

THE HELM

Official newsletter of the Tulane University NROTC Program.

Spring 2002



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Color Guard

The motto of the Tulane University NROTC Color Guard is “Tip of the Spear.” This small unit truly does lead the way for the rest of the battalion. Color Guard serves with distinction in the battalion. Former Color Guard members fill many high-ranking midshipman officer billets. Outside of carrying the colors for unit functions, the Color Guard is present at all the Tulane home football games, and is frequently called on by various organizations in New Orleans who need a unit that will get the job done. This year, Color Guard served at a function for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, at the annual Krewe of Saturn ball, and at the house of Tulane President Scott Cowen.

However, being on Color Guard is more than just showing up and doing your job. Color Guard routinely leads the battalion in the areas of inspection, grades, physical fitness, and overall military bearing. More than that, Color Guard is a fraternity in its own way – once a midshipman has served as a member, all past members of Color Guard are that person’s mentors, role models and brothers/sisters. The tradition of Color Guard at Tulane University is one that has endured for years, and without a doubt will continue to lead the way for the battalion in the future. The tip of the spear will not be dulled.

Mardi Gras Drill Meet 2001

On the day of Friday, February 8, 2002 the Tulane NROTC unit held the 30th annual Mardi Gras Drill Meet. The Drill meet is designed to bring ROTC students from around the country together in a day of friendly competition and solid camaraderie. Participating in this event were numerous ROTC units representing colleges from all around the country. The day began with the first team performing under the lights of the stadium, and the awards ceremony finishing up well after dark that night. As usual, one of the most watched parts was the traditional North Georgia bayonet routine, as well as many other outstanding exhibition performances.

We had more schools compete than ever before, and a total of 46 teams competing in 6 events. The events included Platoon Inspection, Platoon Basic Drill, Squad Basic Drill, Color Guard, and Platoon Exhibition. Additionally, there was an Individual Exhibition event which did not count toward overall score. Overall winner was North Georgia Military Academy, who also took the Exhibition Competition, Color Guard, and Platoon Basic. Tulane won Inspection, and San Diego took Squad Basic. Cdt Hamilton of West Point won the Individual Exhibition competition.

A great deal of work and effort was put in by Tulane midshipman throughout the year. Of special note were the divisional OICs and the XO of the event.

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Farewell Ball

End of the year black-ties are a staple of many student groups. And yet, there is an almost palpable distinction between the random, wandering debauchery that is a Fraternity formal, and the soft yet cheery elegance of the NROTC Farewell ball. A day or two before, I asked my date (who had recently attended a Frat formal) what she had enjoyed. She promptly responded “well, its neat to dress up...everybody looks so respectable.” In retrospect, that statement correctly highlights fundamental differences between our organization and theirs. After all, a sailor in dress blues has a style and swagger unseen in rental clad frat brothers;

Indeed, the entire event, held April 25 at the downtown Sheraton Hotel, was a perfect blend of practiced formality and easy intimacy. Proper, thanks to military staples such as the sword arch, yet friendly, with heartfelt “Hoo-rah’s” and general joking between unit staff and midshipmen. Though official Navy balls are grand, there is something more satisfying in a private ball; a purer form of fun, to know most everyone in the room (exempting dates).

Superior hotel fare kicked the evening off right, though who ever heard of only offering one kind of salad dressing? General mingling then ensued, followed by some dancing. The evening progressed as many dates took to the dance floor. And then slowly, couple by couple, group by group, the guests departed, without the pomp and circumstance of the arrival. A fitting end, lacking unnecessary ostentation, absent of sad exits and overly emotional goodbye’s. Nothing more than a procession of hand shakes and grins, given by old friends, sure to see each other again.

Crawfish Boil

On Saturday, April 6th, the Tulane NROTC Unit celebrated its annual crawfish boil at Coconut Beach. The weather was just beginning to turn hot, so it was a great weekend to throw a summer party. Midn 1/c Waller’s family graciously volunteered to boil the 500 pounds of crawfish that we had! I’ve never seen so many ‘mudbugs’ in my life!!! With just enough spice, they were fantastic to eat. For an extra fee, the Coconut Beach bar also provided the midshipmen with snowballs, hamburgers, hotdogs, and various mixed drinks. With all of that food available, it is hard to believe how many people were on the beach volleyball courts. Instead of the usual class competition volleyball tournament, people decided just to play a few friendly games. We had a nice turnout this year, which made it all the more fun! It was also nice to interact with the officers at this social scene. The crawfish boil was a tremendous success this year, and we can’t wait to do it again!



Midshipmen enjoying their crawfish

Mess Night 2002

This year's annual Mess Night, a tradition exclusive to graduating seniors, was an evening filled with good company, good food, and good stories commemorating our past four years together. The evening started off with a cocktail hour, which some indulged in more than others. Cocktails were followed by an outstanding dinner. The senior class and unit staff had the honor of dining with distinguished Tulane NROTC alumni and distinguished guest of honor Senator John Hainkel. In keeping with tradition, after the formalities of the evening were complete, the floor was opened up to the seniors, who told embarrassing tales and then fined fellow midshipmen for their actions. In the end, all fines went to a good cause...a kegger at Waldo's. Many incredible stories were told by all the midshipmen. Unfortunately, most cannot be repeated in the context of a reputable publication such as the Helm. We left the event in good spirits and are eager to participate in new adventures with the Navy and Marine Corps

Battalion Plans for Next Semester

With the help of my Battalion staff, I am looking forward to another successful semester of training at Tulane NROTC next fall. Last semester we formed various committees to assess the ways in which the Battalion will strive to achieve its goal of commissioning the best Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants in the Naval Service. The decisions of these committees, ranging in focus from Battalion leadership to student life, will be announced at the second annual Leadership School scheduled the day before classes start. In addition to learning various roles and responsibilities of naval leaders, the Battalion will be briefed on the goals of the upcoming semester. One new goal I have for the Battalion will be the successful implementation of a Community Service Program in which every Midshipman will be expected to give back to the community in some form. Tutoring, charity walks, and house building will be among the various opportunities for Midshipman participation next year. We are also planning Fall Semester activities to enhance unity and pride within the Battalion. One activity that I am sure will be a success is the "tailgater" the Battalion will be having before the Tulane/Navy game on 26 October. This Homecoming game, being held at City Park this year, will be a perfect opportunity for the Battalion to come together and keep morale high during the grueling Fall Semester.

Sail Day

On August 6th, the Sail Team ventured out to the Marina along with a few other midshipmen eager to earn their Class B Sail Qualification. The weather was beautiful that day as there was not a cloud in the sky, and the wind was just right for sailing. Prior to actually getting on the water, the midshipmen learned how to rig each of the sailboats. Then, each member of the Sail Team went out in a Laser boat with a midshipman to first teach them how to sail the boats. After tooling around the marina for a while and learning the ways of the boat, the Sail Team member would then get into the chase boat and leave the midshipman on his/her own to sail. From there, the midshipmen would then try out their newly acquired sailing skills as they had to demonstrate their ability to sail proficiently, capsize the boat and then right it again, and demonstrate their knowledge of the boats and the gear that accompanies them. Even though the weather was nice, the midshipmen found the water to be a bit chilly, as they had to capsize the boats and then try to right them again. There was even a little time for fun as one of the Midshipmen discovered the art of pole-jumping. All in all, everyone had a great time.



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Battalion Change of Command

On April 26, 2002 the Tulane NROTC midshipman battalion held its semi-annual change of command ceremony. The outgoing battalion commander was Marine option. The incoming battalion commander is Navy option. The two midshipmen stand out among the battalion, and the Tulane community. The ceremony was conducted on Newcomb quad. The battalion bid farewell to their formidable leader, and welcomed a new and just as capable one.



Change of Command

Annual Awards Ceremony

On April 26th 2002, the Tulane NROTC Unit held its annual awards ceremony. Many midshipmen were praised for their dedication to the NROTC Unit, their leadership and academic proficiency. Here are the awards presented:

- The Admiral A.S. Merrill Award Manual of Arms Award
- The George Washington Chapter, Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Award
- Louisiana Association of the Society of the Cincinnati Award
- The Society of Colonial Wars Award
- The Robert Ruffin Chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century Award.
- The Daughters of the American Revolution, Flag of the United States of America Award
- The Leonard S. Isacks, Jr. Memorial Award
- The Reserve Officers Association Awards
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8973 Award
- The Robert Ruffin Chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century Award
- The Military Order of World Wars Award
- The Commanding Officer, 8th Marine Corps District Award of Excellence
- The Greater New Orleans Council of the Navy League F. Edward Hebert Award
- The Reserve Officers Association League Award
- The National Sojourners Award
- The Daughters of the American Revolution, Metarie Ridge Chapter ROTC Award
- The Military Order of the Purple Heart Award
- The Captain J.W. McCarter, Jr. Award
- The United States Daughters of 1812, Chalmette Chapter History Award
- The American Legion Post 307 Award for Academic Excellence
- The Daughters of the American Revolution National Defense ROTC Award
- The Louisiana Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Award
- The Louisiana Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Scholarship
- The Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association Award
- The Naval Order of the United States Award
- The Knights of Columbus Award
- The American Veterans ROTC Award
- The E.V. Richards, Jr. Award
- The Marine Corps Association Award
- The Marine Support Group of New Orleans General Robert H. Barrow Award
- The Marine Corps Battle Essay Contest
- The USAA Spirit Award
- The Naval Submarine League Outstanding Achievement Award
- The Tulane NROTC Alumni Association Jack White Award
- The Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association Award for Excellence at BULLDOG
- The Stone Energy Award
- The New Orleans Chapter of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association Award
- The Marine Corps Support Group of New Orleans Major General James E. Livingston Award
- The Naval Institute Award
- The Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Award
- The Tulane President's Cup

Tentative Schedule - Fall 2002

20-24 August: Freshman Orientation

28 August: Classes Commence

31 August: Tulane Football vs. Southern

7 September: Tulane Football @ University of Houston

14 September: Tulane Football @ East Carolina

21 September: Tulane Football @ Memphis

28 September: Tulane Football vs. University of Texas

5 October: Tulane Football @ UL-Monroe

12 October: Tulane Football vs. Cincinnati

19 October: Tulane Football vs. University of Alabama-Birmingham

26 October: Tulane Homecoming - Tulane Football vs. Navy

9 November: Tulane Football @ TCU

16 November: Tulane Football vs. ARMY

23 November: Tulane Football vs. Southern Mississippi

Alumni Affairs

On the occasion of the 50th reunion of the class of 1944, commemorative medallions were awarded. These awards were made by Arthur Foss '44 with the following comments:

This story begins many years ago when I was still in grammar school. History seemed to consist of two types of events, discoveries and conquests. In this latter category, I remember hearing about the Carthaginians, Saracens and Romans, who when facing an enemy, all conquered, raped and pillaged.

So, at a very early age, I had firmly fixed in my mind that what my country expected of me when facing her enemies was to conquer, rape and pillage.

Now, you must understand that at the ripe age of ten and being a product of New Orleans streets and public schools, there were a couple of these terms I really didn't understand, namely conquering and pillaging. But I learned and later entered Tulane University and joined the Naval ROTC where I knew I'd be taught the finer points of what would be expected. Like you, I took courses in Customs, Traditions and Usage by Lovette, Strategy and Tactics by Lucas, but never a course in Rape and Pillaging. Then I realized that these were very delicate subjects and probably only taught to officers.

So, a year ahead of schedule I became an officer. The Navy sent me immediately to LST school where I was told that contrary to what I had been taught, I would not be judged by whether I ran my ship aground or not, but rather by how well I did it. Now that I was assigned to a ship, I knew that if we did a really good job we would be asked to participate in the raping and pillaging.

We then left for the Pacific with a cargo of 50,000 cases of beer. If you multiply that out, you will find that it exceeds a million cans. I don't know how much more one ship could contribute to the war effort.

After forays to several islands, I awoke one morning to find our ship anchored in Tokyo Bay. I exclaimed, "this is it." I recalled reading some place that naval personnel usually carried boarding axes when pillaging, so I scoured the ship. The best I could do was a fire ax. I took the fire ax back to my quarters and waited. Waited for the word to be passed for all rapers and pillagers to muster at the starboard gangway.

But the word never came and ultimately I returned home, was released to inactive duty, completed my education, then met and married my wife Jessie. At this time I was told unequivocally that pillaging was ok but raping was out. I could understand that.

Then I joined the active reserves and affiliated with an intelligence unit. I did tours of duty at the State Department, Attaché School and even did a tour with the Green Berets at Ft. Bragg. I figured that these guys would surely know pillaging, but not a word. Before I knew it twenty years passed and I retired, but I wasn't concerned. I was still relatively young and I knew in a real emergency, I'd be recalled.

Then, a few weeks ago, I had a physical. The doctor said, "Arthur, you're in pretty good shape and can do just about anything you want. Except— NO PILLAGING!" I was heartbroken. I felt unfulfilled. I went home to give this some serious thought and I finally realized, that all our country had ever expected of us, was that we do the best we could under some rather unusual conditions. Judging from the results, I'd say we did just that. So I look on these medallions as a token of recognition. The bearer is a member of a group that left Tulane fifty years ago, went forth, and did what was expected of them.

Because of increased security measures, we cannot publish information on our active duty Alumni members. To receive a paper copy of the Helm, please contact postmaster@nrotc.tulane.edu

The Taffrail Log

Arthur Foss '44 retired from the Naval Reserve in 1965, retired from business in 1994 and now retires from writing and editing the Alumni Affairs and Taffrail Log sections of the HELM.

Eric Cushman '89 served 11 years on active duty and currently works for Electric boat works, in Groton, as a Senior Acoustic Engineer. Eric resides in Connecticut with his wife Patricia (Tulane Engineering '91) and children Megan and Matthew. He serves in the Reserves as a LCDR.

James Walley, Jr. is Vice President, Archon Group (Subsidiary of Goldman Sachs) Director of Design and Construction for Reas Estate Development Group. James serves as a Rear Admiral (U) CEC in the Naval Reserve.

Thomas Lind '59 resides in New Orleans and is General Counsel and Secretary of the Canal Barge Co., Inc.

Karl Rothermel '85 left active duty 1993 and joined G.E.C., Inc. a design firm in Baton Rouge, Where Karl resides with his wife, the former Mary Fischer and their 3 children.

Byron Alipio '90 lives in Monroe, LA and is sales rep for industrial chemicals.

William Bizzell II '50 makes his home in Richmond, VA. William served on active duty from 1945 to 1953 and retired from the Naval Reserve in 1970.

Robert "Tim" France '66 in 2001 received his Masters in Business Administration from Miami Univ. of Ohio with a concentration in Management Information Systems. Tim and his wife are enjoying their first grandchild also in 2001.

Rodney Skotty '78 makes his home in Kinburn, Ontario where he is affiliated with Lockheed Martin Canada.

Don Skotty '71 while residing in Colorado Springs, CO serves as president of Skotty Consulting Group, Inc. Don retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain.

Shea Thorvaldsen '97 left active duty in 2001 and is now employed as a Marine and Waterfront Engineer while campaigning the 49er class sailboat for the summer Olympics. Shea resides in Stony Brook, NY. Shea, we'll be looking for you on the podium. Good luck !

Anne-Marie Ewing Theriot '94 provided us with some helpful info on some of her classmates. Anne-Marie frolics in the autumn mist in a land called Oceanside, CA.

James Borgerson '90 ended his active duty as a Naval Flight Officer with VP-5. Jim lives in Ann Arbor, MI where he is a transmission design engineer with General Motors.

Robert Watkins '62 left Active Duty after 5 years to attend Law School. Robert is now a member of the Senior Executive Corps of the United States (Level ES-4) He is Chief of a Civil Trial Section of the Department of Justice,, Washington, DC.

Rory Montero '77 spent 7-1/2 years on active duty, then received his doctorate in Engineering Psychology from Old Dominion Univ. Spent 12 years with Bell Labs and has recently accepted a position as Director of System Engineering at Call Sciences. Rory makes his home in Tinton Falls, NJ with his wife Jamie and son Stephan.

Bert Shrine '51 retired from the Navy in 1975 with the rank of CAPTAIN after an outstanding career as a Naval Aviator. Upon retirement Bert became Executive Vice President of Burnside-Ott. Later became Division Director , Program Manager and/or Consultant for Grumman, McDonnell-Douglas, Raytheon and Sikorsky retiring in 2000.

Kermit Corcoran '66 retired from the Navy in 1993. He has joined Tedewater Marine's Towing Division. Kermit and his wife Mary reside in Wilmington, NC.

David Dearie '78 has retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of CDR. He Now awaits the monetary retirement in Wilmington, NC. This seems to be a popular place.

Brian Pritchard '93 makes his home in Philadelphia where he is a Financial Consultant and Portfolio Manager at Solomon Smith Barney.