

News Bulletin

March 2024



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Message from the President



We start this year with a significant achievement in the effort to secure recognition of the UNC NROTC Armory by the National Park Service as you will read later in this news bulletin.

We also welcome two newly elected Directors on our Association board while we continue seeking additional committee participation by interested members.

Lastly, just as we have worked to preserve the NROTC Armory, the Association recognizes that we need to work just as diligently to support and grow the NROTC midshipmen battalion membership. Keep reading below to learn about our recent efforts to strengthen the UNC leadership's engagement with the NROTC unit and how our members can help encourage qualified students to explore and join the UNC NROTC unit.

Naval Armory Preservation Update

As initially posted on our Association's social media sites (more about those in this bulletin), the National Park Service listed the NROTC Armory at UNC Chapel Hill on the National Register on February 7, 2024. That weekly update is posted at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/weekly-list-2024-02-09.htm>. Many thanks to the Naval Armory Preservation Committee (NAPC), our Alumni Association members, and the generous donations of supporters to achieve this status after years of effort. The National Register is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

Some UNC Board of Trustees have already expressed their support for a big celebration of this accomplishment. Most likely, that celebration would be this fall around Veterans Day or Military Appreciation Weekend. That proposal also allows time to design the marker/plaque.

During the work to preserve and recognize the Naval Armory, we also realized the small number of enrolled UNC midshipmen. The CNO recently challenged Navy leadership to address the "WAR FOR TALENT" to find, recruit and retain officers and Sailors. The UNC NROTC unit had 16 midshipmen last year. This year, membership has risen slightly to 23. For now, the Armory building is safe from demolition. With small numbers of midshipmen/cadets participating, the university might seek to move all ROTC units elsewhere on campus. We do not want that.

Accordingly, the Association's BoD is actively considering how we can best support and assist CAPT Tanaka and his UNC NROTC staff to increase battalion enrollment.

NROTC Recruiting Efforts



Jeff Kennedy '87 attended the annual NROTC Universities conference in Tucson, AZ in November 2023. That conference fosters stronger relationships between universities and their NROTC units. A major takeaway was that many midshipmen have participated in or were exposed to NJROTC while in high school. Those are a start and good places to connect with and recruit quality NROTC candidates.

Since 80% of UNC students are admitted "in-state", we decided to focus on NC high schools first. There are 32 NJROTC and 11 MCJROTC high schools in NC. Click these buttons for interactive maps to find your nearest NJROTC and MCJROTC school (nationwide).

[NJROTC Units](#)

[MCJROTC Units](#)

If you are interested, let Jeff Kennedy know which high school you would like to contact. Then, reach out to your nearest JROTC instructors and/or guidance counselors to help sell the NROTC program - especially at UNC. This is modeled similar to how USNA "Blue and Gold" sponsors connect with potential academy candidates.

We anticipate distributing recruiting materials and purchasing UNC NROTC items for you to pass along to potential midshipmen. The goal is to double the size of the UNC NROTC unit to approximately 50 midshipmen. Thanks for your interest and active involvement as we start. We are open to ideas and lessons learned from your corporate/military recruiting experience.

Jeff Kennedy
12032 New Day Dr
Ft Worth, TX 76179
F14pig@aol.com
cell (817)-313-4121

Two New Board Directors

We are pleased to welcome two newly elected directors to the Board - Kirsten Shuford '91 and Duncan Young '95. Kirsten has joined the Budget & Finance, Scholarships, and Dawson Library committees. Duncan serves on the Scholarships and Awards committees. Both Kirsten and Duncan will also help Jeff Kennedy '87 to organize and implement the Association's midshipmen recruiting support efforts.

Just as Kirsten's and Duncan's service on the Board brings fresh eyes, ideas, and vigor to their chosen committees, any Association member can work on a committee that interests them without being a Board member. Visit the committee section of our web site to read more, then contact Marianne Waldrop '87 to express your interest to serve.



We welcome your charitable donation! The Dawson Library, scholarships, and other Association efforts need your continuing support!

Upcoming NROTC Unit Events

Save these dates and make plans to attend to show your support if you are able.

- NROTC Unit Awards Day is Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 1400.
- NROTC Commissioning Day is Saturday, May 11, 2024 (0900-1030) at the Frank Porter Graham Student Union, Great Hall.

UNC NROTC AA's Social Media Sites

Want to keep up and receive UNC NROTC Alumni Association news sooner and easily connect with other UNC NROTC alumni via social media? Click these platform icons to follow the Association on

- Facebook
- X (formerly Twitter)
- LinkedIn

Those sites are also accessible via links on our web site's homepage. Like, follow, engage, then tell your classmates. We'll see you online!



UNC NROTC Midshipmen Merchandise

The UNC NROTC midshipmen have posted a NROTC Battalion Ball Cap Interest Form at <https://forms.gle/rLELm1SgyH3b5b3U9>

All proceeds support the midshipmen and their non-profit Quarterdeck Society - not the US Navy nor the Association. Interest and financial support from alumni is encouraged and appreciated by the midshipmen who directly benefit.

Please become a paid member. We need you!

Most Popular option: Life Membership

GREAT VALUE: 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

5 years of membership for the price of four!

Click the green button below to join, renew or upgrade.

Join, Renew or Upgrade your Membership Now

2024 Membership

If you haven't already done so, it is time to join or renew your membership for 2024.

What do my dues pay for?

Your dues contribution pays for our website, database software, financial management software and the Distinguished Alumnus /Alumna and Distinguished Service Awards; these funds enable us to communicate with the graduates so we can host and organize alumni events to support our NROTC Unit and Midshipmen. The Scholarships, Dawson Library and Connor Awards are funded separately through charitable contributions. Events (Annual Meeting & Reunions) are funded on a pay-as-you go basis by event participants.

Taps for NROTC Alumni We've Lost

As a service to our members, we have created a new feature on the website available for paid members entitled [Deceased Alumni](#). The feature may be found on the Alumni Service and Information Resource tabs of the website. Please notify the Secretary if you know of errors or additional alumni who should be listed here. If you know of a UNC NROTC Alumnus who has passed away, let us know so that this information may be reported in the News Bulletin under "Taps". Please send your announcements to secretary@uncnrotcaa.org.

This message was sent to you by [{UNC NROTC Alumni Association}](#).

103 Sand Castle Drive, Emerald Isle, NC 28594

1-252-646-4379, www.uncnrotcaa.org

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Naval Armory is located at 221 South Columbia St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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