

A Message from CAPT Price

Greetings Family and Friends:

The Tulane Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) unit enjoyed a spectacularly successful year in 2008-2009. Our year began with our alumni meeting and homecoming weekend and ended with the commissioning in May. It was a particularly busy year that saw the unit excel in all endeavors which included the NJROTC Drill Meet, the Senior Social, Bulldog Challenge, Mardi Gras Drill Meet, and Awards Banquet just to name a few. The year required a lot of effort from the midshipmen; planning, practicing, preparing materials, and assuring that all details were complete. The result was a well orchestrated demonstration of the midshipmen's capabilities.

After one year as Commanding Officer, I have learned several valuable lessons regarding leadership, ones that I have conveyed to all midshipmen. You must be prepared for anything and have a back-up plan, and maybe even a back-up plan for the back-up plan. You must also know your people and make sure that they get what they need. If you ensure that your people are well taken care of, they will take care of you. The unit and its officers are like a family; all of

us share a bond, despite tough times and disagreements. At the end of the day, we still respect each other, care about each other, and work together effectively and efficiently. You must remember that you can't take yourself too seriously. Sometimes you must laugh, even laugh at yourself, but always know when to revert to your serious side. Most importantly, the real recipe for successful leadership is you must be confident in yourself, assertive and firm in your decisions, and tactful. Failure to do so will result in others losing their confidence in you.

My tenure Commanding Officer has been an honor and a privilege. As we end another successful semester and academic year, I am proud of all the accomplishments of the Battalion. The numerous opportunities to excel were met head on by their dedication, positive attitudes and perseverance. As some head out on their careers, summer breaks and summer cruises, they can be assured that they will successfully compete with their peers in all endeavors. I wish all of you much continued success in the bright futures you have ahead of you.

Senior's Experience

Three seniors took the time to answer three questions about their four years at Tulane NROTC and their mind set of their experience. Here are their responses:

How has the battalion changed since your time as a freshman?

MIDN GILMORE: Battalion half the size it was, many of the billets have changed, midshipmen do significantly more nowadays with the same amount of obligations and events with less manpower. Staff is completely different now; it is interesting how the changes in leadership have affected the command climate. There is less emphasis on close order drill, and general military discipline that they hammered on at OCS, and more on preparing us for the specific challenges we are going to run into in the fleet.

MIDN KIDDER: The battalion has seen many changes since my time as a freshman. Just to name a few of these changes, the battalion has gotten smaller, watches now consist of only raising and lowering the colors, and drill periods have changed to focus more on preparing midshipmen to be junior officers in the Navy and Marine Corps rather than teaching them how to be midshipmen in an ROTC program.

MIDN GARCIA: When I came into the program, there was an abundance of billets such as fire team leaders, guides, and even company XO's. I particularly noted the amount of 2nd class midshipmen who held important staff billets such as adjutant. As time passed, there was a bigger concentration on staffing these billets with 1st class midshipmen to "better prepare them for the fleet". Unfortunately, we have made the decision to cut these billets for various reasons, such as the light amount of work required to do them. On the other hand, with the shrinking in size of our battalion, we have had an opportunity to give greater responsibility to our underclassmen which is a good thing.

How do you think the changes to the battalion will affect upcoming classes?

MIDN GILMORE: The NROTC program at Tulane is undergoing dynamic changes, when I was a freshman there were no cross-town students, with the exception of Loyola. We've seen our number dwindle significantly after Katrina and the loss of our engineering program. I think we'll see the demographics at the unit change: more diversity, more marine options, and a lot more flexibility built into the program — it is going to be an issue getting MIDN from many different universities together at the same time. I think 2100 drill practices are a thing of the past.

MIDN KIDDER: I believe that these changes will be very beneficial for the upcoming classes of Tulane NROTC midshipman. They will be very well prepared for life as a junior officer.

MIDN GARCIA: I believe these earlier opportunities for underclassmen to exercise leadership and responsibility will help them to mature more quickly. Even if the job might seem a little too demanding, the trust placed on that person is a powerful incentive for success. This last semester has been surprise in that sense: we had a freshman take charge of the Band, we had another take a large part of the logistics involved in getting the Farewell Ball kicked off. Considering this, and the fact that juniors are going to help running a lot of the big billets next semester, I'm optimistic about where the battalion is going.

If you could change something about your time here, what would it be?

MIDN KIDDER: If I could change anything about my time here at Tulane NROTC, I would be more active in the unit by participating in raiders, and volunteering for more responsibility in the unit.

MIDN GARCIA: This is a tough question to answer because despite the regular complaining we do about waking up early, PT, working parties, etc, I see the point of it all. NROTC really is an excellent program for preparation for fleet life. As far as changing anything, I would try to have more people that have been in the fleet come to talk to us or to have more opportunities for trips, but I realize we are doing as much as possible with out budget.

Freshmen Motivation

Two MIDN were interviewed from the freshmen class about the influences to join and changes since then. The following are their answers:

What motivated you to join the program?

MIDN MCCAULEY: My motivation for joining NROTC had to do with my family. My grandpa and his three brothers all joined the military, two in the Army and two in the Navy, my grandpa served in the Navy. He was a major influence/role model in my life as my mother was a single parent and so I spent much of my time with him growing up. Whenever I wouldn't sit still or needed some sort of entertainment he would sit me down, normally on his lap, and he would tell me some of his Sea Stories. It was during this time that I became completely infatuated with the Navy. I would then always ask him to tell me the stories of his training and I realized that the Navy had done a lot for him and set him up with the tools he needed for the rest of his life. Then once I started high school I was really interested in the military and so I joined the JROTC program and really enjoyed it. One of my instructors suggested that I put together an application for NROTC and because I thought it would be something worthwhile for me and fulfill that need to serve my country I submitted that application and am now part of one of the most prestigious units in the country.

MIDN KNOLL: My main motivation to join the program came from my passion for the military. Being a Naval Officer will truly challenge me above and beyond my limits and provide a setting in which I can develop into the best person I can be. It will teach me to become a better leader than the leader I am now, and enable me to grow and learn more from life. Being part of the Navy will mean that I will have the opportunity to not only work and train with remarkable people that I would have never met otherwise, but also gain from them the wisdom of leading life by example. As a Naval Officer, I would experience and do things that I would never have dreamed of and gain invaluable knowledge and skills. Becoming a U.S Naval Officer will bring out the best in me by challenging me mentally, physically, and emotionally. It will make me a stronger person; a person with the utmost sense of Character, Honor, Courage, and Commitment and I wanted nothing more than to take this challenge and be a part of the Navy.

How have you changed since day one of NROTC?

MIDN MCCAULEY: I have noticed that I have changed in two main ways; one in being the way that I present myself and two being my mental capacities to accomplish certain tasks. By presenting myself I am referring to how I look to other people now then before I joined NROTC. I now tend to sit up straight and walk with my shoulders back primarily because this program has given me more confidence to carry myself in such a manner. It also goes without saying that my hair is now a lot shorter than when I first started as well. As far as accomplishing tasks goes, NROTC has made me more organized so that I can now billet my time better to get assignments or projects done before they are due. Also I have been able to accomplish more tasks in a smaller amount of time than I have been able to in the past.

MIDN KNOLL: Since joining this unit, I feel that I have drastically matured both mentally and emotionally. Since becoming a part of Tulane's NROTC battalion, I have learned much about myself and seen all that I am able to accomplish. I have done and experienced things that I never imagined myself doing and I believe it is through these experiences that I have grown and matured. I have been pushed mentally and physically beyond what I had previously thought was my limit, and this changed me for the better in that it made me a stronger person. Now, after just a year of being in this unit, I can not only take more leadership and responsibility in all I do, but also handle and manage more things at once. Since day one, I have changed in many ways to become a stronger person with a mental and emotional toughness.

What would you like to add or change in regards to the NROTC program?

MIDN MCCAULEY: In all honesty the program itself, I believe, is moving along quite fine. The only thing that would like to see changed in the unit would be that I would like to see the class sizes grow for the years to come. I know that now our numbers are increasing and I would like to see that trend continue for the future.

MIDN KNOLL: Overall, I believe that our unit is exemplary with very few flaws. Everything that happens in our unit has a purpose and a goal and it runs extremely smoothly. However, if there is anything that I could change in regards to the NROTC program, it would be to implement more training opportunities that prepare you for the life in the fleet or as a marine in combat.

First Year Experience

My first year experience with Tulane NROTC has been very exciting, tiring, and motivating. As for exciting, I have been given the opportunity to travel to Marquette University and Auburn University for NROTC events. As for tiring, how many other college students do you know have to get up around 0430 in order to make it to their first class of the day on time? I know I do. And motivating, how many college students are proud to say the steps they are taking now are the steps that will help them to better serve this country in protecting the citizens of the United States? I can proudly say 'I am' for myself and my fellow midshipmen of the Tulane NROTC Unit.

As the only midshipman who attends Dillard University, I often get a lot of questions from the faculty and peers. Often times people wonder why I wear a uniform and what I do as a midshipman. A lot of people are normally interested in the program until I tell them what time our day starts. For some reason some people would rather sleep in bed than watch the sunrise while jogging in the Audubon Park. Others would rather stand on the side of the streets getting pegged with beads, cups, and Doubloons instead of marching with a rifle or an instrument through the heart of New Orleans enjoying the music of Mardi Gras. The faculty wonders what I hope to do while in the Navy and tries to recruit me to change my major.

In October, the unit sent me to Marquette University for a Nursing Symposium. On one of the flights I rode beside Commander McCord, the Medical Programs Director. We talked about the infinite opportunities that are within the Navy especially as a Nurse. She told me the Navy is highly concerned with keeping all of its nurses and staff trained in the up-to-date technology and studies. We also talked about the ways to further one's education through the programs

offered to obtain another degree besides the baccalaureate I will receive upon graduation. While at the symposium, I met nurse option midshipmen from other universities. We discussed the differences in expectations of the nurses within the units. Some admitted that they are never seen in the Navy building because the unit does not expect them to be there at all and others basically live in the building. It was interesting hearing the stories of the cruises at the hospitals and on ships. Many joked about how they had a hard time doing an IV after using the Navy's easy system. I also met the Detailer and other commissioned Navy Nurses. They told us their stories and the opportunities offered throughout the Navy. Two of the guests had served as a President's nurse. A couple of them had been aboard the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy conducting humanitarian efforts to countries around the World. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet other nurse option midshipman and to hear the stories from the officers.

In January, the Drill Teams and Color Guard competed in a Meet at Auburn University. I was very nervous because I had never participated in anything like this. Once we arrived at the hotel, we practiced the cards a couple of times in the parking lot and then went off to dinner. After dinner, we went to our rooms quizzed each other on Navy knowledge, ironed uniforms, shined shoes, and discussed our anxieties. A couple of hours later we were up and getting ready trying not to show our nervousness on our faces, well maybe that was just me. The drizzly weather put a damper on everything, but all in all I felt we did good and had a fun time.

I have learned a lot over this past year and I hope I created a smooth path for any incoming freshman, especially nursing options, to follow.

MIDN 4/C MEYERS



NROTC BAND at Mardi Gras

As the Band OIC for the Unit's Band this year I can say with confidence that we were a well accomplished musical group in spite of our small size. We overcame many challenges from playing that first note as an ensemble to marching four parades – the shortest of which was about five miles. In my prior band experience in high school I was a trumpet player, however since we had three trumpet players already in the unit and a small low brass section I decided to learn and march sousaphone this year in order to provide a more balanced sound. Our musical repertoire included "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Tulane Fight Song," "Low Rider," "Liberty Bell March," "Second Line," "Land of A Thousand Dances" and of course the ever popular "Butt Dance". We received a Plaque from the Parade Dictator of Le' Krewe d'Etat recognizing us of our efforts and commending us for a job well done.

This year we had many members who had learned and had played their instrument in high school and remember quite a few things when it came to musicality and general musicianship. We had a few members that had not played in a number of years and needed a little bit of a reminder of what it was like to play again in a group setting. And then we had a few people who had never played in a band before but just really wanted to participate in a Unit activity. It was my job to take these members of different ability levels and to make them sound as a band should; let me just say that I assigned the Midshipmen with little to no musical experience play the drums with the exception of course being the two midshipmen that had prior percussion experience.

This year the Unit did something that they normally would not do traditionally, they put a Fourth Class Midshipman in a position that is normally held by a Second or First Class Midshipman. It was my job to make sure that the Band was well prepared in all of

the music, make sure that we had appropriate instruments, arrange for transportation for both the Band and Drill Team to and from the parades, and as well be able to lead the band despite the fact that many of the members were upperclassmen. I also had to interact with many upperclassmen that were not in the band but needed to receive word of the band's situation and what we needed, if we needed anything. The Band this year did well I was proud of the effort they put into this, and I can guarantee that everyone that participated in the festivities that encompass Mardi Gras had a blast.

MIDN 4/C McCauley

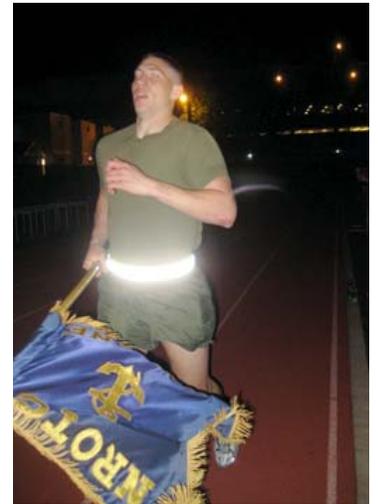


Cross Town First Year Experience

Freshman year in the Tulane Navy ROTC unit was defiantly a great experience. Through the last year I have participated in our Drill Team, Band, and Flag Football team. I have also learned about military bearing, customs, and courtesy. The year started when we arrived to the building a week early to go through a Freshman Orientation week. Through that week we went to a military base where we were taught basic military customs. We participated in drill sessions, physical training exercises, and a leadership course. After that week we came back to school and started to participate in ROTC and transform ourselves into college students. Through the first and second semester I was a part of the drill team which participated in the Auburn and Mardi Gras drill meet. Being on the drill team I learned vital knowledge about military customs and traditions. I also participated in the unit's band which marched in a couple of Mardi Gras parades. This was a great experience. I got to experience the other side of Mardi Gras where I could see what it is like to march in major parades like the ones we were in. It was also fun to interact with all the crazy people on the parade route. In addition to these two activities I trained and ran in the New Orleans Ironman 70.3 on April 5. This consisted of a 1.2 mile swim into a 56 mile bike ride into a 13.1 mile run. I trained and ran the race with two other Midshipmen. The experience of training and participating in that race was awesome. I learned how to commit myself to a goal and try to do the best I could. In the end I achieved the time of 6 hours and 28 minutes. I am very happy with my time and the learning experience I got from the triathlon. Through all of my activities I also had to be a college student. I am an Engineering Physics major in the science department of Tulane. I take classes in math and science, English courses, and the two Navy courses I am required to take. In the Navy courses the freshman

class and I learned military courtesies, customs, and traditions, and Navy history from the ancient times to current affairs. The class has given me vital knowledge about Navy I did not know being from a non military family. In Tulane I have taken Calculus 1 and 2, Physics 1 and 2, Chemistry 1 and 2 and a Writing course. I have learned a lot in all of those classes. Even participating in all my classes and extracurricular activities I have had an amazing social life in New Orleans. I like to go out with my friends and experience all the awesome things New Orleans has to offer. Now since it is getting into the summer time Crawfish are getting very popular. I enjoy going out to Crawfish boils and experience the cuisine of New Orleans. I also enjoy going to different other events like concerts and parades all around the city. The last two semesters have been jammed pack of learning and fun. I have enjoyed my last two semesters here and am excited for the next couple years in the ROTC program in Tulane.

MIDN 4/C DIGGS



Commissioned Senior Destinations

January Graduates:

MIDN 1/C John Jacobson – Reported to USS LASSEN (DDG-82) at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan

MIDN 1/C Sarah Monk – Reported to USS STERETT (DDG-104) at Naval Station San Diego

May Graduates:

MIDN 1/C Travis Bean – Will report to Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC

MIDN 1/C Clarissa Clement – Will report to NAS Pensacola as a student Naval Flight Officer

MIDN 1/C Bryan Doss – Will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA

MIDN 1/C Eric Garcia – Will report to NAS Pensacola as a student Naval Aviator

MIDN 1/C Matthew Gilmore – Will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA

MIDN 1/C Glen Gregory – Will report to USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) at Naval Station San Diego

MIDN 1/C Monica Hemker – Will report to USS PELELIU (LHA-5) at Naval Station San Diego

MIDN 1/C Tomas Kidder – Will report to NAS Pensacola as a student Naval Aviator

MIDN 1/C Philip Kwak – Will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA

MIDN 1/C Kelsey Monk – Will report to USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD-49) at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan

MIDN 1/C Michael Noce – Will report to USS GRIDLEY (DDG-101) at Naval Station San Diego

MIDN 1/C Luke Richmond – Will report to USS BOXER (LHD-4) at Naval Station San Diego

MIDN 1/C William Wellborn – Will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!!!
Good Luck!



Alumni Affairs

The Tulane NROTC Alumni Association will hold a Homecoming reception honoring the classes of 1944 and 1959 and all classes ending in 4 or 9 at the Navy Building from 3:30-6:00 PM on Friday, 9 October, 2009. All classes are cordially invited. Please visit our website for more information:

<http://www.tulane.edu/~nrotc/alumni/index.htm>

Taffrail Log

Philip Garrow, LTJG, USN '05 Main Propulsion Assistant, USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS 2).

Daniel Amster, Sgt, USMC '03 Would have been commissioned with the class of 2003, but I was in Baghdad. Deployed twice to Iraq as part since then.

Chad D. Norris, LT, USN '01 Currently an Instructor Pilot training Nav's at VT-4 in Pensacola. Married to my wife Nicole and we have a 2-year old daughter, Hope, and a baby boy on the way.

Brian Bradshaw '99 After almost 22yrs, I have finally retired. I'm still living in NOLA and work for Cargill INC. as an operations supervisor at a grain export facility in Reserve LA.

Seth W. MacCutcheon, Capt, USMC '99 Completed LT tour in 2/8 during OIF I. Then instructed at TBS and IOC. Completed EWS and am now deployed to Iraq.

Daniel S. Price, Capt, USMC '99 Daniel is a business Development Manager living in Huntsville, Alabama.

James J. McBride, Maj., USMC '97 Currently assigned as the Assistant Air Officer for the 22d MEU at Camp Lejeune, NC. Attending Command and Staff College in Quantico, VA.

James A. Willsey '97 I am a Unit Supervisor, St. Lucie Nuclear Plant, Florida Power & Light, Jensen Beach, FL. Wife: Amy; Son: AJ. Serving in the reserves as Commanding Officer, Navy Reserve Security Force Gulfport, MS.

James O. Dewey, LT, USN '96 Navy Chaplain. Currently deployed to Iraq.

Jason D. Zeda, LCDR '95 I run a construction office on base administering MILCON projects for the Air Force at Travis AFB.

David D. Foldy '94 Separated from the USN in 2004 after an IA tour in Iraq. I have been working overseas in Afghanistan and Africa for the past four years for various organizations.

Katie L. McSheffrey Gunther '94 Left USMCR in 2007 and moved to Auburn, AL to complete a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Robert Flauss '89 Left USN in 1992 after decommissioning of USS PAUL (FF-1080). Moved to the Northeast in search of greener pastures. Got an MBA and a MS-Accounting from Northeastern University in Boston in 1996.

William C. (Bill) Schmitz, CDR, USN '88 I left my last tour, XO of the base in NOLA, in December '08 and am now in Charleston SC. I plan to retire in late 2010 or early 2011...22 or 23 years should be enough to decide if I want to make the Navy a career. It was great living and working in NOLA

Stuart A. Klearman '86 Named the Palm Beach Post Distinguished Law Enforcement Officer of 2007, for Crime Solution (Treasure Coast). Stuart is a Detective with the Port St. Lucie Police Dept.

Aaron T. Slaughter '86 I am retired, living in Illinois, and working as a defense contractor for MITRE Corporation, in support of USTRANSCOM. I retired in 2006 after commanding the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Patricia Gail Williams, CAPT, USNR '83 Reserve Intelligence Area Commander for the Southwest region.

Raymond E. Schmidt, Jr. MD '81 Update Bio: Separated from ACDU in 1999 as a CDR, MC, USN.

George J. Fullerton, CAPT, USN (ret.) '78 Associate Professor, Maritime Operations, U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE. Professor Jeff Fullerton is the MSOC Curriculum and Faculty Lead after retiring from active duty with over 29 years of service.

Brian F. Delaney, CAPT, USN (ret.) '76 Brian Delaney joined the Patni Americas Manufacturing Industry Team in 2008 and manages the service delivery for the Western Region.

Thomas M. Krupp '70 Retired in 1993 and living in the Kansas City area. Currently Deputy Security Manager and Security Manager for the Americas for Black & Veatch Corporation.

Thomas M. Birdwell, Jr. '50 Served as Communications Officer on the USS CORAL SEA (CVB-43) and later as the CIC Officer aboard the USS Lenawa (APA-195).

Tulane University
NROTC



We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.tulane.edu/~nrotc/>

Postage for The Helm is provided by the Tulane NROTC Alumni Association. Please visit our website to stay abreast of Alumni Affairs (http://www.tulane.edu/~nrotc/alumni/Alumni_Affairs.htm).

Although use of the services provided on our website is free to all Tulane NROTC Alumni regardless of membership status, we ask that you consider becoming a voting member through the payment of dues.

Thank You.
Mike Hallal, President, Tulane NROTC Alumni Association

2009: NROTC Alumni Association Annual Dues: \$30

-or- New Lifetime Membership Dues: \$250

-or- Lifetime Emeritus Status: \$150 (only for those who are existing \$100 Lifetime Members and voluntarily wish to upgrade to Emeritus Status – benefits are the same but the additional contribution is greatly appreciated – existing Lifetime Members will retain all benefits regardless of upgrade status)

Please make checks payable to the Tulane NROTC Alumni Association, Inc.

Just fill out this form and mail to:

**Tulane NROTC Alumni Association, Inc.
Tulane NROTC Unit, Tulane University
6823 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118-5698**

Name: _____

Rank (Active duty or Retired personnel): _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

E-Mail address (if applicable): _____

Class: _____

New Lifetime Dues / Lifetime Emeritus Status/ Annual Dues (please circle one)

Please attach biography or fill in a Bio Update on the web at:

http://www.tulane.edu/~nrotc/alumni/onlineregisterhome_page.html