SEABADGER

UW-Madison Naval ROTC

Spring 2017

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This semester has been a highly rewarding close to my Navy career, made so by the superb performance of the young men and women of Naval ROTC. Our midshipmen won 3rd place overall on the road at the Villanova Military Excellence Competition, beating out some very competitive teams including Michigan and Penn State. Think about that—Badger football would have enjoyed victories over those teams.

We were fortunate to have Rear Admiral Evans as the commissioning officer for the joint ceremony in May, swearing-in 32 new officers from all the Services.

Our highlight community service event this semester was visiting the Veterans Affairs hospital. It was truly a privilege for the midshipmen to be able to interact with veterans, to share some time over a meal, to try to better understand the legacy of service.

We had the chance to spend a couple hours with Chancellor Blank at the house the University provides for her, just a few blocks up the hill from the naval armory. This was the first time anyone could remember such an invitation from the Chancellor, and we very much appreciate the recognition by the University Administration of the path of service chosen by our midshipmen. And I greatly enjoyed two activities this semester not done in previous years here. First, I took the seniors to Great Lakes to watch a graduation ceremony at Recruit Training Command and to tour Battle Stations 21. The idea of this trip was to help the midshipmen visualize the leadership role they will have, by better understanding the training that the Sailors they will lead have accomplished. I believe we succeeded in that regard. And, second, I was “green lighted” by the newly-commissioned officers the week after commissioning. It was a privilege to share this naval aviation tradition with those who attended, and will be a memory of this tour I will not forget.

There are many more activities and accomplishments in this edition of the Sea Badger. Read it. Take pride in what your midshipmen are doing and making happen.

Finally, I want to thank those who support the midshipmen. Ultimately the mission revolves around preparing future officers for service, and we have a number of supporters from the Alumni Association, the Officer Education Committee, and others who attend our balls, commissioning and award ceremonies, that are key to making that mission a reality. And all those who support this unit have helped to make this tour so rewarding for me as well. Thank you for the privilege.

From the BNCO

**MIDN 1/C Justin Silvis**

It has been my privilege to serve as the Battalion Commanding Officer during the Spring 2017 semester. I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to help train and develop 61 Midshipmen and Officer Candidates during that time.

During the semester, we pursued Captain Murdoch’s “Big Three” values: Integrity, Discipline, and Legacy. In late March, the seniors traveled to Naval Station Great Lakes to watch a recruit graduation ceremony, an incredible learning opportunity. It was powerful to see these recruits complete Battle Stations, reunite with their families, and officially become Sailors in the impressive graduation ceremony.

In early April, the Battalion placed third at the Villanova Drill meet, a huge improvement from the previous year. This was entirely due to the hard work of the participating members, who volunteered to have extra early morning practices each week. This would not have been possible without the additional time put in by our AMOI, GySgt Olivas, who conducted every early morning practice and traveled with us to the competition.

The Battalion also organized and participated in a community service event at the Madison VA Hospital. During this event we met with veterans and had lunch together while hearing their stories. Afterwards, we assisted with some grounds maintenance.

For the first time, our Battalion was invited to participate in a tri-ROTC reception with UW Chancellor Rebecca Blank. It was an evening of valuable face to face time with many University officials and served to reinforce the critical relationship Naval ROTC has with the University.

None of our accomplishments this semester would have been possible without the hard work of everyone in the Battalion and our unit staff. One of these hard workers, MIDN Sherman, will be taking over as Battalion Commanding Officer for the Fall 2017 semester. I am completely confident that he will continue the UW NROTC legacy and lead the Battalion with enthusiasm and confidence.
On February 18th, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Naval ROTC midshipmen spent the day volunteering for the 2017 Polar Plunge, which helps to raise money for the Special Olympics each year. Throughout the day, 1,500 people volunteered to jump into the frozen Lake Mendota, including six members of the Badger battalion. “There could not have been a more beautiful day to jump into a freezing lake!” MIDN 4/C Kathrine Katula stated. According to the Polar Plunge Wisconsin website, the excited participants raised a total of $225,493 for the Special Olympics this year.

With the entire battalion in attendance, the midshipmen made quick work of both setup and cleanup. MIDN 1/C Justin Silvis stated, “It was great to see the battalion come out and tackle the work that they had for us on such a beautiful day. What took us a couple hours would have taken a few days. It is amazing how a group of motivated individuals can make quick work of a difficult task.”

This is the second year that the Wisconsin Naval ROTC unit has been involved in the Polar Plunge, and it is an event the midshipmen collectively enjoy participating in. The students look forward to next year’s plunge and hope to raise even more money.

Top: The Battalion volunteers pose for a group photo. Bottom Left: Battalion plungers enter the frigid water in style, as judges look on. From left to right: MIDN 1/C Justin Silvis, MIDN 3/C Evan Lallensack, MIDN 1/C Christopher Poellinger, MIDN 1/C Michael Sherman, MIDN 2/C Leland Raymond, MIDN 2/C Jacob Hagen. Bottom Right: MIDN 2/C Jacob Hagen triumphantly exits the lake.
Badgers Attend Notre Dame Leadership Weekend

*MIDN 3/C Raquelle Sands*

Over the weekend of February 24th, the University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC sent five Midshipmen to South Bend, Indiana to participate in the 21st annual Notre Dame Naval Leadership Weekend (NLW). This two-day event presented an opportunity to learn and discuss issues critical to the midshipmen’s development as future Naval and Marine Corps Officers. The Badgers joined midshipmen from 36 universities all across the country.

“The Notre Dame Leadership weekend provided a unique opportunity to interact with highly effective leaders in the United States Navy and Marine Corps,” said MIDN 3/C Sean Gohlke. “I learned about what it takes to create a high performing team from the centuries of military distinguished experience the speakers had. I have no doubt that the lessons taken from this conference will have an impact on my future military career.”

With this year’s motto of “Ready to lead. Ready to follow. Never Quit,” the midshipmen interacted with each other and numerous officers to develop their leadership styles and discuss challenges they will face in the future.

Through discussion panels and speakers the midshipmen listened and interacted with leaders from all platforms and varying ranks. “Each speaker shared various lessons learned through their experience and displayed a unique inspiration as to how they go about being a leader,” stated MIDN 3/C Jackson Lanigan. “Their desire and willingness to share their motivation with us will drive me to constantly work on becoming a better person and a better leader.”

A junior officer panel was held to discuss the leadership challenges that the midshipmen will be dealing with in a few years when they commission. Following the panel the midshipmen had the opportunity to speak with the junior officers about their individual platforms. Speakers from various sections of the Navy and Marine Corps addressed the midshipmen about leadership techniques and styles. These speakers included Commandant of the Marine Corps General Robert Neller, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command Admiral Michael Rogers, Sixth Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Thomas Rowden, and retired Fleet Master Chief April Beldo, along with others. “I never could have imagined getting to listen to so many incredible leaders in one weekend,” stated MIDN 3/C Raquelle Sands. “Meeting Vice Admiral Rowden was truly a SWO hopeful’s dream come true.”

The midshipmen and the officers from their units finished the weekend by attending the keynote dinner and address held by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson. Unanimously, the Midshipmen attendees agreed that the conference was a highly rewarding and valuable experience that all will remember for years to come.


MC3 Theodore Quintana, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Navy Midshipman Atlanna Tschida from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, participated in the 2017 spring Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) ship selection draft as a future member of the U.S. Navy’s Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) community.

More than 280 midshipmen at Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) units around the country have selected to serve in the Navy as surface warfare officers. Each selecting midshipman is ranked according to his or her grade point average, aptitude scores, and physical fitness.

“NROTC has drastically improved my time management, discipline and stress management,” said Tschida. “Through the opportunities that NROTC has provided me I have been able to interact with a variety of officers and enlisted personnel, which has familiarized me with the Navy and enabled me to develop as a junior naval officer. The leadership billets I have held have enabled me to hone my public speaking and leadership skills. Naval ROTC has also taught me to value everyone’s opinion even if it differs from my own.”

According to their rankings, each midshipman provided their preference of ship or homeport to the junior officer detailer at the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee. If these preferences were available, they were assigned as requested.

“Ship selection signifies to me that I have successfully finished four years of college and ROTC, and I am one step closer to joining the Fleet,” said Tschida. “This process also represents a starting point to begin learning about my future career, while enabling me the opportunity to have an input in how that career begins to take shape.”

Tschida, a 2013 Badger High School graduate, has selected to serve aboard USS Lake Champlain. Tschida is majoring in Zoology while attending University of Wisconsin-Madison. Upon graduation, Tschida will receive a commission as a Navy Ensign and report aboard Champlain as a surface warfare officer.

Champlain is a Ticonderoga-class cruiser home-ported in San Diego. Modern U.S. Navy guided-missile cruisers perform primarily in a battle force role supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces or operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups.

“I am looking forward to meeting my new shipmates and traveling,” said Tschida. “I am also excited to work with and learn from my division’s chief and sailors. Lastly, I am looking forward to the chance to practically apply what I have learned while in the University of Wisconsin NROTC.”

The midshipmen’s selection of their ship is not only a milestone for them but also an important day for the ships in the fleet. Not only do the midshipmen choose where they are going to start their Naval career, but the ship they choose will also gain a motivated, eager, young officer to help lead and improve an already great team.

While NROTC units are spread out across the country and vary in size, they all teach midshipmen the values, standards, abilities and responsibility that it takes to become a Navy officer and lead this nation’s sons and daughters in protecting freedom on the seven seas.

Top: MIDN 1/C Atlanna Tschida
Bottom: MIDN 1/C Tschida receives the good news that she has been officially assigned to USS Lake Champlain (CG 57)
University of Wisconsin Midshipmen Tour Recruit Training Command

MIDN 1/C Atlanna Tschida

Above: Wisconsin seniors pose alongside Commanding Officer Captain Christopher Murdoch and Assistant Marine Officer Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Francisco Olivas

On Friday, March 31st, University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC midshipmen traveled to Naval Station Great Lakes to observe Battle Stations and Recruit Training Command Graduation for five divisions of new Sailors. 17 midshipmen attended the event, led by unit Commanding Officer Captain Christopher Murdoch and Assistant Marine Officer Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Francisco Olivas.

For many, the highlight of the visit was observing the recruits completing Battle Stations, which took place at USS Trayer (BST 21), a 210-foot-long Arleigh Burke-class destroyer simulator. The midshipmen toured USS Trayer prior to the event. During Battle Stations, recruits complete 12 hours of simulations based on some of the worst damage control scenarios in U.S. naval history. The training is the culmination of the instruction the recruits complete throughout boot camp. Scenarios include simulations of missile attacks, mine strikes, and suicide bomb attacks and required recruits to work closely together in a high-pressure environment in order to succeed. Following completion of the event, recruits are given their official U.S. Navy ball caps in an inspiring ceremony.

The Wisconsin Midshipmen also had the opportunity to attend the recruits’ graduation ceremony, during which 508 recruits demonstrated some of the skills they had practiced during the eight weeks of boot camp. Captain Murdoch, the Guest of Honor, indicated the importance of attending this event for his midshipmen, “This was an outstanding opportunity for my First Class Midshipmen to interact with the Sailors they will soon lead, and to better understand the training that they have gone through. It will make these midshipmen better leaders.”

MIDN 1/C Cogan Kirchenwitz, from Pardeeville, WI, stated, “I was amazed by how much effort and coordination went into the graduation. It was an awe-inspiring ceremony celebrating the hard work and dedication of every graduate.”

Guest speaker Captain Todd A. Gagnon, Commanding Officer, Naval Information Operations, welcomed the new Seamen into “the World’s finest Navy.” He then received a salute from each division before liberty was called and the very eager families congratulated their Sailors on their accomplishments.

“The graduation ceremony was an eye-opening experience to see how young these new Sailors are – Sailors whom many of us will lead in the coming years,” said MIDN 1/C Christopher Poellinger, from Coon Valley, WI. “I felt a renewed sense of dedication and gained important insight into the responsibility I will have as a Naval Officer.”

The RTC visit was an invaluable experience and a unique opportunity for the Wisconsin midshipmen to observe the Navy’s newest Sailors in action.
Badgers Excel at Villanova’s Drill Meet

MIDN 3/C Jackson Lanigan
Photos by MIDN 4/C Zachary Schramm

Above: The Badger team poses with their hard-earned trophies. (More in Photos section)

The University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC Battalion attended the 2017 Villanova Military Excellence Competition (MEC) on 8 April 2017. 19 teams from universities across the country competed in the MEC, and no group traveled farther than the 36 Midshipmen from Wisconsin.

After a 15 hour bus ride from campus to Philadelphia, the Badger Midshipmen spent an afternoon exploring the campus and the city of Philadelphia, where they took in the sights of one of our nation’s most historic cities. The following day, the Midshipmen demonstrated their motivation and teamwork in three categories of Military Excellence events: drill, athletics, and combat skills.

The University of Wisconsin Midshipmen fielded four teams in the drill competition. The squad drill team, led by MIDN 4/C Zachary Kielar, from Brookfield, WI, and the platoon drill team, led by MIDN 2/C Daniel Kuhn, from Westfield, NJ, each placed third in their events, which contributed to the team’s overall fifth place finish out of 18 teams.

“I was really proud of how our platoon performed,” stated Midshipman Kuhn. “We only had a couple weeks to prepare, but everyone was willing to put in the time and effort during early morning practices to make ourselves competitive at Villanova. The fact that we came in third place among so many competitors is a testament to the platoon’s hard work and the guidance of Gunnery Sergeant Olivas and Staff Sergeant Armstrong.”

Wisconsin’s Midshipmen fielded basketball, swim, and track competitors for the athletic portion of the competition and finished third of 13 teams. The Midshipmen particularly excelled at the 4x100 meter and 4x400 meter relay, led to second place victories in each by team captain MIDN 3/C Joseph Unrein, from Milwaukee, WI. MIDN Unrein commented, “I was really proud to see our practiced handoffs making a difference and pulling out second place for both events.”

The Wisconsin Midshipmen demonstrated their grit and determination in the final category, combat skills, finishing fourth of 13 teams. MIDN 3/C Sean Gohlke, from Janesville, WI, led the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer team to a first place finish. The Mogadishu Mile team, captained by MIDN 1/C John Brueckbauer from Mundelein, IL, fought hard for their third place trophy.

“It was a tough race and we knew it would be,” stated MIDN Brueckbauer. “After about 20 minutes of thinking through different strategies and attempting to outsmart the race, we decided the best way to win was to do the same thing as every other team, just faster. It turned out pretty well, especially considering most of us had competed in at least one other athletic event prior.”

Villanova’s Military Excellence Competition culminated in an awards ceremony in which the University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC Battalion was presented with six trophies for individual events. The Midshipmen went on to win third place overall with 53.28 points, beating 17 other teams, including the University of Michigan, the United States Naval Academy, Rutgers University, the University of Pennsylvania, and host Villanova University.

Overall, the drill meet was a major success for the 36 Midshipmen and 2 staff members who attended. The opportunity to travel to Philadelphia and interact with other Midshipmen, Marines, and Sailors from around the country was an invaluable experience for all who attended.
Midshipmen Visit VA Vets

Scott Thornbloom, Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

University of Wisconsin-Madison Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen participated in Earth Day landscaping and visiting with inpatient and outpatient veterans at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital, April 22.

"As our primary community service to veterans this academic year, the battalion is honored to have been given this opportunity to spend some time with those who have served this great nation before us," said Navy Capt. Christopher Murdoch, professor of Naval Science and the commanding officer of the NROTC unit. "To see the midshipmen of the battalion, who have pledged to serve in the coming years, interact with those who served in the past, has been very rewarding. This honoring of - and interaction with - our legacy is truly an example of some of the great, deep reasons why military service continues to resonate among the best of our young men and women."

The director of the hospital, John Rohrer, called the event a community engagement opportunity.

"We are actively working on community engagement opportunities and when Captain Murdoch approached us about the Naval ROTC interest in working with veterans, we were immediately interested," Rohrer said. "The more than 60 midshipmen and three staff members started the day visiting with more than 30 veterans in their hospital rooms. They also spent time in the community living center eating lunch and listening to the veteran's stories of their time in the military, many who served during the Vietnam War."

"I think it's a link of bringing together the past, present and future of why visits like these are important," said Navy veteran Denny Marx, who serves as a volunteer at the hospital.

"Every vet has a story. Some of their stories are just incredible and hopefully, the midshipmen will be able to learn and remember these stories and the sacrifices the vets made to their country and take the stories with them as they enter the fleet to make their own stories."

Army veteran Joe Hodgson, a Specialist 4 (Spec 4) and radio operator in Germany from 1962-1964, and another volunteer at the hospital said many of the veterans really open up to visitors like the midshipmen.

"It's amazing how much they end up telling visitors like the midshipmen about what they did or where they were stationed," said Hodgson. "Sometimes it's the first time they ever spoke about that part of their lives and sometimes their own families don't know."

Marx, who served in the Navy from 1967-1971 as a Personnelman 2nd Class, said the visit by the UW-Madison NROTC unit was a wonderful opportunity for both the midshipmen and the vets.

"The vets see what the future is and the midshipmen are able to see the traditions and pride of service of those who came before them," Marx said.

Following their visits with the veterans, the midshipmen went outside to do some landscaping on the grounds around the hospital. They spent a few hours spreading out mulch around plants and trees outside the main entrance of the hospital and other areas.

"Obviously we are spreading some mulch to celebrate Earth Day, but our main reason for being here is to spend time with the veterans and just listen to their stories," said Midshipman 1st Class Justin Silvis, 22, from McFarland, Wisconsin, the unit battalion commander and Marine-option midshipman.

Above: Wisconsin Navy ROTC midshipmen spread mulch on the grounds of the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital
"It's important for the unit to participate in something like this because it gives us a chance to give back and thank the veterans that have come before us. It also gives all of us insight in what we could expect when we get out in the Fleet."

Other midshipmen agreed with their unit leader and thought it was amazing to be able to sit and talk to the vets.

"Just being able to share in their legacy and see what we are going to be part of is important," said Midshipman 1st Class Dominique Bowers, 21, from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, who hopes to be a submariner. "Being here gives us a chance to see what we may be doing in the future and continue on their legacy."

Midshipman 4th Class Nicholas Iacovo, 19, from Scottsdale, Arizona, and someone just beginning his NROTC and college experience said he was excited being involved in the event.

"Hearing their stories I learned so much about history. Some of the vets had a much different sense of preparedness during the Vietnam War or the Cold War. It's so important that we remember what they did as we go forward in our military careers," Iacovo said.

Rohrer added by providing an opportunity for the midshipmen to have lunch with "our veteran-patients and work with us on a spring clean-up of our grounds, we have successfully mixed the personal with the practical and developed a great sharing and service opportunity for the midshipmen that will also greatly benefit our patients," Rohrer said.

"Moving forward, we would like to build on this and identify more opportunities with community partners that support our Veterans and our hospital. We are so thankful to Captain Murdoch and the Naval ROTC midshipmen for their interest and efforts on behalf of Veterans."

On April 28, 2017, University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC Midshipmen held a Spring Ball at the Madison Masonic Center in honor of the graduating seniors and to celebrate the battalion’s achievements.

The evening began with social hour and the posting of the colors, followed by an invocation by Commander Dean Hekel. Many of the battalion’s family members were in attendance to show support for their Midshipmen. After dinner, Commanding Officer, Captain Murdoch congratulated the midshipmen on their performance, thanked the award sponsors and those who have served in the military, and discussed the meaning of service. He introduced guest speaker Professor Donald Downs. Professor Downs spoke about the long history of ROTC and the cultural importance of forging a relationship between Midshipmen and their civilian counterparts on campus.

Following the remarks, honored guests and alumni presented awards to outstanding members of the battalion.

The awards and recipients included:
- LTJG Charles D. Collins Award: MIDN 1/C Dominique Bowers
- LTJG Nick Norris Award: MIDN 1/C Gregory Lauer
- Major Norman K. Billip Award: MIDN 1/C Justin Silvis
- ENS Duane J. Hofhine II Award: MIDN 1/C Christopher Poellinger
- CDR William Arnold Award: MIDN 1/C John Brueckbauer
- Semper Fi Award: MIDN 1/C Michael Sherman
- Major Dennis A. Dogs Award: MIDN 1/C Cogan Kirchenwitz
- LCDR John S. Lyman Merit Scholarship: MIDN 4/C Katherine Katula; MIDN 4/C Nicholas Pinzl
- Capt. David J. Lueder Merit Scholarship: MIDN 2/C Matthew Sherman; MIDN 3/C John Tilstra
- CAPT John W. “Swede” Peterson Award: MIDN 2/C Jacob Fuiten
- Madison Area Naval Reserve Officers Community Award: MIDN 1/C Christopher Houben
- Madison Navy League Award: MIDN 1/C Atlanna Tschida
- Madison Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America Award: MIDN 4/C Nicholas Iacovo; MIDN 1/C Jordan Olesen
- Don Alf Honorary Scholarship: MIDN 2/C Brenna Johnson

After awards had been presented, the dance floor opened for the Midshipman and guests to celebrate. Battalion Commander Justin Silvis thoroughly enjoyed the event: “The ball was an excellent way to celebrate a successful year for the battalion and thank our family and friends for their support. We are very grateful to the many donors who make these awards possible year after year.”

Spring 2017 Joint ROTC Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday April 12th, the University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC participated in the annual Joint Awards Ceremony. Representatives from local veterans’ organizations were on hand to present awards to the midshipmen and cadets. This year, notable awards and recipients included:
- Military Order Loyal Legion of Merit Award: MIDN 2/C Daniel Kuhn
- Society of the War of 1812 Award: MIDN 3/C John Tilstra
- Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Award: MIDN 4/C Katherine Katula
- Sons of the American Revolution Award: MIDN 3/C Raquelle Sands
- Military Officers Association of America Award: MIDN 2/C Brenna Johnson & MIDN 2/C Jacob Fuiten
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Award: MIDN 2/C Leland Raymond & MIDN 2/C Connor McKeehan
- Daughters of the American Revolution Award: MIDN 4/C Nicholas Pinzl
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Award: MIDN 3/C Sean Gohlke
- USAA Spirit Award: MIDN 1/C William Matthei
- AT&T Leadership Award: MIDN 3/C Jackson Lanigan & MIDN 3/C Maxwell Renk
- Midshipman of the Year: MIDN 1/C Cole Kirchenwitz
- John Sterling Award: MIDN 1/C Michael Sherman
Student Awards: Spring 2017

**Midshipman of the Semester**
MIDN 3/C Sands

**Physical Fitness Award** (Outstanding High on PFA/PFT)
MIDN 2/C Kuhn
MIDN 4/C Olsen
MIDN 2/C Sherman
MIDN 4/C Rielly
MIDN 2/C Vander Waal
MIDN 1/C Welsh

**Leadership Excellence Award** (Top military aptitude of respective class)
MIDN 4/C Rielly
MIDN 3/C Tilstra
MIDN 2/C Sherman
MIDN 1/C Poellinger

**Academic Excellence Award** (Term GPA≥3.75)
MIDN 1/C Poellinger
MIDN 4/C Katula
MIDN 2/C Sherman
OC Kirsch
MIDN 2/C Fuiten

**Academic Achievement Award** (Term GPA≥3.5)
MIDN 2/C McKeehan
MIDN 1/C Brueckbauer
MIDN 3/C Tilstra
MIDN 1/C Ahlgrimm
MIDN 3/C Gohlke
MIDN 4/C Rielly
MIDN 4/C Vander Waal
MIDN 3/C Ohman
MIDN 1/C Lauer

**Academic Accomplishment Award** (Term GPA≥3.25)
MIDN 2/C Kuhn
MIDN 3/C Brooks
MIDN 3/C Knight
MIDN 3/C Sands
MIDN 3/C Lallensack
MIDN 4/C Pinzl
MIDN 4/C Walters
MIDN 3/C Draka

**All-Around Performance Award** (Meets criteria for Physical, Leadership & Academic Excellence)
MIDN 2/C Sherman

*The Badger Battalion’s Spring 2017 Average Semester GPA was 3.106.*

"Hail & Farewell"

As we end the Spring 2017 semester, we wish one staff member, “Fair Winds and Following Seas!” The unit’s Assistant Marine Officer Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Francisco Olivas has departed the unit. He and his family have relocated to San Bruno, California, where he will report to the 23rd Marine Regiment.
Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans, commander, NSTC commissioned 35 University of Wisconsin-Madison Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) cadets and midshipmen during a joint service ceremony in the Concerto Room of the Gordon Dining & Event Center on campus, May 13.

Each ROTC student was personally recognized by their commanding officers, who along with Evans handed out commissioning certificates at the ceremony. The newly commissioned officers will serve around the globe in a variety of military jobs. For the Navy and Marine Corps midshipmen those occupations will include aviation warfare, surface warfare and submarine warfare for the new Navy ensigns and Military Occupational Specialties (MOS), such as infantry or aviation, for the new Marine Corps 2nd lieutenants.

"This is a fantastic honor for us to have Rear Admiral Evans here to celebrate this joint commissioning," said Navy Capt. Christopher Murdoch, professor of Naval Science and Naval ROTC commanding officer.

"We have 35 future officers from all three services that have taken the oath today and it's just a wonderful and special day. We are just very pleased that the admiral could join us to celebrate with these young men and women as they look to begin their military careers."

Commissioned as Navy Ensigns were; Dominique Bowers, 22, from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin; Christopher Houben, 21, from Geneva, Illinois; Adam Kaplfgang, 22, from Medford, Wisconsin; William Matthei, 21, from Wheaton, Illinois, and Atlanna Tschida, from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Midshipman 1st Class Patrick Callahan, 21, of St. Louis, will also be commissioned as a Navy ensign upon finishing physicals for flight school. Commissioned as U. S. Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants were Cogan and Cole Kirchenwitz, 22, from Pardeeville, Wisconsin; Michael Sherman, 21, from Plymouth, Minnesota, and Justin Silvis, 22, from McFarland, Wisconsin.

"It's truly an honor for me to be here today to commission these cadets and midshipmen as military officers in their respected branches of service," said Evans. "The University of Wisconsin has a long history and tradition dating back to the first world war of educating and commissioning military officers to serve and protect our nation. This legacy that we continue with today's commissioning is a symbol of America and all that we stand for."

Evans, who was an NROTC midshipman and commissioned at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, in Charleston, S. C., thanked and congratulated the ROTC instructors and staff at Wisconsin for ensuring each cadet and midshipman received the best training to become military officers. He acknowledged and welcomed all the family members in attendance.

"Our nation is strongest when we draw from all of our strengths and we give our best people every opportunity to serve," Evans told the soon-to-be new officers and their families in the audience during his keynote speech. "Remember your families are definitely the strength behind you and the support behind our military. Remember the sacrifices and challenges they have made for you to pursue your degree, participate in ROTC and begin your military career," Evans said.

Following his speech, Rear Adm. Evans led each cadet and midshipman in reciting their Oath of Office and then each member had their ranks affixed to their shoulders by family members.

"This was a celebration and culmination of all the work I've completed here at the university and being commissioned means an opening of a new chapter in my life," said Ensign Tschida, who was commissioned as a surface warfare officer and will serve on the USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) as the First Lieutenant. "I'm excited that I'll be working with Sailors and other officers and have a real leadership position and I'm really excited to learn from them.

Tschida had her father and mother, Daniel and Jennifer, affix her Ensign shoulder bars. Tschida's father is the command master chief of Naval Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii.

"It's awesome to see her start this career [in the Navy] that I've enjoyed and think so highly of," Command Master Chief Tschida said. "It's good to see her go into the same field. I know she will do great things and I'm very proud of her." Master Chief Tschida also gave his daughter her first salute.

Twin brothers and Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants Kirchenwitz called the ceremony very exciting and an honor to be commissioned together.

"To get the opportunity to graduate and then be commissioned with my twin brother is awesome," Cogan Kirchenwitz said.

Cole Kirchenwitz said, "to have this chance to celebrate our accomplishment in this way, finally, is very rewarding."

Each of the Kirchenwitz brothers had their 2nd lieutenant gold bars pinned on by their father, retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt., Patrick and their mother Lori. Their grandfather, also in attendance at the commissioning, served as a U.S. Navy Radarman 2nd Class on board the USS Canberra (CA 70) in the blockade against the Soviet Union during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

"This is pretty big to see both my sons being commissioned today, said the retired gunny, who also presented the 'first salute' to his sons. "It's legacy stuff, my dad was in, I was in. It continues to build on our families' military legacy. You have to give a little bit to get something back."

After the ceremony family and friends congratulated the newly commissioned officers. Many of the parents present described the moment watching their children being commissioned as one of the proudest in their lives.
Leading by Example

MIDN 4/C Maren Kirkland

The University of Wisconsin has a rich military history, with Camp Randall serving as a Union training camp during the Civil War prior to being acquired by the University in 1893. Although a top ranked public university in both academics and athletics, with a total student population of over 43,000, it also has a reputation as a “party school.” In fact, the Badgers topped the Princeton Review’s 2017 list of top party schools in the nation. Naval ROTC midshipmen enrolled at a party school face unique social temptations, but it is ultimately our responsibility to lead by example and make responsible decisions.

A large component of the “party school” atmosphere is alcohol consumption. The National Institute of Health statistics state that 60% of college students ages 18 to 22 reported alcohol use in May of 2017. One quarter of these students reported academic difficulties due to alcohol use. Two thirds of the students reported engaging in binge drinking. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking 5 or more alcoholic drinks for males or 4 more alcoholic drinks for females on the same occasion. Furthermore, SAMHSA defines heavy alcohol use as binge drinking on 5 or more days in one month, which is extremely common in a college atmosphere. Binge drinking and heavy alcohol use are both risk factors for developing alcohol dependence.

Of note, the NIH survey of students included the age group of 18-22, reflecting the fact that roughly half of students enrolled in college at a given time are younger than the legal drinking age. As with many party schools, underage drinking is prevalent in Madison and is generally accepted as part of college culture. However, this does not change the fact that underage drinking is illegal and poses dangers to those who consume alcohol.

Although drinking laws are known to be more lax in Wisconsin, the legal drinking limit is still 21 if unaccompanied by a legal guardian. In Wisconsin, underage drinking is considered a crime, violation of which will result in an underage drinking citation, which goes on your driving record. Wisconsin has a strict Absolute Sobriety Law which means a driver’s BAC must be 0.00 if under the age of 21. In addition to a drinking citation, an underage driver who violates Absolute Sobriety will receive a minimum fine of $200 and up to a 3 month driver’s license suspension for a first time offense. These fines and penalties increase if an individual receives more than one ticket in a given year.

The University of Wisconsin takes the issue even more seriously and strictly prohibits underage drinking at all University events. The UW Campus Police Department and the City of Madison Police Department will issue citations for underage drinking, fake identification, and provision of alcohol to minors. These citations include fines, court sanctions, and are also reported directly to the Dean of Students Office. The Dean’s office can impart disciplinary actions ranging from academic probation to expulsion with the requirement to complete alcohol education classes. All incoming freshmen are now required to complete an online alcohol education program prior to starting school to educate students on the risks of drinking.

Underage drinking is also a standing issue in the Navy. The Navy reports that among active duty personnel, underage Sailors account for 31% of reported alcohol incidents. Many go on to have repeated offenses despite education and treatment. Alcohol abuse can damage health and jeopardize one’s safety and the safety of others. It also sets back operational readiness and goes against the Navy’s core values.

Underage Sailors caught drinking are in violation of the UCMJ and will typically proceed to Non-Judicial Punishment, where a range of punishments can apply, including demotion and loss of pay. In addition to military punishment, they can also be prosecuted in civilian courts. If an officer engages in underage drinking or helps/allows others to do so, it may result in administrative separation. As a midshipman, an alcohol incident can affect your career directly. Based on the severity, it can be cause for disenrollment, leave of absence, or probation. It can impact scholarship selection, service assignment, and medical readiness for commissioning. If deemed alcohol abuse, it will likely result in automatic disenrollment recoupment of tuition, as the Navy has a zero tolerance policy.

As ROTC students on a large campus at the nation’s top party school, we are regularly exposed to alcohol. Members of ROTC are held to a higher standard than the average college student. This is pertinent because of the responsibility given to us as future officers. Underage drinking threatens our careers, goes against the Navy’s core values, and brings negative attention to the University, the NROTC program, and the Navy as a whole. It is crucial that we set an example for our peers and abide by federal and state law, ROTC program policy, and the University’s policies. To many people who interact with midshipmen on campus, we are the face of the Navy and the Marine Corps, an important responsibility that we must live up to.
The Badger Battalion is excited to announce the following upcoming events for the Fall 2017 semester:

- **Student Orientation Week**: August 26-31
- **Parent Luncheon**: August 31
- **Alumni Social**: August 30
- **Invitational Drill Meet**: October 6-7
- **Alumni Association Reunion Weekend**: October 13-14
- **Winter Commissioning Ceremony**: December 22
Spring 2017 Photos from the Badger Battalion
2017 Military Excellence Competition, Villanova University
Battalion Change of Command and Awards Quarters
Joint Commissioning 2017
Become a Member Today!

Membership Dues are as follows:

- Annual Membership $25
- 5-Year Membership $100
- Lifetime Membership (Best Value!) $300

Membership dues are used to fund Association operations, Midshipman Battalion events, and alumni reunion support. Additionally, a portion of each payment is placed in the enduring Award Trust Fund that was established over 25 years ago. Payments can be made on-line via PayPal via the Alumni Webpage: [http://uwnrotcalumni.org](http://uwnrotcalumni.org) or via check. If paying by check, please enclose the bottom portion of this form with your payment and mail to:

UW NROTC Alumni Association  
PO Box 5205  
Madison, WI 53705-0205

Name: ___________________________  Graduation Year: _____________

Address: _________________________  Membership Type: (Check one)

______________________________  _____ Lifetime ($300)

______________________________  _____ 5 Year ($100)

______________________________  _____ Annual ($25)

Email: ___________________________
The UW-NROTC Store offers the following to show your Badger Battalion pride:

Ball Caps $10
Unit Polo’s $25 (Navy Blue) Semper Fi Polo’s $20
Sweatpants $10
Two types of Challenge Coins $5
Water Bottles $5

These items along with new merchandise are available on the UW-NROTC website.

If you wish to purchase Badger Battalion gear today, please contact

MIDN Nicholas Pinzl: npinzl@wisc.edu