

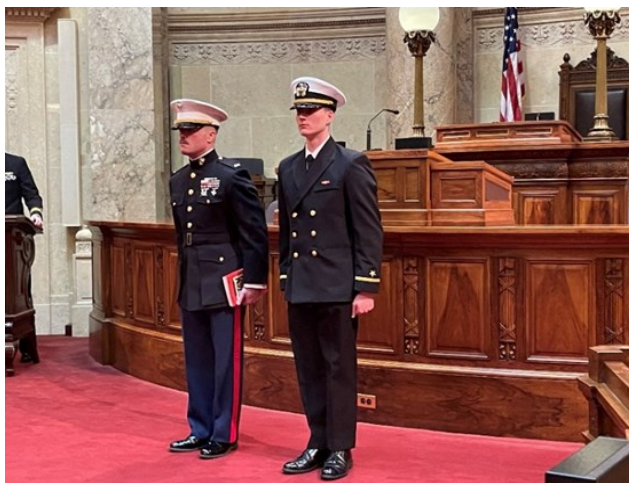


# Badger Shipmate

## 2022—2023 Graduates

### Winter 2022 Commissioning

In the Senate Chamber of the Wisconsin State Capitol, Captain John Barnett, Commanding Officer of the University of Wisconsin NROTC Unit, administered the oath of office to two new officers—2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Samuel G. DeBolt and Ensign David F. Bondi. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt DeBolt reports to The Basic School in August and Ensign Bondi reported to Nuclear Power School, in Goose Creek, SC, in March.



### Spring 2023 Commissioning

Under an overcast sky the morning of 13 May, four midshipmen were commissioned into the Navy and Marine Corps during a joint service ceremony.

Brigadier General Timothy D. Convington, of the Wisconsin National Guard, administered the oath of office to Ensign Sawyer Blazar, Ensign Savannah Houdeshell, Ensign Nathan Poches, and Second Lieutenant Lucas Gordy. The picture to the right shows the students shortly before their officer insignia was affixed by friends and family. Ensign Blazar will attend the Basic Division Officer Course and report to USS SHOUP (DDG 86). Ensign Houdeshell is enroute to Naval Flight School in Pensacola. Ensign Poches has been selected for nuclear power training and will attend the Basic Division Officer Course before reporting to USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) for his initial duty. Second Lieutenant Gordy will attend The Basic School followed by flight training in Pensacola.



## Spring 2023 Commissioning (con't)



*General Covington remarks during the ceremony.*



*General Covington administers the oath of office..*



*Newly commissioned officers marching off stage—and to the Fleet!*

### 2023 Reunion 27-28 October

In early October 2022, we had a perfect Fall Saturday for our Reunion Weekend with temps in the 60s. While the weather was great, the football was not, and the Fighting Illini proved to be the better-prepared team on the field. Those of us in the stands witnessed a pummeling of the Badgers that led to the firing of Coach Paul Chryst the next morning.

No worries, however, as this Fall, we have the “much easier to defeat” Ohio State Buckeyes visiting Madison. We hope you plan to join us on October 27 for an evening social with the Badger Battalion at the Unit. We will host a standup dinner and soft drinks and plan to hold a 1730 -1930 social event with the Badger Battalion. After we depart, we will rendezvous at an alternate location for a hotwash to trade sea stories. On Saturday, 28 October, we will conduct our Annual Business Meeting and elect officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) for the Board of Directors. Hopefully, we will have a tailgate before the Badgers take on the Buckeyes. Unfortunately, the Athletic Department is not offering block seating tickets for this game due to the expected high demand for seats, so we will not be offering football tickets this Fall and you will need to secure tickets directly (expect prices north of \$100 for the upper-level seats).

We will release info on the social events in mid to late July. As in past years, you can purchase a package ticket for both Friday evening and Saturday or elect to purchase a single event. We hope to see you in October!

## From the President— A Report to Our Members

I trust 2023 is treating you well! I am happy to report that your Association is healthy and is poised to continue our mission of supporting the Battalion, the Unit, and all alumni. In the conduct of business, the Board has been kept busy since our Annual Reunion in October 2022.

Many of these efforts are focused on establishing processes and an enduring annual cycle that allows the Board to function and plan efficiently. One example is our shifting the annual budget cycle from a start date of 1 January to a start date of 1 September. While seemingly minor, this shift allows us to create and approve a budget in the summer months and then report on the prior year as one component of our annual report. Speaking of the budget, I wanted to thank George Ketterer for ten years of service to the Board as Treasurer. George turned over his responsibilities to Sara Zenobian, who has taken the Treasurer's baton and is also the youngest Director on the board (Class of 2015).



We have taken a hard look at our Awards process and, over the past year, created a new form to allow both sponsors and the Association to clearly understand the criteria for the Commanding Officer to use in selecting nominees. The new form was very effective over the past months in communicating with Award sponsors, and the Unit found it to be easy to use in the award nominee selection process. Working with the Unit, we have presented to “legacy” Award sponsors (those families and organizations who have not previously interacted with the Association) a letter concerning a new relationship with the Association. The Association and the Unit believe that we can strengthen the overall awards process going forward with these award sponsors joining our current group of award sponsors whom we have a relationship with. At present we have a bifurcated Awards process where the Unit interacts with legacy Award sponsors and the Association works with sponsors who approached the Association directly to establish awards.

Last year we updated our Bylaws, and one change was to create an Emeritus Director designation for those Board members with more than nine years of cumulative service to the Association. At present, we have five actively serving Emeritus Directors. Our sixth Emeritus Director, Joe Able, “retired” from the Board last Fall. Joe certainly set a standard, having served as President over nineteen years in addition to serving as a Director for another six years or so. We all owe Joe a great debt of gratitude for his service to the Association and his in-kind donations of books for newly commissioned officers.

While the above efforts and others will improve the administration of the Association, the real fun only occurs when SeaBadgers can get together. I ask that you support our engagement efforts and return to Madison to engage with the Battalion during the Annual Reunion. Your knowledge and life experiences are of great benefit to the Battalion and augment the career experiences of the Unit Staff under the command of Captain John Barnett. We will always welcome volunteers to support a committee or any activity where you believe you might contribute – either on a routine basis or as available

Looking forward, I hope you will consider visiting Madison in late October to meet the Badger Battalion and alums during the Reunion Weekend on 27-28 October. Our Association and the Battalion will be better and stronger with your presence.

*Scott A. Robinson*

***On Wisconsin!***

Scott A. Robinson, '82

## Captain's Corner

It has been a great year for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Naval ROTC, highlighted by outstanding military training and academic excellence, fully supporting our mission to develop future Navy and Marine Corps Officers. A big thank you goes out to the Alumni Association, the University faculty, and staff, and for the Madison community who have invested time, energy and resources in preparing our Midshipmen for the challenging profession they are about enter.

The culmination of our efforts this academic year is with our Joint ROTC Commissioning Ceremony. On May 13<sup>th</sup> we commissioned four officers – 1 Navy Aviation (pilot) trainee, 2 Surface Warfare Officer trainees, and 1 Marine Corps Aviation trainee. In December of this year, we will commission four more officers – one will attend the Naval Nuclear Power School and serve in submarines, 1 Navy Aviation (pilot) trainee, 2 Marine Corps Officers.

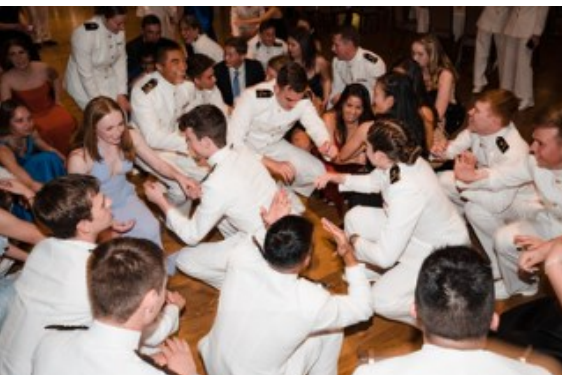
Looking back, our midshipmen were proactive in community service, participating in several projects this year. They hosted and volunteered for two American Red Cross blood drives, supported the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, and participated in events to support various community and veterans organizations.

The unit hosted its 49<sup>th</sup> Annual fall invitational drill meet, bringing five schools from across the Midwest together for competition and team building. In February, our MOI, AMOI and drill teams travelled to Tulane University to compete again. In December, the battalion held a dining-in to celebrate the end of the fall semester and to take part in time-honored Navy and Marine Corps traditions. Former AMOI, First Sergeant William Harris, was the guest of honor. In April, the Battalion held its annual Spring Ball and awards ceremony. Our guest of honor this year was Dr. Eric Wilcots, Interim Provost of the University.

Thank you to the Alumni Association, who continued the “Voices of Experience” series with an engagement with the Honorable John Lehman, 65<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Navy.

The Midshipmen of the University of Wisconsin-Madison NROTC unit represent the best of a generation of Americans. They are committed to serving their nation and its people, to defending our constitution and national interests, and having a positive impact in the world.

## Spring Ball & Awards Ceremony April 29, 2023



*Photography by  
Dr. Rob San Juan*



*CAPT John A. Barnett, USN*

## **University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC 2023 Spring Awards**

### **Navy League Award**

Officer Candidate Ian Thurston

### **Captain John W. “Swede” Peterson Memorial Award**

MIDN 2/C Benjamin Torine *Sponsored by the Captain John W. “Swede” Peterson UW Foundation*

### **UW Naval ROTC Sailors and Marines Scholarship**

Officer Candidate William Griffin and Gunnery Sergeant Jacob Nier

### **Hilldale Scholarship**

Staff Sergeant William Ratajczyk, MIDN 4/C Jordyn Nies, MIDN 4/C Adam Banerjee

### **Major Dennis Dogs, USMC Memorial Award**

MIDN 1/C Lucas Gordy *Sponsored by Badger Marine Memorial Foundation*

### **Timothy E. Meyer Memorial Scholarship Award**

MIDN 4/C Adam Banerjee *Sponsored by Badger Marine Memorial Foundation*

### **Nick Norris Memorial Award**

MIDN 1/C Matthew Grant *Sponsored by the Norris Family*

### **Professor of Naval Science Freshman Spirit Award**

MIDN 4/C William Pfeifle *Sponsored by the Pankow Family*

### **Lieutenant Commander John S. Lyman Merit Scholarship**

MIDN 4/C Jacob DeWinter *Sponsored by the UW Naval ROTC Alumni Association*

### **Donald L. Alf Award**

MIDN 2/C Pope Mallette *Sponsored by the Ross M. and Michele M. Annable Foundation*

### **Duane J. Hofhine, II Memorial Award**

MIDN 1/C Nathan Poches *Sponsored by the Hofhine Family*

### **Colonel Stephen Dinauer, USMC Award**

Gunnery Sergeant Jacob Nier *Sponsored by Bill and Susan Kirkpatrick*

### **Lieutenant Mitch Pulver Award**

MIDN 1/C Sawyer Blazar *Sponsored by Bill and Susan Kirkpatrick*

### **Commander William T. Arnold Memorial Scholarship**

MIDN 1/C Savannah Houdeshell *Sponsored by Bill and Susan Kirkpatrick and Suzanne Redenius*

### **Norman K. Billipp Award**

MIDN 2/C Tyler Franklin *Sponsored by the Ross M. and Michele M. Annable Foundation*

### **Major Norman K. Billipp, USMC Award**

Staff Sergeant William Ratajczyk *Sponsored by the Billipp Family*

### **LTJG Charles Dickens Collins Memorial Award**

MIDN 1/C Savannah Houdeshell *Sponsored by the Collins Family*

***Congratulations to this year’s Award Recipients!***

## A New USS WISCONSIN (SSBN 827)



A new *USS WISCONSIN* (SSBN 827) is in the works. On August 27th (8/27) an inflatable model of the submarine was alongside the State Capitol during the Farmer's Market. She was "christened" at about 1000 with the ship's sponsor, Dr. Kelly Geurts, using a champagne-shaped balloon filled with water from Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. The 1/11 (50 foot) scale model of the future *USS WISCONSIN* was built using scaled down specifications of the actual submarine's design.

To help support the sailors who will one day operate and maintain the ship, a nonprofit, charitable association was officially established. Anticipating commissioning in about nine years, the association has started a statewide awareness campaign. More information about the submarine's construction and the work of the association may be found on the web at these sites:

<https://www.usswisconsinsub.org>

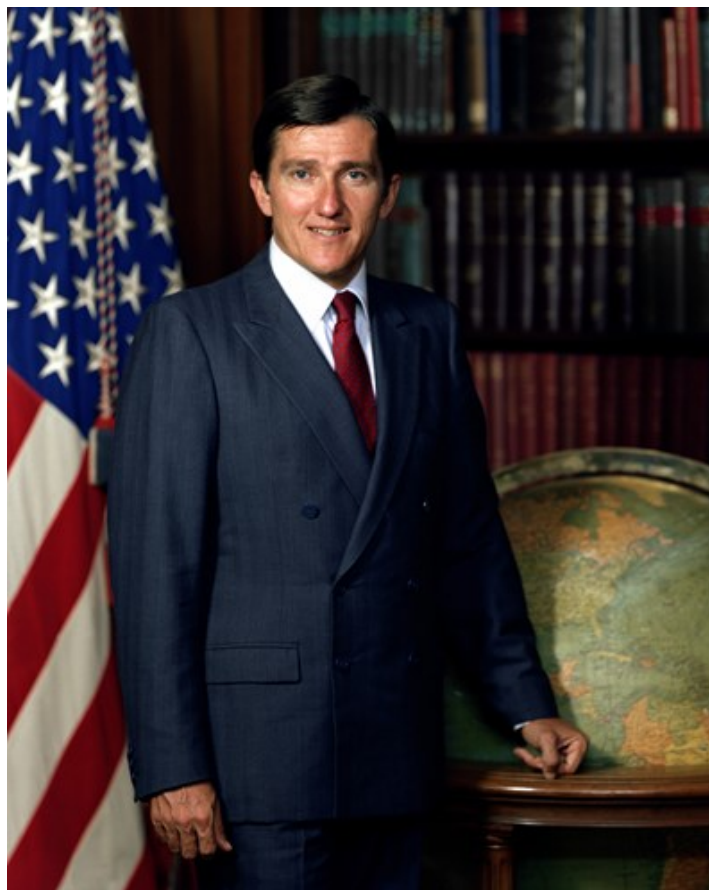
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/126620262677363>

## Voices of Experience (VOE) Lecture

The Communications Committee, under the leadership of Phil Midland, arranged for an exceptional speaker this Spring with a presentation by the Honorable John F. Lehman. Secretary Lehman lectured and took questions from the Battalion on the 25th of April, via Zoom, from his home in Pennsylvania.

John F. Lehman served as the 65th Secretary of the Navy from 1981 to 1987 and promoted the creation of a 600-ship Navy.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Saint Joseph's University (BA), Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge (BA), and the University of Pennsylvania (MA, Ph.D.). He has authored multiple books; his most recent is *Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea* (W. W. Norton and Company, 2018). He is also a retired Navy reserve captain who flew as a bombardier-navigator in A-6 Intruders. In honor of his service to the Nation, the Navy announced in October 2020 that the 87th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer would be named USS John F. Lehman (DDG 137).



## What's New with the Alumni Association

### Association Strategic Planning

It's been several months of adventure working on the Association's Three-Year Strategic Plan. The plan will be completed and presented at the Annual meeting on 28 October 2023.

The October 2022 Member Survey kicked off our endeavors, with responses from 68 alums. Two more surveys followed, one for the Board of Directors and the second for the Badger Battalion. Several meetings, too many emails and lots of discussion continue. Where to take the Association and how to grow it present daunting issues. Some inspiration comes from Paul Stein, who returned to the Board in 2022: "I was active in the creation of the investment fund with the hope that we could grow it to \$10,000 a goal that I am glad to see has been greatly surpassed. This has meant we are able to do more than the founders ever envisioned."

Official committee members are:

- Kathy (Johnson) DiMaggio, Class of 1978 (Chair) Phil Midland, Class of 1973
- Dave Pernai, Class of 1978
- Henry Sheller, Class of 1977
- Steven Hoffman, Class of 2015

Additionally, we have two other key volunteers and lifetime members Ken Green, Class of 1985, and Darin Engelhart, Class of 1990. Your interest, comments, questions, insights are always welcomed! Please send an email to the Associa-

### Join the Association

Your membership dues and donations help bond the Badger Battalion - past, present, and future! Membership is available to all UW NROTC Alumni and supporters of the Unit. Membership is for the calendar year.

Membership Dues:

- Annual Membership, \$25
- 5-Year Membership, \$100
- Lifetime Membership, \$300

To join or renew please visit the Membership tab on our website at: [Join or Renew](#) or mail a check payable to the UW NROTC Alumni Association to:

University of Wisconsin Naval Reserve  
Officers Training Corps Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 5205  
Madison, WI 53705

### Call for Contact Information

If you have not received recent emails from the Association, [uwnrotcalum@gmail.com](mailto:uwnrotcalum@gmail.com), or our December 2022 letter, please send an email with your name, year group, address and telephone number (as desired) or travel to this link: [http://eepurl.com/gOP\\_qf](http://eepurl.com/gOP_qf) to subscribe.

For those not using electronic communications, please send your contact information to:

#### Contact Update

**UW NROTC Alumni Association**

**PO Box 5205, Madison, WI 53705**

## On WISCONSIN ... Finally!

by James Zamorski, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

The Navy community is large enough to meet our country's obligations around the world, but small enough so that, from time to time over the course of a career, you may still cross paths with former shipmates, or be caught up in the life and service of those massive, haze gray hulking things we call ships of the line. One ship I continued to encounter as both my military and civilian careers unfolded was the battleship USS WISCONSIN (BB 64).

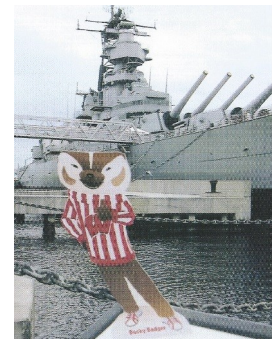


During my first Navy sea tour in the late 1970's aboard a small frigate, I learned that my ship would undergo its regular overhaul at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. I was excited. No, not excited about an impending, long-term visit to the greater Philadelphia area, but about the prospect of enjoying a gratuitous shore tour while still assigned to a ship. What piqued my interest, though, was the fact that Philadelphia was the homeport of USS WISCONSIN. Being a recent University of Wisconsin graduate I thought perhaps I might be able to get aboard the battleship for a tour, or at least walk the decks of the fabled warship that bore the name of my alma mater.

As my ship arrived for overhaul and settled onto the blocks of our assigned berth at dry dock, I could see the great gray lady sitting dark, silent, and nested with other mothballed ships housed at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. It was not a very glamorous resting place. The once mighty vessel bore the characteristic markings of decay, weather and time. Even weeds were clearly visible growing up from the crevices in the wood of her teak decks. I was disappointed to learn that no one was allowed aboard given her status and state of disrepair. Still, the sight of that ship was a novelty. I took a photograph, had it printed and framed, and mailed it back to the University of Wisconsin Naval Reserve Officer Training Core unit as a memento.

Over the years and with changing world situations, a new interest in the battleship as an instrument of power projection emerged. The USS WISCONSIN was selected to return to active service from 1986 through 1991 and was outfitted with upgraded electronics and weaponry. Thought to be an economical use of resources, the ship was re-activated for a relatively short stint on the front lines. After my Navy service I chose to settle in the greater Norfolk, Virginia area. I read with interest the accounts of various cities bidding on the now long-retired battleships as floating museums. The city of Norfolk was very interested in revitalizing its downtown waterfront area and the addition of a battleship promised to be a great draw. Ultimately, USS WISCONSIN found a home in Norfolk, Virginia as a floating museum and centerpiece of a maritime exposition area.

And so, with an appreciation for the tides and currents that bring us together or draw us apart, it was with great pride that I finally seized the opportunity for a shipboard visit. I made my way up the gangplank, saluted the colors, and stepped out onto the now restored teak decks of a proud, historic warship for the topside tour that had eluded me for so long.



Finally, I was ... On Wisconsin!

James Zamorski was part of the University of Wisconsin Midshipmen Battalion from 1972 through 1976. He was a four-year member of the Exhibition Drill team and commanded the team during his senior year. Commissioned in 1976 he served afloat aboard USS THOMAS C. HART (FF 1092) and was a plank owner aboard USS ARKANSAS (CGN 41). His shore tours included Naval Communications Area Master Station Atlantic and Staff Action Officer for the staffs of both U.S. Atlantic Fleet and U.S. Atlantic Command. After a successful Navy career he continued his support of the Navy in the civilian sector as a contractor with several mid to large size companies. He is now retired and resides in Ashland, Virginia.





## Navy Truisms

- A Sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain about standing a 4 hour quarterdeck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.
  - A Sailor will lie, cheat and scam to get off the ship early and then will have no idea where he wants to go.
  - Sailors are territorial. They have their assigned spaces to clean and maintain. Woe betide the shipmate who tracks through a freshly swabbed deck.
  - Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or even third helpings.
  - After a cruise, a Sailor will realize how much he misses being at sea. And after retiring from the Navy considers going on a cruise and visiting some of our past favorite ports. Of course we'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually use to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.
  - You can spend three years on a ship and never visit every nook and cranny or even every major space aboard. Yet, you can name all your shipmates and every liberty port.
  - Campari and soda taken in the warm Spanish sun is an excellent hangover remedy.
  - PO2 / E-5 is almost the perfect military pay grade. Too senior to catch the crap details, too junior to be blamed if things go awry.
  - Never be first, never be last and never volunteer for anything.
  - Almost every port has a "gut." An area teeming with cheap bars, easy women and partiers, which is usually the "Off-limits" area.
  - Contrary to popular belief, Master Chief Petty Officers do not walk on water. They walk just above it.
  - Sad but true, when visiting even the most exotic ports of call, some Sailors only see the inside of the nearest bars/clubs.
  - Also under the category of sad but true, that lithe, sultry Mediterranean or Asian beauty you spent those wonderful three days with and have dreamed about ever since, is almost certainly a grandmother now.
  - A Sailor can, and will, sleep anywhere, anytime.
  - Yes, it's true, it does flow downhill.
  - In the traditional "crackerjack" uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.
  - The Marine dress blue uniform is, by far, the sharpest of all the armed forces.
  - Most Sailors won't disrespect a shipmate's mother. On the other hand, it's not entirely wise to tell them they have a good looking sister either.
  - Sailors and Marines will generally fight one another, and fight together against all comers.
  - If you can at all help it, never tell anyone that you are seasick.
  - Check the rear dungaree pockets of a Sailor. Right pocket a wallet. Left pocket a wheel book.
  - The guys who seemed to get away with doing the least, always seemed to be first in the pay line and the chow line.
  - General Quarters drills and the need to evacuate one's bowels often seem to coincide.
  - Speaking of which, when the need arises, the nearest head is always the one which is secured for cleaning.
  - Four people you never screw with: the doc, the DK, PC and the ship's barber.
  - In the summer, all deck seamen wanted to be signalmen. In the winter they wanted to be radiomen.
  - Do snipes ever get the grease and oil off their hands?
  - Never play a drinking game which involves the loser paying for all the drinks.
  - There are only two good ships: the one you came from and the one you're going to.
  - Whites, coming from the cleaners, clean, pressed and starched, last that way about 30 microseconds after donning them. The Navy dress white uniform is a natural dirt magnet.
  - Sweat pumps operate in direct proportion to the seniority of the official visiting.
  - The shrill call of a bosun's pipe still puts a chill down my spine.
  - Three biggest lies in the Navy: We're happy to be here; this is not an inspection; we're here to help.
  - Everything goes in the log.
  - Rule 1: The Chief is always right. Rule 2: When in doubt refer to Rule 1.
  - A wet napkin under your tray keeps the tray from sliding on the mess deck table in rough seas, keeping at least one hand free to hold on to your beverage.
  - Never walk between the projector and the movie screen after movie call and the flick has started.
  - A guy who doesn't share a care package from home is no shipmate.
  - When transiting the ocean, the ship's chronometer is always advanced at 0200 which makes for a short night. When going in the opposite direction, the chronometer is retarded at 1400 which extends the work day.
  - When I sleep, I often dream I am back at sea.
  - If I had to do it all over again, I would. TWICE!
- GOOD SHIPMATES ARE FRIENDS FOR LIFE!"

*Posted on Tin Can Sailors, Facebook, February, 2023· by John Yannucci, Sr.*

## Alumni Mailbag!

### Keith O. Guyer, '75

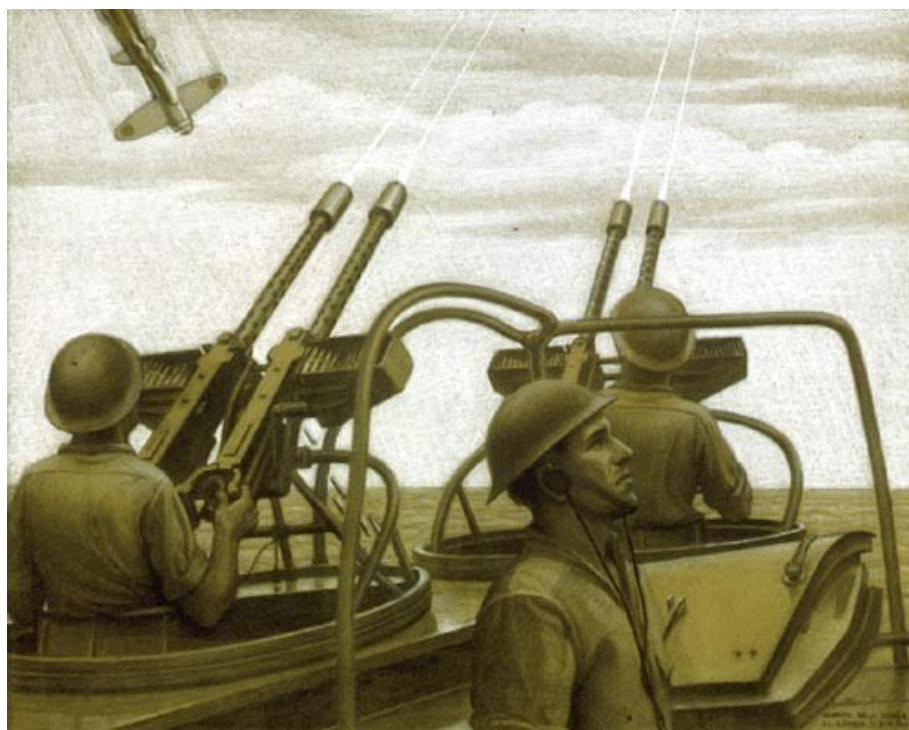
I graduated and was commissioned in 1975. I served three years active duty mostly aboard the the USS Anchorage (LSD-36), with the last two years as the communications officer. My time at Madison (1971-75), were quite different than today, that was the time of anti-war/anti-government protests. We were not allowed to wear our uniforms on campus and while I was on the Drill Team we held all of our practices and meets in the dirt floored field house. I am currently retired after a 40 plus year career in the geology/geophysics field and live in Alaska. I would like to help if I can.

Drill Team was an important part of my experience. As a freshman we were members of "Pershing's Rifles" but by the next year we voted to drop out and just be UW-Madison Drill Team. We were an all service team with Navy, Air Force and Army midshipmen/cadets and even included several co-eds. We traveled to schools all over plus we did have a meet at Wisconsin. I don't remember our record but we did well and won some first place.

When I attended UW NROTC things were different. The anti-war sentiment made us rely more on our fellow midshipmen and cadets as "brothers in arms". Similarly my time on active duty, while short, was interesting and I learned a lot. Being post Vietnam we hauled back ships and equipment for the first year and the next two performing maintenance and repairs that had been deferred. I learned some years ago that the ship I was on was decommissioned but I did attend the commissioning of the new USS Anchorage here in Anchorage. The new ship was a wonder to see, clean, full of electronics and human comforts that we did not have.

### Scott Singer, '87

I founded a company, CyberNINES, that supports companies in the Defense Industrial Base meet strict cybersecurity requirements. CAPT Greg Zacharski, recently Unit CO, is on our Director of Operations. In addition, I joined the University of Minnesota as the Managing Director of the Center for Medical Device Cybersecurity as a Senior Fellow. I look at my time in NROTC as pivotal to my future success. I came close to failing but officers like CDR Washbush didn't give up on me. On Wisconsin!



## Alumni Mailbag!

### Christopher Valdivia, '95

I came to UW in summer of 1992 with 5 other Nuke-ECP candidates. We all had to finish in 3 years but I had previous college credits so my final semester I only had 12 credits and was done by noon every day. Graduated in 1995, went to OCS, then SWOS, nuke school (again) and prototype, then the USS Carl Vinson. 9-11 happened while I was on shore duty, but I still wanted to see what i could do in the civilian world, so I left active duty after 12 years, joined the Reserve, and started working at Home Depot. After a few months of drill, they asked me come back on active duty as a Reserve Recruiter, so I did 2 years covering the states of Minnesota and Iowa. Actually came across one of my old sailors while driving down the highway in Iowa! I started missing the "real Navy" so I called the detailer and got orders to the USS Carney out of Mayport, FL as Chief Engineer and did another 10 years. We moved back to Jacksonville for my final tour as Chief of Staff for the Reserve SE region, and retired in 2014 after 23 years of service. Since retirement I worked offshore on an oil rig in Africa, led a maintenance team at a chemical plant, stood up a training department for a nuclear valve manufacturing plant, and now work for a small shipping company 15 minutes from my house. I just got back from a conference in Orlando for work and ran into ANOTHER one of my former sailors that I hadn't seen in 25 years and we picked up right where we left off. My oldest daughter is attending UCF and my youngest is a junior in high school. My Badger highlights since graduation are: Driving to Fresno with UW alum CAPT Joe Droll to see the Badgers beat Fresno State after a tremendous alumni party before the game, saw us get stomped by Alabama at ATT stadium in Dallas, two bowl games in Orlando, and hating all Duke fans at a sports bar when we were in the NCAA championship. I haven't made it up to Madison to see a game or visit the NROTC yet, but maybe this will be the year!

### Phil Palmer, '57

The most recent issues of The College of Engineering, "Perspective" and UWAA magazine "On Wisconsin" both printed items noting Miss America 2023, Grace Stanke x'23 is the first nuclear engineer to achieve that distinction. I was reminded by a niece that I too am a UW graduate who is a nuclear engineer. I'm not as accomplished or anywhere nearly as attractive as Grace. But, I'm a whole lot older and I'm guessing I'm the oldest UW/NROTC graduate to have qualified and served in the Navy nuclear power program. Note, I didn't say first, just OLDEST. I was drafted into the program in mid-career in 1965. I qualified on the A1W and A2W reactors in June 1966 in Idaho and then made two Vietnam deployments in USS ENTERPRISE as Assistant Engineer (Main Propulsion). Others from UW/NROTC qualified before me but I doubt any are older. On May 23, 2023 I turned 90!



## Alumni Mailbag!

### William "Bill" Jantsch, '56

Graduated from the UW in January 1956 with a BS degree in Physical Education, Naval Science and commissioned a 2nd Lt In the USMC. Attended Basic Officers Training in Quantico, VA and was assigned to lead an infantry platoon in Charlie Co, 2nd BN, 6th Marines in the 2nd Division. Made two Med Cruises, one serving with the Sixth fleet and the other in Conjunction with NATO "Deepwater" making an amphibious landing in the Dardanelles. Spent the next eighteen years in the USMCR VTU's retiring as a Major.



Civilian career was in Public Education for 38 years teaching Earth Science, Coaching, and Athletic Administration. Spent 10 years with the Belmont, WI School District (Head Coach in football, Basketball and Baseball), 13 years at Dubuque Senior High School in Iowa and 15 years as District Athletic Director for Dubuque Community Schools. Earned a Masters degree in Scenic Teaching from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in 1966.

I married Annabell Mesner of Washburn, WI in 1960. We have five children and ten grandchildren. I am forever thankful for the opportunity I had to be a part of the UW NROTC. While there I was active in organizing intramural teams for the Unit in flag football, basketball and softball. I credit NROTC and the USMC for developing the leadership skills that enabled me to have an outstanding career in teaching, coaching and mentoring you student athletes.

### Dean Hekel, Faculty & Staff, '86-'89

*Dean Hekel: 35 years in the Navy* (Excerpted from the Fisher House Wisconsin Newsletter, Spring, 2022)

Dean enlisted in the Navy and after five years got his commission and served as a submarine officer. He had earned his degree in electrical engineering and then received a Master's in Nuclear Engineering. He spent 12 years at sea at command of a submarine and then worked in command-and-control communication working with NATO in the Atlantic and Pacific. Near the end of his naval career Dean was the commanding officer at the Naval ROTC University of Wisconsin.

After his retirement from the Navy, he studied pastoral counseling and became an Episcopalian priest and helped build a church in Sun Prairie. Dean further amplified his life of service when he served as a Chaplain at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

He often visited with patients and families for 12 hours a day as he always wanted to make sure he got to everyone. "Helping them deal with – well, a million stories," said Dean as he remembered his time at the VA. Dean felt the need to help which is why he did it for so long. Today at 84 years of age, Dean reflected on the marriages and funerals he conducted. "I did whatever they needed". He was the only Chaplain who was a Veteran. "Vets like to talk to Vets," said Dean. Dean felt being a Veteran helped many feel that he would understand and so they opened-up to him. Dean believed in the Fisher House Program getting started. "We have people from all over the state, where do they stay?" Dean, who gets his care at the VA, thinks the VA does a great job. Thank you to Dean and all those at the Madison Council for their support of Fisher House Wisconsin.

## Alumni Mailbag!

### Jerald Hage, '55.

As one of the oldest surviving graduates of the N.O.R.T.C. program at the University of the Wisconsin, you might find the U.S. Navy in the late 1950s to be of some historical interest. I was in the college program from 1950-51 and then in 1951 I shifted over to the scholarship program for 1951-55 (an extra semester to finish a required course). I was not allowed to participate in my graduation at the University but instead had to report immediately in Norfolk to board the U.S.S. Mississippi, a ship built in the First World War but which saw extensive service during the Second World War, and then being used to evaluate the Terrier missile defense system. We would steam out of Norfolk each week on Monday, fire Terrier missiles at SNJs (pre-World War II aircraft) that would fly in a straight line, on occasion. Then steam back into Norfolk on Friday. I would spend R&R in New York City on occasion.

While aboard the U.S.S. Mississippi, I was sent to Naval Justice School in Newport, RI, a really wonderful experience for me. Upon returning as a "sea lawyer" after six weeks of training, I noticed that the men who had gone A.W.O.L. were frequently kept in confinement for almost a month rather than being brought to Capital's Mast immediately. I decided to end this practice and in addition, published the results in the ship's newspaper. Within several months, our A.W.O.L. rate plummeted, and the admiral gave our captain a commendation for this, It turn he passed one on to me and I of course did the same for the yeoman in the legal office. The U.S.S. Mississippi was decommissioned in September 1956.

I was then assigned to the U.S.S. Canberra CAG-2, the second ship to have a Terrier air to surface defense system (the Boston was the first). I joined the ship in Charleston, South Carolina and we then steamed out for a shake-down cruise and gunnery practice in the Caribbean. I enjoyed visiting Jamaica and Haiti. Then we cruised back to Norfolk for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia Each officer was assigned to escort one of the military attachés. I was assigned to the Soviet Union's attaché. We were the lead ship in a naval parade between ships with a lots of bells and whistles. I particularly enjoyed seeing the square riggers that some countries sent. On this ship I met my longtime friend, Frank Cummins, who is still alive.

In the fall while cruising in the Atlantic ocean, we were suddenly called back to Norfolk for a secrete assignment. The C.I.A. reported aboard and gave the poor personnel office orders to transfer almost 100 people for temporary leave with no questions answered. Once out at sea, President Eisenhower came aboard with his staff, and we took him to Bermuda for secrete talks with Prime Minister McMillian about the Suez Crisis (the U.K., France and Israel had invaded Egypt after Nasser has seized control of the Suez Canal). I have two nice booklets commemorating this mission. The night that President Eisenhower dinned with the officers in our mess, I had supper with the press secretary Haggerty.

Upon returning to the U.S., we made another cruse to the Caribbean for more gunnery practice. We first visited Cuba and went into the harbor of Havana. This was December 1956, and the Cuban revolution was in full swing. Protocol required that we invite President Bastia to visit the ship. The marine detachment was so concerned about a possible attack, that they armed the marine guard, something that is never supposed to be done. On this same trip, I also had my first visit to Porto Rico. Also on this trip, we ran aground on a sand bar by Vieques Island near Porto Rico (the U.S. Navy stopped using this training site in 2003). As many of you might know the charts are not kept up to date on the growth or shifts in sand bars. The navigator warned the captain not to go into too close, but the latter wanted to get a better shot. Our reward was a 30-foot gash in the keel, which provided quite a spill of oil and bilge water. I was in the personnel office at the time and felt the impact, called the bridge to ask what had happened, and it was only after to seeing the trail of debris that the problem was recognized. We had to go into dry dock back in the states to repair the damage. The captain went through a court martial but was acquitted but of course did not get his promotion to rear admiral.

Upon completion of the repair, we left to serve in the Sixth Fleet. On the way we operated for a while in the Norwegian Sea with a British carrier group. I don't know current carrier group arrangements today but in the late 1950s, the U.S. use a fixed circle arrangement while the U.K. had much more flexible box routine. The only problem is that you have to be sure to remain a good distance from the carrier, something I learned from the captain when I was officer of the deck!

After this, the rest of my tour of duty, which ended in January, 1958 (during the Korean War, scholarship students' length of service was increased from two to three years) was spent visiting a number of really interesting countries in the Mediterranean: Turkey (Izmir and Istanbul), Greece (Athens and Crete), Italy (Naples), France (Cannes), and Spain (Barcelona). In the latter port I finished my naval service and with my friend Frank Cummins, we started our three-month planned visit throughout Europe. After one month and visits primarily to cities in Spain (Madrid) and Italy (Florence and Venice), we arrived in Vienna and at a costume ball in a deserted castle, Frank proposed to a woman he had met in Turkey and decided to stay there. I went on for another two months through Germany (Munich, Koln, Hamburg and Berlin), Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, the U.K. and France (Paris) again. While traveling, I decided I preferred the life in Europe, which later lead to my marrying a French woman and maintaining a home in the south of France, which I still visit every summer (epidemics permitting). Clearly my military service, whom I was able to meet, and the exposure to other ways of living altered my life fundamentally.

## Alumni Mailbag!

Three of the eight contributors to *Military Memories* were commissioned from the Badger NROTC program: Arne Salveson commissioned in 1961; Tom Mackie and Mick McBee in 1969:

### *Military Memories : Draft Era Veterans Recall their Service” by Donald Zillman*

This book talks about the journey of eight American military veterans of the Vietnam/Cold War era and describes their service and its influence on their lives. Their service is shaped by the history of America's raising of its military forces with particular emphasis on the use of mandatory military service (the draft, Selective Service) in 1917-18 and 1940-73. The final chapter provides the authors' reflections on the challenges facing the American military in the third decade of the 21st century and the possibility of a return to drafted military service after half a century of an All-Volunteer Force.

### **Arne Salvesen ‘61**

A mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He earned his commission in the Navy via the Naval ROTC program to which he was selected when he was a high school senior. Arne had a rich experience in the Navy, first as a midshipman for four years and then as an officer for four years of active duty. His primary area of service was in the Reactor Department of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during the time the ship was deployed with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. After his naval service Arne worked as an engineer for two years before earning an MBA from Harvard Business School. Thereafter and for 26 years he held general management positions with several publicly-owned companies. In 1996 he purchased Tronex Technology, Inc. a California manufacturer of precision tools. Arne managed and grew the business before selling it in 2019 and retiring in Fairfield, California. [arnesalvesen3@gmail.com](mailto:arnesalvesen3@gmail.com).

### **Thomas Mackie, ‘69**

A graduate in engineering from the University of Wisconsin where he was a member of Navy ROTC. Following further officer training he opted for service in the United States Marine Corps. His Marine service included Vietnam War duty as a combat artillery officer and stateside service in California and Chicago. Captain Mackie's Chicago service involved leadership of one of the largest midwestern Marine Recruiting offices at a time that the military draft was ending. He helped shaped new recruiting initiatives for the Corps. His Marine experiences shaped a career in corporate leadership around the United States and overseas. Mr. Mackie worked at Parker Hannifin Corporation for 33 years retiring as Operations President, Corporate Vice President in 2006. He earned an MBA from Case Western Reserve University in 1977. He resides in Vero Beach, Florida with Cheryle, his wife of 53 years with three children and five grandchildren. [twmackie@icloud.com](mailto:twmackie@icloud.com)

### **Mick McBee, ‘69**

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Navy ROTC Program. His experiences as a helicopter pilot on active duty included encounters with Soviet Union naval units and work in tracking Soviet submarines. Following his active duty, he received a law degree from Arizona State University. Mr. McBee put his experience to work in litigating aviation and other vehicular crashes with an emphasis on survivability and post-crash fire prevention and safety techniques. After two decades of successful law practice, Mr. McBee has served in a wide number of public service leadership roles. [mickmcbee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mickmcbee@sbcglobal.net)

## Alumni Mailbag!

### Rick Burn, '67

On March 1, we had a mini reunion of our NROTC Unit at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. We met in Temecula, CA at the Yard Bird. Toasts were made to the late Jim Virtue, '68, and Paul Decker, '68.



*Left to right: Larry Asmus, '68, Lee Schrank, '67, Carl Schultz, '68, and Rick Burn*

### Jon Winder, '62

I enjoy reading the Badger Shipmate Newsletter and hearing about what is going on with the NROTC unit. I graduated from the UW and was commissioned in 1962, and have been long retired from my career as a systems engineer and still enjoy traveling the world with my wife. It was an honor to serve my country as a navy line officer from 1962-1966.

### **Special Reunion Announcement—Calling the Class of 2013!!!**

All hands on deck! Did you realize you have a milestone anniversary? The Association would like to help you celebrate together with your classmates at our Reunion Weekend, 27-28 Oct 2023 in Madison, WI.

Please contact Hilary (Nedvidek) Nolan at 608-317-3629 or [hilan@protonmail.com](mailto:hilan@protonmail.com).

*The support of our Association through your dues and donations is the lifeblood to providing support to the Badger Battalion and covering our operating costs.*

## Mentor Program

The Association is currently considering the establishment of a Mentor Program and how we might structure the program. Several alums have mentioned they are interested in connecting with the Badger Battalion and graduates as a mentor. They thought having a mentor would have made a difference to them during many parts of their career. Our initial concept matches career milestones (active duty, transition, retired), specialty areas and industry experience. For those on the mailing list, we provided a short survey for interested recipients. If interested in having a mentor, being a mentor or just expanding your Badger networking please let us know.

Email: [uwnrotcalum@gmail.com](mailto:uwnrotcalum@gmail.com)

Mail:

**UW Naval ROTC Alumni Association — Mentor Program**  
**P.O. Box 5205**  
**Madison, WI 53705**



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