

The Alumni Anchor

Academic Year 2010-11

May 2011



NROTC Unit

- CAPT Edward J. Campbell
- CDR Mark F. Volpe
- Capt Nathaniel Doherty
- LT Adam Christensen
- LT Jay Killen
- LT T.C. Bowers
- LT Gabriel Burgi
- GySgt Joseph Olivas
- HR Tech Tim Hagey
- Supply Officer Dorothy Engle
- State Sec Cass Williams



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Report from the CAPT

Hello all and greetings from sunny (no kidding – really) Corvallis. It's been a pretty hectic spring term here but I thought I would take a minute to update you on how things are tracking.

I'm not sure if you remember exactly how crazy the spring term gets but just to give you an idea of what we've got going on here in the next couple of weeks:

Last week was JSR followed by the awards ceremony, this week we have a visit from the Captain and 2 JOs from the USS Ohio who will be here to discuss that career field, Spring Ball is Saturday, CAPT's cup events 3 days next week followed by Senior mess night on Friday, Semper Fi club has their Field-ex over the same period, Battalion Change of Command has to be scheduled in the mix sometime and then there is this silly thing called final exams. All this while preparing for commissioning and graduation; busy time! Speaking of commissioning, I'm pleased to report that one of our Flag Sponsors,

RDML Dixon Smith, will be on hand as the guest speaker for the event. We just learned that the Admiral was nominated for a 2nd star so I sent him a note reminding him that there are few better places for a wetting down ceremony that in Corvallis, OR.

On June 10th we're lining up to commission a total of 15 new officers; 11 Navy and 4 USMC. It was an interesting process to watch these fine young

men and women grow into their roles and I truly believe that they

are all ready to go out there and become successful leaders. Of course right on their heels we will have a fresh stable of new freshman arrive and the cycle repeats. Also worth noting is that to date the Navy has accepted twenty one women into the submarine program nationwide, and three of those are from Oregon State University!



CAPT Edward J. Campbell
Commanding Officer

As previously mentioned, we have the Spring Ball coming up this weekend



and we just recently learned that the OSU President, Dr. Ed Ray and his wife have accepted our invitation and will be joining us at the Ball. Of course upon hearing that, the XO immediately began reviewing the senior wills – yikes! Actually President Ray is a great guy and I am anxious to introduce him to our students – I believe he will be very impressed. Our guest speaker for the



evening will be an old friend of mine from the P-3 Community, CAPT "Rocky" Racoosin who I believe will light this battalion up. It's shaping up to be an interesting event...



Thank you all for continuing to support us with your generous financial gifts. For your awareness, we awarded 3 alumni scholarships at this year's awards ceremony for \$1,000 each. You would be proud of the students we selected to receive these awards – all 3 demonstrate an exceptional level of determination and enthusiasm while also each having some very real financial need.



MIDN Baker, Schantz, Thompson
OSU NROTC Alumni Scholarship, 2011

We completed the annual Northwest Navy Competition in early April sponsored this year by the University of Washington and as they used to say in my home town outside Yankee stadium, "we was robbed". In all honesty we thought we cleaned up but the weighting of the events and how they were



scored left a little to be desired and we went home with 3rd place. This was a shame because the teams REALLY worked hard and did great. Basketball beat all comers, and same was true

for soccer. Volleyball won most of their matches but came in a close second while our swimmers took 1st place in EVERY SINGLE EVENT.



Probably the one I'm most disappointed in was the Exhibition drill team. Our guys absolutely nailed it and it was by far and away a much better performance than any of the other schools yet we were "judged" as second. Well, enough whining – suffice to say we were disappointed in the results but I couldn't have been prouder of our teams! Of course we wouldn't have been able to compete at all if it weren't once again for your generous donations that enable us to afford going to the other schools with a requirement for overnight lodging!



On the business/practical side of the equation, we really do sink or swim based upon the generous donations of our alumni. We are VERY conscientious about how we execute the funds we receive through your donations so rest assured there is no care-free spending policy here. For this year's Northwest Navy competition, our supply officer searched all sources and came up with a significantly reduced transportation rate by renting vans instead of buses but that cost was still \$1,496. The cost of lodging for our students (4 to a 2 person room) was \$3,895

as well. When you couple that with the scholarship money we awarded and other miscellaneous requirements, we've seen our ledger get smaller and smaller to the point where we like to see this balance. I previously wrote you asking for fund raising recommendations which we've had some success with and we'll continue to keep the press on, but we're at a point where I need to ask you for any and all commitments that you can make for us. By our estimation, we need to raise about \$6,000 before the start of the new academic year in September so again, we appreciate

your continued support in helping us reach our goal.

On the lighter side, the other big event on our horizon is our "Assist" Visit from the Navy IG and NSTC team. The process has completely changed this year and we are one of the 1st schools in the hopper for this review. The XO is the man on point and I think we're in good shape but as is always the case with these events, we're a little apprehensive. We're scheduled for 22-24 June so if you don't hear from me in the fall, assume I got fired.

Last bit of news I have is that our MOI, Captain Nathaniel Doherty and our Surface Warfare Instructor, LT Adam Christensen are getting ready to leave us. These were two officers that worked extremely hard and made a difference in a lot of kids' lives around here. They will be sorely missed! LT Christensen's relief is LT Gabe Burgi and he is already onboard so I'll let him introduce himself to you. Our new MOI is Major Barker and his family is settled here in town and he arrives to our door in the middle of June. In the midst of these turnovers our Submarine officer, LT Bowers is currently on an Individual Augment (IA) assignment in Bahrain so we're in a little state of flux for the next few months.

Once again, thank you for all you do for us and as always, please drop by when you're in town – we'd be glad to meet with you and get you caught up with the latest version of the "Beaver Battalion".



Commander Comments

Alumni, Friends, Shipmates:

Holy Cats, its almost June already!!!!!! Where has the year gone. I can't believe how fast time is passing, the "Spring Rush" has begun. Already, this year's Joint Service Review, (which was hosted by the Army ROTC this year), Spring Awards Ceremony and Spring Ball are behind us, and Senior Mess Night, Graduation and Commissioning are right around the corner.

Soon it will be summer, but no resting on their laurels for members of the "Beaver Battalion". Classes finish in mid-June, then it will be off to Summer Training for many of our Midshipmen. Due to some scheduling changes, for the first time in recent memory our rising Third Class Midshipmen will be doing their Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) on the East Coast this year, they will do their surface and aviation training weeks in Norfolk, Virginia then travel to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for Marine Week, then down to Kings Bay, Georgia for their submarine training. I am confident they will not only learn a lot about life in the Surface, Submarine and Aviation branches of the Navy and Marine Corps, but they will also have a great time exploring an area of the country few of them have traveled to.

Our rising Second Class and First Class Midshipmen are also looking forward to their summer training. Not all of their assignments have been received yet, but based on those we have, it looks like it will be an exciting summer. We have Midshipmen traveling, not only to a variety of Fleet Concentration Areas within the Continental United States, but to Valparaiso, Chili; Lima Peru; Guam; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Ketchikan, Alaska. As they prepare to embark their ships, submarines and squadrons to take advantage of this opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience in operational units of the fleet, I am pretty sure they are also really looking forward to the opportunities they have to see some of this world.

It is difficult to believe I have already been here for more then two years. In many ways it seems to have passed in a blink of an eye, but when I look at the Midshipmen, I find it difficult to accept that the growth and maturity we have seen took place in just two short years. I find great satisfaction being able to play a small role in that development of the next generations of Navy and Marine Corps leadership. I am pleased to be able to say that the future of our Navy and Marine Corps will be in good hands.

CDR Mark F. Volpe

Naval Aviation Club



Greetings! Has it been a year already? Time flies!

Over the last year our fledgling Aviation Club has really started to come together. About two weeks ago the Aviation Club completed a large aviation-themed mural which covered most of a wall in our Senior Classroom. The next time you are in town, you should definitely stop by and have a look! As far as upcoming events are concerned, this weekend the Aviation Club upper-classmen are participating in a mock-SERE-type evasion exercise with the Semper Fi Club. Two teams of three each will be dropped off in the middle of the woods and have to use land navigation and survival skills to make it to a designated extraction point. During the exercise, the "grounded aviators"

will have to evade teams of Semper Fi students who have been tasked with capturing the "enemy." It should be an exciting event for all involved. In addition to the evasion exercise, the Aviation Club has set up a static display and familiarization flights with the OSU Flying Club. During the event, 15-20 students will receive 20-30 minutes of flight time in a Cessna 172 as well as a static display and brief discussing the capabilities of an all glass-cockpit Cessna 172 as well as requirements for a private pilots license. Hands-on events such as these REALLY "make us money" in selling aviation as a career path and the club is looking forward to it.

On a different note... Fundraising this year did not go as well as we had hoped due to a myriad of reasons. Therefore, the club will be unable to

make a return trip to Whidbey Island next Fall. However, the club is diligently working on plans for Fall Term fundraisers in hopes of traveling to Whidbey during Winter or Spring term next year. Wish us luck!

Until next time, Fly Navy & Go Beavs!



MOI'S Corner

This news letter finds Oregon State University wrapping up the academic year 2010/11. As with previous classes, the past nine months have transformed the bright, young, optimistic faces of our freshman class into those of tired fighters, struggling to make it through the eighth round. Yet through all the pain and suffering will hopefully emerge young minds and bodies strengthened from their first year of adversity and ready for the continued challenge of becoming a U.S. Marine.

This spring we will see the commissioning of four new second lieutenants. From OSU they will travel to The Basic School and compete for their desired military occupational specialty. I have no doubt that all of them will be successful in their future careers. We also will be sending one of our largest classes OCS this summer. Twelve sun deprived Oregon students will be headed to Quantico where a warm reception from their loving sergeant instructor awaits.

My tour here at Oregon draws to close as I head for Tampa, Florida. When asked about MOI duty and the quality of officers we produced, I will speak proudly of the 20 young men who have gone on to wear the eagle globe and anchor since I have been here. Yet it is the 25+ that did not make it which truly indicate that the Corps' high standards have not been compromised. Thank you for your continued support and Semper Fidelis.

Capt Nathaniel Doherty



Introducing the new Sub/SWO LT

Greetings Oregon State University alumni, family and friends! My name is Lieutenant Gabriel Burgi and I recently reported aboard as the new Surface Warfare Officer. I will be relieving Lieutenant Adam Christensen in June, and I couldn't be more excited to be here. I graduated in 2005 from the University of Idaho, and fondly remember my visits to Corvallis for our annual Northwest Navy competitions. It was a clear choice to me to pick OSU NROTC when I saw the Naval Science instructor orders show up in my shore duty options. I can't wait to step in and start mentoring students, and pass on to them what my fleet experience and my own NROTC time has taught me over the years.

While LT Todd "T.C." Bowers is serving in Bahrain, I have stepped in as the interim Submarine Club advisor. This year has seen an increase in Sub Club participation, with our active roster reaching close to 35 males and females. Two of our current female Sub Club members, Officer Candidate Amy Bradham and Officer Candidate Megan Mittleider have already been selected to serve onboard submarines.

In April, the Sub Club took a trip up to Bremerton, Washington for their annual submarine visit. Twenty of the club's members made the trek to take a tour of the nuclear ballistic missile submarine USS KENTUCKY, SSBN 737 (Gold crew). The Commanding Officer, Commander J. Nosse personally greeted the students and led the tour. Students were able to visit nearly every space onboard, and had their pictures taken at the #2 periscope.

Following the sub tour, those that made the trip were guests at the 111th Submarine Birthday Ball in Seattle, Washington. A spectacular event, the Birthday Ball was

filled with music, dancing, great speeches and countless toasts to those who paid the ultimate price in defense of our country and those who cannot defend themselves.

In early May, the Sub Club hosted the Commanding Officer of USS OHIO (SSGN 726, Blue Crew), Captain Brian Humm and two of his junior officers. Students were able to gain some perspective into the life of a newly reporting junior officer, and what submarine life is all about. The insight offered by Captain Humm and his junior officers coupled with the outstanding visit to Bremerton and the KENTUCKY have really gotten our students excited about entering the challenging and rewarding careers offered in the nuclear power community.

Thank you for your continued support for our student battalion. For those of you family members and friends of our senior students, I look forward to meeting you at the Spring Commissioning ceremony!

LT Gabe Burgi



OC Amy Bradham



OC Megan Mittleider

Beaver Battalion Happenings

WOW!!! Another term has come and gone and it has been a busy one for all involved. This will be my last term here at Oregon State and the last time I write for the newsletter.

As we prepare for the end of the year we also prepare for another round of summer cruise. This year it seems we will continue to send students all over the fleet to gain experience and knowledge that will go a long ways in their preparation for future service. I have high hopes that this cruise season will be another resounding success and hope to hear great things from the students as they return.

The Surface Warfare Club has also been extremely busy around campus, participating in numerous events around campus. They've worked hard to not only enhance their professional knowledge but to

better build camaraderie amongst the students as well. Hopefully this will continue as we end this school year and start the next. Next year looks to be even busier for the future SWO's as they step up their efforts around campus and around the community to establish themselves as a club and get the unit noticed.

It's that time of year as well for the Portland Rose Festival. We're currently hard at work to arrange a tour with a group of students to continue to expose them to the Navy. This year for the first time we also have an opportunity to get a few students on a ship as they come in to Portland, riding from Astoria all the way into Portland. Hopefully this can continue well into the future continuing to provide great opportunity for our students.

As the year winds down we also prepare to say goodbye to 15 seniors as they commission and move on to start their careers. Of these, 2 will be going into the Surface Warfare community, in both San Diego and in Norfolk. Fair winds and following seas to the soon to be Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants of the Beaver Battalion.

To all the other alumni out there if you're ever wandering through Corvallis don't hesitate to come by the unit, I'm sure the students and the staff would love to hear from you.

GO BEAVS!!

LT Adam Christensen



We want to hear from you!

We are asking for your assistance in updating our alumni roster, to include e-mail addresses, so we can more efficiently and economically keep in touch with our alumni.

Please e-mail your contact information, to include e-mail address to:

Cass Williams — state.sec@oregonstate.edu
(541) 737-6289
(800) 888-499-6289

Your assistance is appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you!



Thank You NROTC Alumni and Friends

Thanks to all the NROTC alumni and friends who donated money to the NROTC student organization fund. Your donations helped defray the out of pocket travel and lodging expenses incurred by Battalion members who travel to regional NROTC events.

It is easy to donate online...

- just go to our website at <http://\nrotc.oregonstate.edu>
- click on the "Alumni" page and there is a window called "Support the Taffrail Fund"
- choose the amount of money you want to give by using the pull down arrow.
- click "Make a Gift"

- follow the directions and that's all there is to it.

You can also use "snail mail" to send a check in the mail.

Please make checks payable to "**NROTC Taffrail**" and mail to:

Taffrail Custodian
 Oregon State University
 Naval Science Department
 104 Naval Armory
 Corvallis, OR 97331-5401