



Heritage, Scholarship, Leadership, Camaraderie

NROTC ALUMNI LOG



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

www.utnrotcalum.org

Volume 22, Issue 1

September 2017

Come to the 31st Annual Alumni Reunion!



Last year was a wonderful reunion, if you don't count the close loss to West Virginia. We had beautiful spaces reserved for us in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), a.k.a. the new ROTC Building. We had the Glickman Center on the ground floor and NROTC spaces on the 5th deck. There were big screen TVs for football viewing, indoor and outdoor spaces to enjoy while eating good Texas BBQ. MIDN Matthew Waddingham (left) sure thought it was good. Our spaces were just across Waller Creek from the Alumni Center, where other festivities were going on, as well as a football game across the street from there. We had comfortable seating in a spacious auditorium to receive briefings on the alumni association and the NROTC Battalion. We awarded nearly \$76,000 in scholarships and swords to future Naval and Marine Corps officers. And that was just Saturday!

This year we have all those same spacious and beautiful venues for our 31st Annual Reunion. We especially want to welcome those classes ending with "7" (or even "2"), which will mark a special year for your class to reunite. If any of those classes need help in planning special events or publicizing them on our alumni website, just let us know. We want to help. See pages 4 and 5 for the latest plans for each day of the Reunion and stayed tuned to the website for any late developments. Fortunately we knew the time of the football game this year when going to press so Saturday's activities are a bit more fixed than usual.

Our Alumni Foundation board will have a short meeting on Saturday before the Midshipman Scholarship Awards ceremony. As always, alumni are welcomed to attend, space permitting. We need you, your time, your talents, your attendance and your donations. Those things keep this organization alive and keep these reunions coming year after year. If you have attended the reunions pretty regularly, you may want to consider serving on the board. We need a steady influx of new faces and fresh ideas.

Currently your Alumni Foundation (AF) is working on several initiatives. Kevin Hugman, our President, talks about the **Friends of the Midshipmen** program in his article on page 2. We've been building a funding corpus for several years now so that the AF doesn't always operate on a "shoestring." These are our **Life Sponsorships** and they are listed on our website. The presence of these funds makes it easier to plan each year's reunion and make commitments in advance. It also allows the AF to support the Unit with certain expenses that the Navy no longer provides. Another project is the **Unit History Project**. More accurate commissioning classes are being documented and so are the unit's activities for each year since its founding in 1940. Over 100 alumni have contributed stories, photos, memorabilia, dates and names to help complete the records. The first two volumes covering 1940-1960 and 1960-1980 are available on the website for download as an e-book. They're free but donations are appreciated. The next two volumes are in progress and need your input. Did you know that NROTC has not been in the UT *Cactus* since 1990 and that, until this year, there has been no *Longhorn Log* for 12 years! Also, twice a year the **alumni sponsor a breakfast** with seniors and juniors of the Battalion to share their Navy and Marine Corps experiences with these soon-to-be officers and let them ask questions. If you haven't participated in one yet, keep any eye on our calendar for the next one. Come with a good story!

What other reason do you need? Make plans and join us this year. Once you do, you'll want to make it a part of your annual routine every year. Come and make a difference. We hope to see you on Veterans Day weekend.

Alumni Foundation Officers & Directors

Raymond J. "Ray" Adams (1980)
Harold W. "Chip" Biesemeier (1970)
George H. Blume (1967)
W. Robert Brown (1952)
James M. "Jim" Bushee (1976)
Luis de la Garza (1966)
Kevin H. Hugman (1980)
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Edwin W. "Ed" Mergelle (1975)
 Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
Fred Moon (1970)
Omar Rivera (2004)
 Treasurer
Daniel Rueda (2005)
 Vice President
Richard B. "Dick" Wellborn (1970)
 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)
 First Vice President
Robert L. Gartner (1965)
 Treasurer
Rodney C. "Rod" Koenig (1962)
 President
Max Miller (1957)
 Chairman
Edwin W. "Ed" Mergelle (1975)
Dan O'Neil (1980)
 Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
Gabriel R. "Gabe" Salazar (1979)
 Vice Chairman
Charles W. "Charlie" Simons (1963)
 Vice President
David Wells (1969)
 Assistant Secretary

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Brady M. Cole (1958)
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**

Kevin Hugman '80

Greetings fellow alumni! It is getting close again to our annual reunion and planning for 2017 began as soon as last year's reunion ended. We had a great time last year and welcomed a number of new faces. The barbecue location in CLA was probably the best we have had in recent years and we appreciate the efforts of the NROTC unit staff to secure it. We are confident on securing those same spaces this year – a combination of deck area outside for nicer weather, and indoor dining space with TVs and air conditioning! So no need to worry about rain or heat – we have you covered!

Last year we launched the Friends of the Midshipmen program and I am proud to say that our alumni really came through in a big way. We set a goal to raise \$6,250 and the Midshipmans Foundation was going to add \$10,000 for a total of \$16,250 (65 alumni donating \$250 for a year) and, through your generous support, we exceeded that. We raised \$7,750! This program was established to support the UT NROTC unit and midshipmen with expenses for such unit activities as the Run to Dallas, Tulane Drill Meet, Dining Out, Mess Night and confidence course challenge. These activities are not funded by the Navy and some cannot be funded by the Midshipmans Foundation due to legal requirements for "educational" expenses. And yet, as alumni of the Unit and as Navy or Marine Corps officers, we appreciate the impact these activities have in generating camaraderie, teamwork and esprit de corps – all fundamental attributes we want in our future Navy and Marine Corps officers. The importance of this alumni support also took on a more critical nature this year as the unit will no longer be able to earn funds through stadium cleanups after football games (a memory many of us no doubt cherish). UT has decided to contract that service to a vendor, so the midshipmen

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News from the Midshipmans Foundation

Max Miller '57
 Chairman

Rod Koenig '62
 President



It is hard to believe that it was 77 years ago when a Naval ROTC Unit was established at the University of Texas. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then, and our graduates have accomplished great things. They are truly "Changing the World," as former president, William Powers, often stated. We continue to state that fact often today. Even though times have changed since most of us attended UT and the NROTC Unit, some things never change. Midshipmen struggle to make financial ends meet or maintain their academic standing. I believe that students are brighter and the staff is very good. However, we continue to help them with our scholarships and other assistance.

With the officer requirements dictated by the war that we have been fighting for years, our Unit enrollment has decreased. Funds available for scholarships have grown and we are addressing this situation. The corpus of our scholarship funds has grown to nearly \$2.0 million and we hope to reach that level early next year. We are working to find more and better ways to support the Battalion. Suggestions have been made and we feel that our fund has grown to the point where we need to evaluate other possibilities for aid, other than cash scholarships, swords, and leadership conferences. Our Midshipmans Foundation is alive and well and we are always actively pursuing ways to make things better for all the midshipmen. Thank you for your time and other contributions.



CO's SITREP



Your Longhorn Battalion has reformed for the 2017-2018 academic year and is off to a great start. We had a small freshmen class of eleven new midshipmen join us along with a couple of new sophomores. Our New Student Orientation was superbly executed by the upperclassmen and only moderately impacted by Hurricane Harvey forcing us to cancel a few events near the end.

We had few staff changes over the summer as we brought aboard LT Jon Hemler (Aviator) to teach and advise the underclassmen, and CDR George Floyd (SWO Nuke) as the unit Executive Officer. Both are excited to be in Texas leading and teaching your reliefs in the fleet.

As we continue on our four semester rotation of focus areas, we will be focusing on the Marine Corps this semester, having looked hard at Surface Warfare last spring. Marine Corps weapons, history, and force structure will be among our core topics of instruction. Submarine Warfare study is on the schedule for spring semester.

This year the midshipmen will look a little different in some new uniform items. The Navy has begun to issue a new physical fitness training suit (pants and jacket) to replace the old cotton sweat pants and shirt. We will also begin phasing out the Navy Working Uniform (Type I), a.k.a. "Blueberries" for a similar uniform but in a green color scheme.

This semester also marks the return of the "Seaman to Admiral" (STA) program to the Forty Acres. We have one Hospital Corpsman Second Class attached to the unit to earn his degree and receive a commission before heading back out to the fleet. This Navy program mirrors the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning and Education Program for the Corps.

...Continued on Page 7

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 08/31/2017)**

BEGINNING BALANCE (06/01/17)	\$27,715.15
INCOME:	
Member Checks or Pay-Pal.....	\$350.00
"Friends of Midshipman" Donations (Pass through)	\$250.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$600.00
EXPENSES:	
Annual PNS Funds.....	\$1,500.00
Banking Fee	\$12.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,512.00
ENDING BALANCE (08/31/17)	\$26,803.15
ADD CURRENT RECEIVABLES:	
Pay-Pal	\$0.00
LESS ENCUMBERED/FENCED FUNDS:	
"Friends of the Midshipmen" Fund.....	\$250.00
MIDN Emergency Earmark	\$2,000.00
AVAILABLE OPERATING FUNDS	\$24,553.15

LIFE SPONSORSHIP FUND

<i>Life Sponsorship Investment Fund Balance (06/30/17)</i>	\$18,562.37
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FRIENDS OF THE MIDSHIPMEN FUND

<i>Friends of the Midshipmen Fund Balance (06/30/17)</i>	\$8,500.00
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2017 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, 512-372-8771. *We reserved a block of rooms at a special group rate which expires **October 13, 2017** 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 "UTNROTC" and group code "UTN" 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 may be available for \$20 more per night. Check the hotel website for details.

Special Booking Website (You must type this into your browser EXACTLY):

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=AUSESES&spec_plan=CESUTN&arrival=20171109&departure=20171112&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Hotel Website: Search on "Embassy Suites Austin Arboretum"

Thursday 9 November

Navy League Dinner and Program. The Greater Austin Council will kick off the 2017 reunion weekend with a dinner and distinguished speaker program on Thursday, 9 November 2017. This is the Council's signature event each year as it honors The University of Texas NROTC midshipmen, officer candidates, staff, and alumni. Dr. Thomas M. Hatfield (L), a Senior Research Fellow at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT, and Mr. Frank W. Denius (R), WWII veteran of D-Day, Longhorn Legend and author will be the Council's Distinguished Speakers and Guests of Honor. They will be discussing Mr. Denius' book "On the Way," about his WWII experiences at Normandy in an interesting interview-like format.



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, 30 October 2017 (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 10 November

Golf Outing. For those of you interested in a reunion Golf outing we will be gathering at Star Ranch on Friday November 10th 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 cost per person is **\$55**. 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. As an alternative to the ACC dinner, alumni may want to gather at one of these venues: Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto (512-474-1958); the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium, 815 W. 47th Street; or the NXNW Restaurant and Brewery, just a few blocks from the hotel. Scholz is under new ownership and has gotten very pricey lately.



Saturday 11 November

Saturday's Schedule. Having our annual Reunion on a game day was a blessing this year. We do this because it typically draws more people to town, especially if Texas is doing well.

Fortunately we knew the game time well in advance this year and were able to plan Saturday's activities before going to press. The following schedule is based on the 5pm kick-off time. Check our website regularly, just in case there are any changes to Saturday's schedule or other events. 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 a few years ago 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 10:30 am to 11:30 am 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 are welcome to attend, space permitting.

Alumni Reunion General Business Meeting & Scholarship Awards Ceremony. From noon to 2 pm 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. See the award of nearly \$75,000 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 2 pm until 5 pm, or later, we will have our annual BBQ on the 1st floor patio of the CLA, and the adjoining Glickman conference room. 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 2 pm. Beverages are available until they are all consumed. NROTC spaces are on the 5th floor of CLA.



Football Game: Kick-off time for Texas vs. Kansas is set for 5 pm. Tickets are **\$50**. We have reserved at least **60** 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.



Tentative Get-Together: No plans yet, but if it's not too late, many of our alumni have gathered at the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium (“In the Triangle”, N. Lamar & 47th Street), the NXNW Restaurant and Brewery, just a few blocks from the hotel, or Baby Acapulco Restaurant next door to the hotel to celebrate with classmates over a few beers after the BBQ or the game. Drinks and food are at your expense. Come make the evening last a little longer with family and friends.

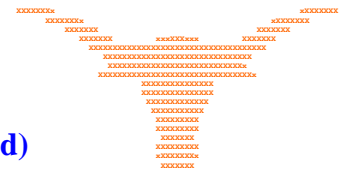
Sunday 12 November

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



31st Annual Alumni Reunion (November 11, 2017 Weekend)

Registration Form

Please return a completed form, with payment, by October 30th

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 \$50 each = \$ _____

Tentative Sat. Nite Get Together _____ (How many might come?)

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:

Omar Rivera, Treasurer
P.O. Box 41101
Austin, TX 78704



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.

President's Corner continued from Page 2...

have been forced to seek other ways to earn funds for their activities. Your support translates into attending an out of state drill meet or not. We thank you!

Finally, I had the privilege recently to speak with RADM Mike Sharp, USN (Ret) who wants to stand up an alumni association at Oregon State University. We had a great talk and I shared with him the successes of our own association here at UT and its two foundations. It is flattering to know that others know about and want to emulate the success we have had. Since November 1985, this 30+ year venture has been going strong. Many of the dedicated alumni, who started it, are still active and we thank them for their tenacity and hard work. We need to carry on the tradition with new ideas and people. So get involved in your alumni association and please, join us for the reunion on Saturday, November 11 and see old friends and make new ones!

Hook 'em!

CO's SITREP continued from Page 3...

Our calendar will be full this fall with the annual Run To Dallas on 12 October, the Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 27 October, Veteran's Day weekend events, a Field Exercise, and Navy having lead responsibilities for the annual Joint Service President's Cup competition. Speaking of which, the 1st LT James A. Burns Memorial Obstacle Course is key element of the President's Cup and we appreciate the Alumni Foundation's financial support to revitalize much of the course this summer. We will continue to beat Army and Air Force on our own course!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the alumni reunion and we remain thankful for your continued generous support of our midshipmen. Hook 'em!
- V/R Brian

**Donation Form for Midshipmans Foundation
Scholarship Fund**

Name: _____ Commissioning Class: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone Nos. Home: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

As a Donor for Scholarships, please accept my tax-deductible donation for 2017 at one of these suggested levels





- (check one):** **\$100**
 \$500
 \$1,000
 \$2,500
 \$5,000
 Other (fill in amount): \$ _____

**Make checks payable to: Midshipmans Foundation
and Mail to: Bob Gartner, Treasurer
6908 Bayridge Terrace
Austin, TX 78759-4693**









If your company offers matching gifts to non-profit organizations don't forget to ask them and alert them before making a contribution to us. Contact Dan O'Neil if the matching process is more complicated. Donations will be acknowledged, in writing, annually. NOTE: If you make donations to both organizations, you may mail both checks to either address.

Forwarding Service Requested

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InMemoriam

-  George H. “Hume” Cofer, Assoc. of Class of 1943, passed away November 13, 2016.
-  Hugh G. “Grant” Stoddard, Class of 1943, passed away February 26, 2017.
-  Richard Norman “Dick” Goeth, Class of 1950, passed away January 27, 2017.
-  Elbert “Bert” Hooper, Class of 1951, passed away December 17, 2016.
-  Shelby Henry Carter, Jr., Assoc. of Class of 1953, passed away January 25, 2017.
-  Venton L. Doughtie, Jr., Class of 1953, passed away July 19, 2017.
-  George P. “Pope” Atkins, Class of 1955, passed away December 3, 2016.
-  Frank Edward Billings, Class of 1960, passed away April 7, 2017.
- John C. “Rusty” Allman, Class of 1966, passed away January 16, 2017.
- *Benjamin Harrison Youell, III, Class of 1976, passed away November 3, 2016.

These are the shipmates who have passed away since our last Reunion. Obituaries and photos for these and others can be found on our alumni website. Those marked with an asterisk still need obituaries to be submitted.