



Heritage, Scholarship, Leadership, Camaraderie

NROTC ALUMNI LOG

The official message board of the University of Texas NROTC Alumni Foundation



www.utnrotcalum.org

Volume 20, Issue 1

August 2015

It's Our 75th Anniversary!



September 11, 2015 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Naval ROTC Unit at the University of Texas to the day. On September 11, 1940 then Acting Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal, signed a letter, addressed to UT President, Homer P. Rainey, which approved UT for a NROTC unit. Flash forward 75 years. After 37 years of service, a 1977 graduate of that same unit rose to the highest rank in the Navy of any of our alumni, 4-star Admiral. He served with distinction, retired with honor, and after being voted in unanimously by the UT Board of Regents, William H. "Bill" McRaven assumed the office of Chancellor of the UT System on January 5, 2015. Between those two bookends is a lot of UT NROTC history which we are celebrating this year.

Nearly 2,200 men and women have passed through the NROTC program at UT since it opened its doors in the fall of 1940. The numbers are roughly 1,900 Naval officers and 300 Marine Corps officers. The unit is now in its 5th home on the campus, four of which are still standing. That first class of 100 midshipmen and 10 alternates was selected from over 350 applicants. Of those 110 plankowners, only a handful survives today. They are from the "Greatest Generation", the boys who became men here and went off to fight in World War II. Of those who went to WWII, five were killed in action. We must remember them and the others who put their lives on hold for a few years to protect this country and the freedoms we enjoy.

The WWII bunch was the first to have a reunion of UT NROTC alumni. They started shortly after the war ended, according to Bill Barnhouse '44. Ivan Elmer '45 was one of the prime movers. They included commissionees from the years 1943 to 1946, 304 men (290 Navy, 14 Marines). The word "commissioneess" is used because not all of them graduated. Some were sent to war early and had to come back to finish their degree.

Some never finished their degree because they didn't come back from the war.

In 1985 several local Austin alumni decided to have a reunion. The prime mover then was Charlie Simons '63. It took a couple of years to catch on. October 31, 1987 was our first annual reunion open to everyone. Ever since then we have gathered in the fall each year to remember our heritage and the camaraderie, give out scholarships, and promote the leaders of tomorrow. We've had some BBQ (and beer). We've rooted for our home team. We've partied and dined with one another. We've walked the halls. We've recognized a few alumni for their accomplishments but, most of all; we've seen what a difference it makes to have an alumni organization that is engaged with the midshipmen and officer candidates of our battalion, our future alumni!

This year will be marked by a first. For nearly 75 years now no broad conscious effort has been made to gather together the entire unit's history and document what went on here and "who dun it". Since January 2014 there has been an effort to correct that problem and provide the battalion with a lasting legacy of memories and accomplishments of those who came before them. The whole 75 years is being worked on but only the first 20 years will be released this fall. That is because we wanted to honor the WWII men first and before they "depart the pattern." The WWII vets have been so very helpful in filling in these early years with some real gems and we wanted them to see the fruits of their labor.

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Alumni Foundation Officers & Directors

Raymond J. "Ray" Adams (1980)
President

Harold W. "Chip" Biesemeier (1970)

George H. Blume (1967)

W. Robert Brown (1952)

James M. "Jim" Bushee (1976)

Treasurer

Luis de la Garza (1966)

Douglas F. "Doug" Fisher (1970)

Kevin H. Hugman (1980)

Vice President

Edwin W. "Ed" Mergele (1975)

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

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Omar Rivera (2004)

Daniel Rueda (2005)

Michael L. "Mike" Waldron (1967)

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VP, Alumni Relations

David Wells (1969)

Secretary

Ex-Officio Members

CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN

Professor of Naval Science

Jack F. Ritter (1955)

Navy League Liaison

Regional Directors

Raymond J. "Ray" Adams (1980)

Dallas-Ft. Worth

Rodney C. "Rod" Koenig (1962)

Houston

Rudy Kruger (1963)

Central

Robert Hancock (1967)

West

Henry Harper (1965)

Mountain

K. J. Moore (1964)

Eastern

Midshipmans Foundation**Officers & Directors**

Robert L. "Bob" Collins (1968)

Vice President

Robert L. Gartner (1965)

Treasurer

Rodney C. "Rod" Koenig (1962)

President

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Chairman

Edwin W. "Ed" Mergele (1975)

Dan O'Neil (1980)

Secretary/Asst Treasurer

Gabriel R. "Gabe" Salazar (1979)

Vice Chairman

Charles W. "Charlie" Simons (1963)

1st Vice President

David Wells (1969)

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Jefferson D. Howell (1961)

Donald S. Inbody (PNS#23)

Jack F. Ritter (1955)

Chairman, Gifts Committee

Luis de la Garza (1966)

Directors Emeritus

W. Robert Brown (1952)

John Hitchcock (1965)

J. Weldon Koenig (1958)

We are looking for new sponsors to print our newsletter. Can your company help?

**President's Corner**

Ray Adams '80

Greetings, fellow alumni. As my term as president winds down, this is my last newsletter article. We have been able to accomplish quite a few things through the last few years, highlighted by our firm entry into social media. I think, however, I am most excited about the upcoming 75th anniversary reunion. I hope you are too! The reunion team has been working on a number of things to make the event extra special. We especially hope that some of our unit "plankowners" from the WWII era will be able to attend, so we can honor these fine folks who were a major part of the start of the unit in 1940. What a proud history our unit has! It has provided Navy and Marine Corps officers through multiple conflicts from WWII to the Middle East. The program has produced 18 flag officers. Our graduates have also achieved the highest levels of corporate and public America. We even had one graduate who was the Governor of Texas for a day. With too many accomplishments to detail in my limited space here, it is a great history we can all be proud of. We also need to remember and honor those alums who have made the ultimate sacrifice through the years.

I would like to give a hearty welcome aboard to the unit's new Commanding Officer, CAPT Brian T. Teets; we are looking forward to working with you. I would also like to express our gratitude and congratulations to CAPT John Eden. Thanks for all of the support you gave us these last 4 years. We wish you fair winds and following seas upon your retirement from the USN and as you enter the next phase of your career.

In the time leading up to the reunion in November, we all can reach out to invite as many of our classmates as we can to this special reunion. Then we can share the many stories and accomplishments we have witnessed. I look forward to seeing you at the reunion, and Hook 'em Horns!

**News from the Midshipmans Foundation**

Max Miller '57

Chairman

Rod Koenig '62

President

More than 75 years ago a forward-looking Naval Officer from Fredericksburg, Texas realized that the Navy would need more officer candidates.

The Naval Academy could not provide adequate

numbers of commissioned officers for the Navy and Marine Corps should war break out. He persuaded the powers in Washington, DC to establish what we know today as the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Units. The University of Texas was one of the first schools to have such a unit established in 1940. Admiral Nimitz was correct in predicting that war was inevitable and more commissioned Naval Officers were needed.

The University of Texas began its role to train and develop Commissioned Officers who could help fight for our country's defense in wartime and be a civilian in peacetime. As we look back on those 75 years and the date that each of us began our Navy/Marine Corps career here at Texas, it should make us proud that we have been a part of something really big. In fact, most of us, especially Alumni as old as I am, have been associated with our NROTC Unit for the majority of the 75 years.

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CO's SITREP



Greetings! CAPT Edén left me the reins on 19 June and I would like to introduce myself. My name is Brian Teets, the new CO of your UT NROTC unit. My background is based in the Helicopter Anti-Submarine (HSL) community with my most recent tour being CO of the USS Wasp (LHD-1). I am an NROTC graduate from Ohio State University, but I will not let the Big 10 sway the staff and students. I have made the uniform shift from “scarlet and gray” to “burnt orange” and I am proud to wear the Longhorn colors! It is my sincere hope that I can bring experience that will compliment CAPT Edén’s lasting impression on the midshipmen and I look forward to working with you over the next few years.

I would like to thank you for your continued support to the unit. Your support throughout the spring of 2015 made a great and positive impact on our battalion members. The latest *Spur & Anchor* newsletters covered both the semester activities and commissionings quite well, but there is a lot of excitement coming up that we hope you can take part in. I look forward to celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the unit at the alumni reunion on 7 November. It should be a great time to engage in the past, present, and future of the NROTC program. LT Ryan “Peter Pan” Edwards arrived in December, after the last reunion, so I want to introduce him to you as the new Aviation Instructor. Ryan is from Palatine, IL and graduated from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. He will be concurrently attending the evening MBA program here so he can call UT his own in a couple of years. Ryan is a P-3/P-8 Tactical Coordinator and Mission Commander with 2 deployments to 7th fleet that will be great experience to share with the students. We welcome him aboard.

Summer Cruise is more than halfway over and the midshipmen are excited about returning in the fall. The New Student Orientation (NSO) starts in August, which looks to be a busy month. We’ll brief everyone on that evolution when we meet in the fall. Last spring we commissioned 2 ENSs and we look forward to commissioning 4 ENSs and one 2ndLt on 18 August in the Senate Chamber of the Texas State Capitol. As always, we welcome all of you to attend. Hook ’em!

- V/R Brian

Online Registration!

We are taking online reunion registrations again this year. We are using a service called Brown Paper Tickets (BPT). The process will be similar to using our paper registration form and sending in a check but now you will be able to do it online, using your credit card or Pay-Pal. There will be fees associated with some of the events, not all. And some events you will still have to make separate reservations for (e.g. Navy League dinner and golf). Go to our website for all the details and the link to the BPT Reunion Event Site.



UT NROTC ALUMNI FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

(AS OF 06/01/2015)

BEGINNING BALANCE (01/01/15)	\$18,686.72
INCOME:	
Member Checks or Pay-Pal.....	\$1,740.00
Midshipmans Foundation check.....	\$218.00
Life Sponsorship (Reynolds).....	\$500.00
Reunion Payment	\$275.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,733.00
EXPENSES:	
Transfer to Life Sponsorship Investment Fund.....	\$1,500.00
P. O. Box Renewal.....	\$56.00
Austin Country Club (Awards Dinner)	\$5,086.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,642.98
ENDING BALANCE (06/01/15)	\$14,776.74
ADD CURRENT RECEIVABLES:	
Pay-Pal	\$48.03
LESS ENCUMBERED FUNDS:	
“Fenced Funds” for PNS/Battalion Needs	\$2,000.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$12,824.77
Life Sponsorship Investment Fund Balance (06/01/15)	\$17,700.67

2015 UT NROTC Alumni Foundation Reunion Activities

Hotel Accommodations. Rooms will be available for Reunion attendees at the Embassy Suites Hotel - Austin, Arboretum, 9505 Stonelake Blvd, Austin TX 78759, 844-378-9263. *We reserved a block of rooms at a special group rate which expires **October 15, 2015** or whenever the rooms are all spoken for so make your reservations early.* For reservations go to the special booking website (see below), or call the special group reservation number 1-800-Embassy (362-2779) and tell them the hotel name, and group name "NROTC Alumni" and group code "NRO" to get your special rate. The group rate is **\$149** per night plus 15.81% tax for 1-2 adults in a king suite or 2-doubles suite. Standard amenities include indoor heated pool, complimentary wi-fi, hot breakfast and manager's reception daily. A Premium Room with additional amenities is available for \$20 more per night. Check the hotel website for details.

Special Booking Website:

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/A/AUSESES-NRO-20151105/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Hotel Website: Search on "Embassy Suites Austin Arboretum"

Thursday 5 November

Navy League Dinner and Program. The Greater Austin Council will kick off the 2015 reunion weekend with a dinner and distinguished speaker program on Thursday, 5 November 2015. This is the Council's signature event each year as it honors The University of Texas NROTC midshipmen, officer candidates, staff, and alumni. CAPT Donald S. "Don" Inbody, USN (Ret), PhD, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Inbody is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at Texas State University and a former PNS of the NROTC Unit at the University of Texas. He will be speaking on his forthcoming book, *The Soldier Vote*, a history and current status of absentee voting by military personnel and Americans living overseas. His biography can be viewed on our alumni website. The direct link is www.utnrotcalum.org/staff/PNS23DonInbody.htm.



The meeting will be held at the Austin Woman's Club (1st Floor) located at the corner of San Antonio and 8th Street. Access to the entrance and parking area is from the rear on Nueces Street between 7th & 8th Streets. Parking is free - ignore the signs. Social hour begins at 1815; Dinner is at 1910; Program begins at 2015; Adjourn at 2115. All Navy League meetings are open to the public. Your family and friends are all welcome. Reservations are required by Monday, 3 November 2014 (may pay at the door **\$30** per person for members and their guests, **\$20** per person for military in uniform and their guests, **\$15** for midshipmen, cadets and their guests). For more information and to make your reservations, email Lu Ann Reyes at luann@luannreyes.com or call her at 512-203-4399.

Friday 6 November

Golf Outing. For those of you interested in a reunion Golf outing we will be gathering at Star Ranch on Friday November 6th in the morning. Currently we have a commitment from Star Ranch for 5 tee times (20 players), starting at 0800. We can get more, if there is more interest. Please indicate your desire to participate on the Reunion Registration Form (Page 6). As in previous encounters we will face off Navy versus Marine Corps in a "best ball" format. The Star Ranch offers both a Breakfast Buffet and a Lunch Buffet as part of the greens fee. Star Ranch is located at 2500 FM 685 in Hutto, Texas (NE Austin just north of the toll road 130). The cost of greens fee/cart/range balls/and two buffets is **\$45**. Each player will pay when they arrive. Notify Chip Biesemeier '70 if you are interested in playing. Home Phone: 512-252-1892 or email chipmary7@yahoo.com.

Directions to Star Ranch from Embassy Suites (9505 Stonelake, Austin):
Take MoPac (Tx-1 Loop North), Merge onto Tx Toll 45 East.
Merge onto Texas Toll 130 North (toward Waco).
Take Exit 426 (Hutto/685 North) (DO NOT TURN on Gattis School Rd).
Take 685/130 access road 1 mile, stay in left lane and U-turn
at Flashing Red Light.

Go approx. 0.6 miles South on FM 685 and Star Ranch will be on your right.



Crow's Nest Meeting. On Friday afternoon at 3pm there will be a meeting of all 'Nesters and Friends of the Nest to talk about the Crow's Nest Scholarship and to just visit and talk about old times. One of the rooms at the Embassy Suites has been reserved for this and other alumni gatherings as they may occur.

UT NROTC Alumni Dinner. The Midshipmans Foundation and the Alumni Foundation will present Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Service awards at this event. It will be held at the Austin Country Club (ACC) like last year. Cash bar cocktails will start at 1830, followed by dinner at 1900. The tentative cost is **\$55**, but is subject to change. Dress will be “business casual” (i.e. sport coat or dress shirt/slacks). Directions: Go one mile south of the Loop 360 bridge over Lake Austin and take Westlake Drive east. Go about 200 meters and turn left onto Long Champ Drive and go to 4408 at the end. Call 512-328-0090 if you get lost.

Informal Gathering. All year-group class members may also gather at Scholz Garten (1607 San Jacinto) at 1900 on Friday night for socializing. Be prepared to contact others to make plans to meet at an alternate location if Scholz’s ends up being reserved for a private party. Telephone for Scholz Garten is 512-474-1958.



Saturday 7 November

Saturday’s Schedule. Having our annual Reunion on a game day weekend is a mixed blessing.

We do this because it typically draws more people to town, especially if Texas is doing well. The downside is that it makes planning for Saturday’s activities more difficult. As we were going to press, no schedule for the football game with Kansas was available. The following schedule is based on a 2:30pm kick-off time, like last year. Check our website regularly for changes to Saturday’s schedule or other events. Typically there are only two other game starting times: 11am and 7pm. We have contingency plans for both of those scenarios and will promulgate them, if the need arises, on our website. All our activities will be centered in and around the new Liberal Arts Building, referred to as **CLA** in this newsletter. The other venue we are using is the Student Activity Center, which connects with the CLA, and is referred to as **SAC** in this newsletter.

Parking on Campus. The Alumni Foundation decided last year to get out of the parking business. It has become too complicated and there are numerous opportunities for parking all around the campus. The University’s own parking garages are probably the most convenient (www.utexas.edu/parking/football.html).

Board of Directors Meeting. From 8am to 9am the UT NROTC Alumni Foundation board will hold their quarterly meeting in **CLA** Room 5.402, the ADM William H. “Bill” McRaven (’77) Classroom before the General Business Meeting. Those who may be interested in serving on the board are welcomed to attend.

Alumni Reunion General Business Meeting & Scholarship Awards Ceremony. From 9:30am to 11:30am the “Main Event” will be held in the large **SAC** auditorium, Room 1.402. This is the alumni general business meeting and scholarship awards ceremony. Come learn about the latest unit activities, plans, and achievements. Hear about our special 75th Anniversary activities and initiatives. See the award of nearly \$70,000 worth of scholarships and officer swords to our battalion members by your Midshipmans Foundation. Meet and visit with midshipmen, staff, and alumni. There may even be a special guest or two to speak to those in attendance. Tickets that have been ordered for the Texas-Kansas football game will also be distributed at the meeting.

Reunion BBQ. From 11:30am until 1:30pm, or later, we will have our annual BBQ on the 5th deck of the CLA, the James Mulva (’68) ROTC Center. We always plan on a few extra people, but be considerate and register early for this event so that we will have enough for everyone. The cost for the BBQ is **\$30** per head which includes beverage. Sign up on the Reunion Registration Form (Page 6). **NOTE:** Pok 'E' Joe's will only serve for 1-1/2 hours starting at noon. Beverages are available until they are all consumed.



Football Game: Kick-off time for Texas vs. Kansas is assumed to be 2:30pm, but is subject to change (watch our website for changes). Tickets are **\$60**. We have reserved at least **75** tickets. We may be able to get more if the demand is there. You can sign up for tickets on the Reunion Registration Form (Page 6). First come, first served.



Flying Saucer Get-Together: Starting around 7pm after the game, space will be reserved at the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium at 815 W. 47th Street in Austin or another location. It’s “In the Triangle”, N. Lamar & 47th Street. The event is free to attend. We need a head count, though. Drinks and food are at your expense. Come make the evening last a little longer with family and friends. **NOTE:** This event may not occur if the game is changed to a night game. Stay tuned.

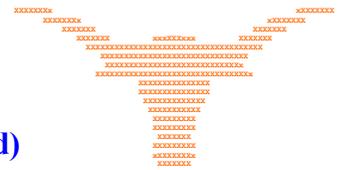
Sunday 8 November

Breakfast. Whether you choose to eat at the Embassy Suites or head out to Cisco’s on East 6th Street for “migas”, be sure to meet and greet your fellow alums one more time before hitting the road! For Cisco’s it is recommended you get there early (i.e. around 8am) since it’s a popular place.



University of Texas
NROTC Alumni Foundation
P.O. Box 143562
Austin, TX 78714-3562

Exes for Texas



29th Annual Alumni Reunion (November 7, 2015 Weekend)
Registration Form

Please return a completed form, with payment, by October 10th

Name: _____ Year Group: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C or W) _____

Email Address: _____

Names & Relation of Guests: _____

Yes!! I'll be there!! Use the following information to make plans for me:

Thursday Navy League dinner _____ (How many. Reservation process on Page 4)

Friday Morning Golf _____ (How many to play. Pay at Golf Course)

Friday night ACC dinner _____ x \$55 each = \$ _____

BBQ dinner tickets _____ x \$30 each = \$ _____

Football tickets (Kansas) _____ x \$60 each = \$ _____

Flying Saucer Get Together _____ (How many. Free to attend)

Tax-deductible Donation to the *Alumni Foundation = \$ _____

* Use separate form on page 7 for Midshipmans Foundation donations.

Total amount for Reunion: \$ _____

I cannot attend this year. Please update my contact information (see above).

NOTE: For more rapid handling, mail your Reunion Registration Form and Check to:

Jim Bushee, Treasurer
5001 Avenue H
Austin, TX 78751



Which service do you identify with (check one): USMC USN

Make all Reunion checks payable to: **UT NROTC ALUMNI FOUNDATION.**

NOTE: Reunion events payment and tax-deductible donations to the Alumni Foundation may be combined in one check. DO NOT include donations to Midshipmans Foundation with your Reunion payment. See separate donation form on page 7.

UT NROTC ALUMNI FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 143562
Austin, TX 78714-3562

Forwarding Service Requested



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InMemoriam

Thomas Dan Williams, Unit XO late 80's, passed away November 1, 2014.
 Robert L. "Bob" Armstrong, Class of 1953, passed away March 1, 2015.
 Pat Morgan, Class of 1951, passed away June 2, 2014.
 Garland Ned Martin, Class of 1944, passed away March 28, 2015.
 Bill McReynolds, Class of 1944, passed away December 15, 2014.
 Ralph Edward Fuge, Class of 1944, passed away February 5, 2013.

These are the shipmates for whom we have learned of their passing since our last Reunion. Obituaries and photos can be found on our alumni website for most.

