I say we are proud to continue the great legacy you helped create. We would greatly appreciate any contribution you may be able to provide. Help us to continue training the nation's best.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN Katherine Boy
Midshipman Commanding Officer



NROTCU RPI

AS & RC Room 201
110 8th Street
Troy, NY 12180



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