

BADGER SHIPMATE

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<http://uwnrotcalumni.org>

uwnrotcalum@gmail.com



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From the Captain's Chair

Greetings from the great state of Wisconsin...

It was another great year for Cheeseheads and our Alumni Association! At the beginning of the year, your Association Board of Directors decided to focus on two primary goals for 2016; increasing active membership, and further securing our financial stability. To that end, a membership committee led by Steve Dinauer (86) and Jeff Barta (88) was formed to develop a strategy pursuant to those goals. I am happy to report that we are achieving success toward both of these efforts. During the past year, our association added 44 new members to our membership rolls (34% increase) and increased our Awards Trust Fund by over \$36,000. I am extremely impressed with the results of the membership committee and thankful for the individual efforts of each and every one of our Associations Board of Directors. Through their hard work and commitment, our Association is on an upward trajectory and poised to accomplish great things in the coming years.

Last summer we announced a focused year-long fundraising campaign targeting our Awards Trust Fund. I hope you received a letter detailing this campaign, and how it directly supports the Association's Midshipman Scholarship Program. Our fundraising goal was to increase the balance of the Awards Trust Fund to \$100,000, an amount the Board of Directors agreed would sustain the scholarship program into the foreseeable future. I am happy to report that many of you have generously responded, to include one incredible gift of \$10,000, which will be used to establish a named scholarship in honor of a UW NROTC graduate! Currently, the Award's Trust Fund balance is just over \$64,000, so we still have some work to do to close the \$36,000 gap. I know we can do it!

For the final six-month phase of the campaign, the Board has decided to initiate a class contribution challenge of \$3,500 for each graduating class. While it may appear to be a lofty sum, the Class of 1986 banded together for their 30th class reunion last fall with over \$3,200 in donations to the Awards Trust Fund, and they're reportedly not done yet! To achieve this goal, I am asking that one person from each class volunteer to carry this solicitation message directly to each of their

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graduating classmates. A form letter articulating this phase of the fundraising effort and contact information for your classmates will be made available for each person willing to accept this leadership role. If you wish to volunteer to take the lead for your class, please contact me (information below), and I will point you in the right direction. Or, if you prefer to just make your donation on your own volition, please include your graduation year with your gift and we will add it to your class's tally. We will publish the class totals at the end of the fundraising campaign and present an award to the winning class at the annual meeting next October.

Our decision to direct all \$300 of a Lifetime Membership gift for the duration of this campaign has proven popular. We will keep this temporary policy in place until July 2017, after which, Lifetime Membership dues will be split between the Award and Operating Funds.

Speaking of the Operating Fund, we have accepted some risk to its financial health during this fundraising campaign. We use this fund to support Association business (newsletter production, postage, etc.) as well as direct support to the Unit for events like the New Student BBQ and as-needed initiatives like the renovation of the Wall of Honor. We also most recently presented UW NROTC Distinguished Alumni and former NASA astronaut retired Navy Captain James A. Lovell with a bound copy of his aviation training jacket when he visited the Unit this past December. If you would also like to contribute to the Operating Fund in conjunction with the Award Fund, please let us know.

Thank you for your continuing support, and may 2017 bring you great fortune and good health...

ON WISCONSIN!

Pat Volk (88)

volk@uwnrotcalumni.org

[608-213-4558](tel:608-213-4558)

BADGER SHIPMATE

Fall 2016 Reunion

Recognize Anyone? More pictures can be found at

http://uwnrotcalumni.org/?page_id=1111



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Got a story or update you'd like to share? Email us!

The Sea Bag: CAPT Kris T. Ackerbauer, USN (Ret)

Captain Kris T. Ackerbauer grew up in Johnstown, NY, attended the University of Colorado, Boulder and was commissioned in the NROTC program. Captain Ackerbauer was a Bombardier/Navigator with over 3000 hours in the venerable A-6 Intruder. On his first deployment on the USS Coral Sea he assisted in the evacuation of Saigon, the final chapter of the Vietnam War. After command of VA-196 (an Intruder squadron at NAS Whidbey Island) he earned a MA at Naval War College in Newport R.I. His last major command in the USN was Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, an advanced jet training base for Naval Aviators. His final duty station was Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science at UW Madison.

Immediately following his retirement from the Navy he joined the UW Madison Physical Plant and is now the Director of Services. His responsibilities include the supervision and management of about 550 employees in 4 departments; Custodial, Grounds, Waste and Recycle, Campus Services. He is married to Denine and they have two children. Both children are proud UW Madison alums. Brett, a graduate of the NROTC program, is a Major in USMC flying AV-8B Harriers (currently deployed) and Kimberly is a Clinical Pharmacist in a Cardiac Critical Care unit in Rush University Hospital in Chicago.



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Winter Commissioning
State Capitol, 23 Dec 2016

CONGRATS AND WELCOME TO THE FLEET:

ENS James Ahlgrimm, from Falls Church VA. A Civil Engineering Major, he selected Nuclear Submarines as his warfare specialty



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Badger Battalion in the News

Courtesy of www.navy.mil

Capt. James A. Lovell Visits with Wisconsin NROTC Midshipmen

Story Number: NNS170103-11 Release Date: 1/3/2017 10:29:00 AM
From University of Wisconsin Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

MADISON, Wis. (NNS) -- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Naval ROTC unit welcomed former NASA astronaut and retired Navy Capt. James A. Lovell for a reception at the hosted by the midshipmen in the NROTC Armory on Dec. 17.

Lovell, a keynote speaker for the Winter Commencement ceremony, returned to the unit where his career in the Navy began. As a "Flying Midshipman" Lovell attend the university from 1946 to 1948, before transferring to continue his education at the U.S. Naval Academy. During his recent visit and return, he spent some of his time with current Badger Battalion members and staff, university staff, and members of the Alumni Association. He shared stories from both his time in the Navy and at NASA, and gave advice to the future officers as they prepare themselves for commissioned service in the Navy and Marine Corps.

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Badger Battalion in the News (Continued)

The unit's commanding officer, U.S. Navy Capt. Christopher Murdoch, said, "We are honored that Captain Lovell took time interacting with the midshipmen here at his former unit. He is the first distinguished alumni from the University of Wisconsin Naval ROTC program, which was established the very same year Captain Lovell began his training here, and which remains in the Naval Armory at 1610 University Avenue."

Murdoch also said Lovell shared memories and leadership guidance from "his remarkable U.S. Navy career that included flying fighters from the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-La (CVS 38), and more than a decade flying spacecraft for NASA."

Many of the unit midshipmen said they enjoyed the time they spent with Lovell and learned a great deal from his stories and advice.



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Badger Battalion in the News (Continued)

"It was an incredible honor to meet a national hero," said freshman Midshipman 4th Class Anabel Roza, from Seattle. "It was so motivating to hear about how he started out as a midshipman here just like us, and to see how many amazing things he accomplished."

A highlight of the visit was Lovell's retelling of the storied events of his Apollo 13 mission.

Apollo 13 was the seventh manned mission in the American Apollo space program and the third intended to land on the moon. The craft was launched April 11, 1970, at 1:13 p.m. CST from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, but the lunar landing was aborted after an oxygen tank exploded two days later -- crippling the Service Module upon which the Command Module depended. Despite great hardship caused by limited power, loss of cabin heat, shortage of potable water, and the critical need to make makeshift repairs to the carbon dioxide removal system, the crew returned safely to Earth April 17.

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Badger Battalion in the News (Continued)

"What stood out to me were his comments on keeping a positive mental attitude in the face of adversity," said senior Midshipman 1st Class Christopher Poellinger, from Coon Valley, Wisconsin. "I especially learned from his story about how he maintained his composure and focus on getting his men home when everything possible went wrong on Apollo 13. His comments really drove home the point in my mind that the best approach to hardships in life is to maintain a positive outlook."



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Membership

Membership is available to all UWNROTC Alumni as well as Wisconsin NROTC Program participants and Unit staff members.

Memberships are based on the calendar year and are not prorated. Membership Dues:

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

Membership dues are used to fund Association operations, Midshipman Battalion events, alumni reunion support, and a portion of each payment is placed in the enduring Award Trust Fund that was established over 25 years ago.

All 5-Year and Lifetime members are recognized by name in the Badger Shipmate. Dues can be mailed to:

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

OR:

Payments can be made on-line via PayPal via the Alumni Webpage:
<http://uwnrotcalumni.org>

Contact us via email: (include your new contact information) at:
uwnrotcalum@gmail.com

Have a classmate that isn't a member?
Please send them the gouge!