NROTC Basketball Tournament

MIDN 3/C Kevin Fitzgibbon
Staff Writer

On 28 MAR 2008, the University of Notre Dame NROTC basketball team confirmed its reputation. Every year, the NROTC unit at Purdue University sponsors an annual basketball tournament. This year, five teams competed: Two from Purdue and one each from Illinois, Penn State, and our very own unit at Notre Dame.

Led by MIDN 1/C Possley and Jordan, the Notre Dame team displayed its dominance throughout the entire tournament, winning every game by impressive margins. Even the best opponents only came within 15 points.

MIDN 2/C Falvey excelled as point guard and shot particularly well later into the day. MIDN 2/C Costanzo provided two key elements to the team's performance: he played tenacious defense all day—never ceasing to pressure the opposing teams' best players—and he helped to keep his teammates motivated and energized throughout the tournament. MIDN 1/C Jordan and 2/C McGill played outstanding defense by consistently dominating rebounds. MIDN 2/C McGill was a boon to the offense, shooting several three-pointers. After shining out as the team's number one scorer, MIDN 1/C Possley was named tournament MVP. He said that his playing was catalyzed by 2/C McGill's encouraging halftime words in the fourth game: “Sir, maybe you should sit to start the second half; you don't shoot well when your legs are tired.”

All in all, the entire team proved that they possessed both individual prowess and a great ability to work together. As MIDN Possley put it, “The six of us have played together (cont’d on page 2)

Naval Leadership Weekend

MIDN 2/C Christopher Reidy
Staff Writer

Over the weekend of April 10-13, midshipmen and cadets nationwide came to Notre Dame’s campus for Naval Leadership Weekend (NLW). During this four-day-long event, speakers from several branches of military service, as well as civilian occupations, instructed hundreds of our nation’s ROTC members in military leadership. Most attendees, including officer chaperones, left the conference with new knowledge and the enthusiasm to implement the lessons they learned from the weekend into their own units.

NLW consisted of many exciting events. Units arrived on Thursday. Midshipmen and cadets found their rooms at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, across the lake from the center of campus. They mingled and ate with Notre Dame midshipmen. Towards the end of the evening, participants met with author and motivational speaker James Hunter, who imparted lessons on servant-leadership, self-improvement, and the principles of former ND football coach (cont’d on page 7)
A Word From BCO

MIDN 1/C Emily Rhatican, USNR
Battalion Commanding Officer

After going through four years of NROTC training, I’ve learned that getting up at 0555 in order to PT at 0630 isn’t as horrifying as I once thought, and that getting to drill on time is a lot less stressful if I just leave five minutes earlier. I also learned how to wear a uniform—and that if I grab the wrong pair of black socks to wear with my SDBs, the XO is somehow going to notice and gleefully point out the purple argyle pattern that slipped my attention.

While NROTC training has taught me a lot about professionalism, and answered all of my burning questions about gas turbines and the internal combustion of marine propulsion plants (the course description of Naval Ship Systems I), ultimately my naval training at Notre Dame, and the opportunity to be the battalion commander, have not given me answers but rather forced me to ask important questions, especially questions about humility, authority, and respect.

For example, can I admit my mistakes in front of my division? And could this humility actually engender my authority, or would it only subvert it? How do I discipline my division in a way that protects their dignity? How do I provide moral guidance in a way that respects their free choice? To what extent should I develop a thick skin, and to what extent should I remain sensitive to, issues like injustice, disrespect, and immorality? How am I going to avoid succumbing to micromanagement with all of the pressure to succeed?

I think that four years in the Notre Dame NROTC battalion have been excellent preparation for the professional challenges that lie ahead, but as my time in this battalion quickly dwindles, I find that I’m most concerned with arming myself with the right kind of questions to bring to the fleet. During Naval Leadership Weekend, James Hunter pointed out that “good is the opposite of great,” and I think that asking the right kind of questions could be one of those key differences between goodness and greatness.

I know that all of the midshipmen who go through the best battalion in the country at Notre Dame will be very professionally prepared; but I also hope that each of you takes a step back from learning about the internal combustion of marine propulsion plants in order to dive into your own list of questions about humility, authority, and/or respect.

I hate cheesy navy slogans, but the one slogan I wish to leave you with is just too easy: “Anchors Aweigh!”

NROTC Basketball Tournament (cont’d from page 1)

a lot and have a lot of pride. We felt we had something to prove after a disappointing performance on our home turf. It feels good to leave here with a big trophy and big smiles on our faces.”

Fightin’ Irish

Above: Marine option MIDN 2/C Lorenz, 4/C Garcia, 3/C Lough, and 1/C Sullivan have each won Notre Dame’s Bengal Bouts boxing competition during their time at ND. Lorenz, Garcia, and Lough were winners this year, and Sullivan, who was runner-up this year, won last year.
A Message from the CO

CAPT Dale Nees, USN
CO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

Wow, where did the year go! I can’t believe it’s already spring, although I’m not complaining after six feet of snow this year. We are only a few weeks from graduation and commissioning. But what a year it has been.

After a slow start with ND football, we watched the men’s and women’s basketball teams play in the NCAA tournament and the Hockey team reach the finals of the National Championship. Perhaps less well known was the fact that the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams won the Big East Championship with MIDN 1/C Chris Kane on the men’s squad. Then we had Bengal Bouts which as you saw on page 2, the unit now has four champions (MIDN Sullivan, Lorenz, Lough, and Garcia).

Although the NROTC Unit wasn’t making national news, it was making news on the local front as well as within the Navy. The Notre Dame NROTC Unit hosted its 13th annual Naval Leadership Weekend under the supervision of MIDN 1/C Kathleen Karrenbauer, and it was a huge success. Students from over 50 NROTC units encompassing 40 states participated. They heard from and engaged with 15 various guest speakers and panel members, including General Mattis, USMC, Commander of the US Joint Forces Command, and our own MIDN 4/C Ryan Shannon’s father, Supervisory Special Agent Paul Shannon of the FBI, who showed us the interaction of agencies beyond just the Department of Defense in the fight against terrorism, not to mention a couple unique photos.

On April 16 we held our Presidential Pass-in-Review under the review of Fr. John Jenkins, the President of the University of Notre Dame. This joint service event, which includes all of the ROTC units here at Notre Dame, was under the command of MIDN 1/C Patrick Grainey, who will be joining the Marine Corps this summer - they will be getting a good one there. MIDN 1/C Emily Rhatican did a superb job of leading the Naval Battalion not only in the Pass-in-Review, but throughout the semester as the Battalion Commander. Included in the Review was an award ceremony in which Midshipmen Campobasso, Grainey, Irwin, Karrenbauer, Pursley, and Rhatican all received swords for various top honors. Additionally, the NROTC unit won, or should I say, retained the Commander’s Cup as overall winner of the various competitions between the ND ROTC units.

We will be commissioning a total of 28 Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants this summer! I’m extremely proud of the accomplishments of these young men and women and know they are ready to join the fleet and succeed as future naval leaders. I want to wish all of them fair winds and following seas and most of all, keep charging!

Tri-Mil Soccer

MIDN 3/C Kevin Fitzgibbon
Staff Writer

Every year, the three branches of ROTC at the University of Notre Dame compete against one another in various arenas, such as community service events and sports tournaments. For the fourth year running, Navy ROTC has won the coveted Commander’s Cup, making this year’s first-class midshipmen’s time here a shutout. The win this year was solidified by Navy’s domination in the Tri-mil soccer competition.

The Navy soccer team easily defeated both opponents, Army and Air Force, by substantial margins. Almost half (Cont’d on page 6)
As I write this, I’m reviewing what I wrote last year at this time and I’m noticing that I was commenting on how warm it was, how all the snow was gone and spring had sprung. And that was a month earlier than it is now! What a difference a year makes when it comes to Michiana weather. But I am happy to say that it finally looks like spring is here after a long, cold, snowy winter and only four short weeks to go before the end of another successful school year and our First Class Midshipmen begin their Naval careers.

Just last week the Battalion concluded another highly successful Naval Leadership Weekend involving over 120 students and staff from all branches of the military and from almost 50 universities across the country. And again we had a tremendous group of speakers and another informative panel discussion on “Junior Officer Ethics: Beyond the War Fighter.” This year’s program was the biggest and best ever, and it’s because of the efforts of MIDN 1/C Kathleen Karrenbauer and her staff. Next year’s coordinator will have her hands full to surpass this year’s event. Well done to all!

With only four short weeks to go before Commissioning, we still have many things yet to do. Ship selection just occurred for the Surface Warfare Officers and the battalion just conducted the Joint Military Pass-in-Review with Father Jenkins as the Reviewing Official. One of the last events we have before Commissioning is the Battalion Awards Ceremony, where we will have the opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our midshipmen and conduct the Change of Command Ceremony where we will turn over the battalion to the fall semester Battalion Commander. I continue to be impressed and proud of our midshipmen, and I know the future of our country is in good hands.

All of the underclassmen are also looking forward to their “summer vacations”; various fun times ranging from CORTRAMID, to submarine, surface and aviation cruises, and the ever-popular Officer Candidate School and Mountain Warfare School for our Marine Option students. I can’t wait until the fall to hear all their sea stories.

I’m out of time and out of space. Two fun years down and one more to go. It seems like I just got here a few months ago. Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and I’ll look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

— CDR John Herman, USN
XO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

On 15 MAR 2008, Notre Dame midshipmen gathered in the Monogram Room for the twenty-first annual Mess Night. The ceremony of Mess Night derived from early British monastic tradition and was later adopted for use in the military. Today, Mess Night represents a time-honored military tradition carried out in celebration of the military’s high standards and conduct, and in remembrance of its fallen comrades.

This year’s guest speaker was Rear Admiral Arnold O. Lotring, who is the Commander of the Naval Service Training Command. Rear Admiral Lotring has an accomplished naval career and is decorated with such awards as the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal. He told the battalion that the years he has spent in the Navy have been some of the best of his life, and reiterated to the midshipmen the importance of the opportunity that has been given to them: to protect and defend the innocent in one of the “finest Navy/Marine Corps in the world.”

Towards the end of the night, each company presented a skit. Many skits proudly boasted the images of PTI and the BXO (1/C Possley), while also highlighting the pleasures of public speaking with clever puns about the weekly news briefs. The company with the best comedians proved to be Bravo Company, whose members entertained the battalion with unique midshipmen greetings, conjectures about secret admirers within the battalion, pick-up lines, and battalion policies. Overall, Mess Night was an evening marked by fun, food, laughter, good conversation, and pleasant memories.

— MIDN 2/C Jenna Creveling
Pennant CPO
The 2008 Presidential Pass-in-Review took place this year on April 16, 2008. This annual event gives an opportunity for the Army, Air Force, and Navy ROTC units to show family and friends what has been accomplished throughout the year and to present awards to graduating seniors who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication to the military service.

This year’s ceremony opened with the presentation of the colors, the national anthem, and an invocation by Father Richard Warner, CSC, followed by the presentation of awards. The presentation of awards allows our battalion to recognize the top graduating seniors for their academic achievement, leadership, and positive attitude throughout their four years at Notre Dame. Recipients of awards this year were:

1/C Anna Pursley: The Edward Easby-Smith Award  
1/C Grant Irwin: George C. Stake Award  
1/C Kathleen Karrenbaurer: The Captain John A. McGurty, Jr. Award  
1/C Emily Rhatican: Chicago Navy League Award  
1/C Theresa Campobasso: The Colonel Brian C. Regan Award  
1/C Patrick Grainey: 1st Lt Vincent J. Naimoli Award

After the presentation of awards, the University’s President, Rev. John Jenkins, CSC, delivered a brief address in which he reaffirmed his support for all of the ROTC units on campus, and thanked the cadets and midshipmen for their service. His address was followed by a benediction, and finally the Pass In Review, a military tradition of Notre Dame wherein all military branches parade in formation before the University’s President. 

Recipients of this year’s awards (from left to right in the order listed). 

Upper left: MIDN 1/C Babcock leads Charlie Company in a march before Fr. Jenkins during the Pass-in-Review ceremony.  
Lower left: The Navy ROTC battalion stands at attention during the beginning of the ceremony.  
Upper right: Fr. John Jenkins, Review Official and President of Notre Dame, and Captain Dale Nees, Commanding Officer NROTC unit Notre Dame, look on during the presentation of awards.
From the MOI’s Desk

Maj. Tyrone Theriot
Marine Officer Instructor

This is my last article for the Irish Pennant, and I wanted to take this opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure to work with the next generation of naval officers. All of you are going to begin your careers soon, some sooner than others, and your span of influence as second lieutenants and ensigns will have a lasting impact on the units to which you are assigned and the people around you. Not all of it will be easy; however, all of it will be rewarding. I wanted to reminisce on the accomplishments of the Marine Option program I have observed over the past three years.

My first semester in August 2005, I finally met all the Marine Option students. Eight Marine options were on scholarship and two were seeking a scholarship as college program midshipmen. Today we have 18 Marine options on scholarship, one MECEP student, one seeking a scholarship as a college program midshipmen, and one seeking a change of option scholarship. This is a significant increase (100%) from August 2005, and today the Marine options comprise twenty percent of the NROTC Battalion.

Over the course of the past three years, we have participated in a number of events: the local Marine Mud Run, the Purdue Endurance competition, the University of Texas Ironman competition, numerous physical training sessions that have included “Crossfit” workouts (GySgt Macias’ favorite), boots and utes workouts, pack runs, endurance runs, green on green workouts, calisthenics-only workouts, conditioning hikes, Officer Candidate School training sessions, close order drill, M-16 assembly and disassembly, periods of instruction from GySgt Macias (Assistant Marine Officer Instructor) and 1stSgt Grither (the former Assistant Marine Officer Instructor) – this is to name just a few events unique to the Marine Option program throughout my three years here as the Marine Officer Instructor. All were challenging in one way or another, and all have proven rewarding in that the Marine options continue to see the results of their hard work in myriad areas such as success at OCS, success in the Bengal Bouts and the various competitions with other ROTC units mentioned above, in their personal academic achievements and in their constant preparation for leading Marines.

For the Marine options, all of this training is required to be successful at Officer Candidate School as well as at The Basic School and beyond. All of you have the physical prowess to accomplish any event, but in these schools especially, you must also have the mental determination to accomplish what is necessary. You have proven yourselves capable of this and so much more.

For all midshipmen, Navy and Marine option alike, keep up the hard work and continue to push yourselves to improve your academics, physical fitness, leadership, time management, mentorship, camaraderie and esprit de corps. Continue to foster these elements of your daily life here at Notre Dame and in your future careers as naval leaders. I look forward to seeing all of you out in the Fleet Marine Force and the Navy Fleet.

Semper Fidelis,
Tyrone Theriot
Major, USMC

Tri-Mil Soccer (Cont’d from page 3)

of the non-playing members of the battalion showed up to support their shipmates during the games. The Navy’s offense, led by MIDN 1/C Westfall, played excellently all day. In addition to his basketball skills, MIDN 2/C Costanzo proved his soccer prowess by scoring five goals. MIDN 2/C Thomson played well, too; he scored a hat trick against Army.

The Navy’s defense, spearheaded by MIDN 1/C Grainey, also showed an outstanding performance, blocking their opponents’ path to the goal. The defense was in fact so effective that the Navy may look into it as a possible replacement for the AEGIS weapons system.

Another factor securing Navy’s retention of the Commander’s Cup was the Tri-mil basketball competition. The Navy basketball team, under the command of MIDN 1/C Possley (BXO), won handily, setting the bar even higher for next year. (It should be noted that 1/C Possley also participated in the Tri-mil soccer game; however, teammates were somewhat ambivalent about his style of playing soccer, which, though effective, was variously described as “a little disconcerting” and “goofy.”)
Naval Leadership Weekend (cont’d from page 1)

Lou Holtz.

Friday marked the beginning of the intense schedule of this year’s NLW. Speakers addressed the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, junior leadership aboard the USS Vincennes, and lessons learned from a life in FBI service. Between these exciting evolutions, conference participants met to discuss what they had taken away from the speeches. Our own midshipmen led these groups, hoping to internalize some of the lessons from the speakers. Friday night ended with a signature event of NLW. General Mattis of the Marine Corps gave an address at South Dining Hall, directly preceding a delicious pasta dinner. He reminded cadets and midshipmen of the high standards which would be set for their performance in the fleet; “you are joining the varsity,” the General frequently remarked.

The main event of Saturday was a lengthy panel discussion, in which speakers from various disciplines spoke on and discussed the topic of “Junior Officer Ethics – Beyond the War Fighter.” Among those speakers, Dr. Joseph Thomas of Marine Corps University earned the highest regard from midshipmen and cadets. Following a barbecue lunch, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Atkin and Marine Corps Lieutenant General Richard Kramlich presented their perspectives on leadership as well as their unique experiences in the military: Hurricane Katrina recovery and battle logistics, respectively. Saturday evening ended with a sumptuous dinner in the Press Box of Notre Dame Stadium.

On Sunday morning, a few short events brought this year’s NLW to a close. Organizers provided an optional mass in Keenan Hall. Then, all converged on McKenna Hall for Veteran’s Brunch. Retired military servicemen and women were invited to the meal, which was catered by the renowned Morris Inn staff.

This year’s NLW was a success. Events ran smoothly. Speakers gave stirring, insightful talks, often peppered with salty sea stories*. The NLW staff, consisting of MIDN Martin, Brannan, Towne, J. Malherek, and Kane, and led by MIDN 1/C Karrenbauer, kept the pace of NLW timely and lively. Notre Dame midshipmen played the role of hosts very well. Over the weeks since the events, a considerable amount of praise has come from the students and officers who attended NLW 2008. A few small modifications, and seasoned leadership by future coordinator MIDN Jennifer Malherek, will ensure the abiding success of the conference.

*Sea stories even saltier than those of MIDN Childers --Editor.
Reflections on Thomas Dooley

MIDN 1/C Charlie Horn
Guest Writer

“Unconventional warfare.” These words are heard often as we prepare to enter the Fleet. It is a primary weapon of our enemies. I want to speak about an unconventional warrior on our side. He is a Notre Dame man who did tremendous good for the United States during the Cold War.

Thomas Dooley was born 17 JAN 1927 in St. Louis, MO. Brought up a cradle Catholic, he enrolled at Notre Dame in 1944 for pre-medical studies. He was a poor student and resented the strict discipline of the Holy Cross Fathers. That struggle was part of a maturation that eventually led him to realize his values. He admitted in a letter to Notre Dame President Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, on 2 DEC 1960, six weeks before his death, "Notre Dame is twice on my mind...and always in my heart. That Grotto is the rock to which my life is anchored. Do the students ever appreciate what they have, while they have it? I know I never did. Spent most of my time being angry at the clergy at school... 10 p.m. bed check, absurd for a 19 year-old veteran, etc., etc., etc.” His grades suffered so much that he had to leave the University.

Dooley resumed his studies at Saint Louis University’s School of Medicine. Though he struggled to keep his grades up, he did graduate in 1950. Following graduation, he entered the United States Navy and was sent to Indochina as a doctor on the USS Montague. That is when the Dooley legend began. As a young lieutenant, he helped lead the Navy’s “Operation Freedom,” which evacuated 800,000 people from North to South Vietnam in 1954 after the French had abandoned their presence there. Dooley treated the people for smallpox, leprosy, malaria and malnutrition. He made sure that all were screened for tropical diseases before leaving Navy camps. Dooley convinced American companies to donate drugs. He had his staff study tropical diseases because America "never knew where it had to fight next." Although he was supposed to run only one clinic, he created a network. In nine months, he directed the treatment of 610,000 people. When Dooley was honorably discharged from the Navy, he did not return home to reap the spoils of his profession. Instead he chose to remain with the people of Laos. He founded MEDICO, establishing 17 medical programs in 14 countries.

Dooley finally received his degree from Notre Dame in 1960 when he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Fr. Hesburgh. Seven months later, Dooley died of cancer at age 34. Following his death, John F. Kennedy cited Dooley's story when he launched the Peace Corps. Dooley was also awarded a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously.

What can we learn from Dr. Dooley? At a past battalion drill we listened to a Marine Special Forces leader who explained how an entire Afghan village turned from enemy to strong ally. It happened because one sick child in the village was saved by a Navy corpsman. Similar victories occurred during the Navy’s Tsunami-relief effort. Our battles will not only be fought with guns, but also with information, public support, and medicine. Dr. Dooley described his tactics this way:

“If America as a nation ignores the Asian's physical needs while handing him pious platitudes, we justify the Communists' characterization of our religion as the ‘opiate of the people’ and ‘pie in the sky by and by’. We want to take positive steps for America, not just denying what the Communists say about us, but getting there and doing something about it. We shall try to translate the democratic ideals that we DO possess into Asian realities that they CAN possess. Our instruments for this shall be medicine.”

Here at Notre Dame, we have the opportunity to establish a set of core values for ourselves. Dr. Dooley’s work flowed from his faith in God and country. “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.”
On 27 FEB 2008, William F. Buckley, Jr. was found dead at his desk in his home in Stamford, Connecticut. In the weeks following his death, the press was caught up reminiscing about and marveling over his apparently very full life.

His was certainly the *vita activa*. A year after graduating from Yale, Buckley published his first book, *God and Man at Yale*, the first of nearly 56 books—(he was working on one at his death)—and then proceeded to spend a brief, year-long stint in the CIA. In 1955, he founded the conservative magazine *National Review*, and served as its Editor-in-Chief until 1990. He ran for mayor of New York City in 1965, notoriously claiming that he would “demand a recount” if he were to win.

In 1966 Buckley began hosting *Firing Line*, an interview-based public affairs television show in which he would converse with the prominent intellectual and political luminaries of the day. *Firing Line* aired 1,504 weekly episodes, and currently holds the record for being the longest-running, single-hosted public affairs show in history.

The growing recognition of Buckley’s polemical skills inevitably led him into public debates against such persons as John Kenneth Galbraith, the leading proponent of Keynesian economics, Gore Vidal, the popular social critic who represented the more high-minded class of participants in the Vietnam era anti-war movement, and even Noam Chomsky, a linguist and professor at MIT, who claims the distinction of being one of the most cited scholars of the twentieth century.

Buckley sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1980 and wrote a book about the experience. He was fond of spending summers in the Swiss Alps, during which he would routinely ski until early afternoon and write until the wee hours of night. At age 50, he took up harpsichord playing, eventually becoming proficient enough to play Bach, write a dissertation on fingering, and perform in front of a live audience on Late-Night With Conan O’Brien. His bi-weekly newspaper column, *On the Right*, was, at its peak, published in nearly 320 papers nationwide. While Buckley’s written musings were intellectual, they were also eminently readable and entertaining. They even appealed to Ronald Reagan, who encountered Buckley’s writings in the 1970s and cited him as having had a profound impact on his political views prior to running for president.

In 2002, just after Buckley’s 80th birthday, he agreed to do an hour-long television interview with Charlie Rose. In the interview, Buckley explained his innumerable experiences and accomplishments by citing a simple peculiarity of his character: “I have never been satisfied to be idle.”

Towards the end of the interview, Rose became curious about Buckley’s zeal for life:

Rose: “Do you wish you were 20?”
Buckley: “No. Absolutely not. If I had a pill which would reduce my age by 25 years, I wouldn’t take it.”
Rose: “Why not?”
Buckley: “Because I’m tired of life. I’m utterly prepared to stop...living on.”

This could only come from a man who, like King Solomon, had left no stone unturned.

A word for seniors: Whether or not we’re *planning* on living a full life in the fleet, with the Navy’s work load, a full life will be forced upon us regardless. Also, while we ought always to reserve a special place in our hearts for this beloved University of Our Lady, let us always repress the desire to return to being underclassmen. Let’s keep moving forward, anticipating the future and living well in the present, so that in the end we can truly be in a position to say, along with Buckley, that we’ve had enough.
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