

UNC NROTC Alumni Newsletter

May 2002

Volume 12 Issue 1



2002 UNC NROTC ALUMNI REUNION

October 12th

(Columbus Day weekend)

UNC vs NCSU



Letter from the President

By Jim Bailer '85

Greetings from your NROTC Alumni Association! Let me take a moment to highlight a few areas of focus for the board this year.

The first is growth in our membership. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our numbers have been flat for the past several years. Increasing our membership will enable us to move forward on our other two goals for this year:

- Continuation and expansion of our midshipman scholarship program
- Turning over the time-intensive support roles of Treasurer and Membership Database Maintenance to the General Alumni Association

Laird Lewis' vision of our midshipman scholarship program was to create a selling point for the UNC NROTC program. The scholarship program also demonstrates the alumni's support of the midshipmen and raises awareness of the Association in the eyes of the midshipmen. Most importantly, it rewards outstanding performance and encourages a sophomore midshipman to continue with the program.

Turning over several time-intensive board duties to the GAA has been a goal for several years. We are in the process of detailed negotiations with the GAA ... all we need is the increased membership, which will enable us to fund the GAA assistance.

Our primary tactic for increasing membership is to establish Class Representatives that will be on-point for contacting their fellow class members and encouraging membership. Look for additional details in the newsletter and sign-up!

I look forward to seeing you at the reunion this year. We are working to obtain tickets to the NC State game, but the ticket demand for that game is high. We will communicate final plans for the reunion in the next newsletter and via the website and blast emails, so stay tuned.

Go Heels!

Jim



Battalion Update

by
Captain Dennis Haines, USN
NROTC Unit North Carolina Piedmont Region



I'll start off with something I know everyone is interested in - an update on where the NROTC Unit will be relocated when the armory is demolished in 2005.

In March 2002, a memo signed by the CO's of the three ROTC Units was sent to the Provost expressing concern regarding the future location of the ROTC Units. We received a response from the Provost informing us that although the future location has not been determined, the university is "committed to finding a solution that is viable to the ROTC leadership."

On the 22nd of May, Don Ledford and I met with a member of the Campus Master Plan Committee to discuss the future location of the NROTC on campus. Following is a summation of that meeting:

- The University will provide adequate facilities for the ROTC Units.
- The location of the new facility has not been determined as of this date.
- Quarterly meetings will be scheduled to keep us updated.

I know that's not exactly what everyone wants to hear, but at least the Provost and a member of the Master Plan Committee have assured us that we are being looked after. I'll keep you updated. Now, on to Unit activities.

On the 18th of May we commissioned eight Ensigns and six 2nd Lieutenants. Two of the ensigns are Nurse Corps, two are going to Pensacola for flight training, three are going to Surface Warfare Officers School, and one is going to the Postgraduate School at Monterey. All of the 2nd Lieutenants will be reporting to the Basic School in Quantico.

This summer we will be replacing two of our instructors: LT Mike Cooper will be relieving LCDR Mark Green as the Freshman Advisor/Recruiting Officer; and LT Matt Lewis will replace LT Michele Day as the Sophomore/Junior Advisor. LCDR John Shaulis has retired and LT Robert Krause has taken over as the Officer in Charge of the UNC-CH Unit. John, Mark, and Michele have all done an outstanding job here at UNC and will be sorely missed.

Right now, everyone is busy trying to get the students off to summer training, and preparing for freshmen orientation in Virginia Beach next August.

The next time you're in Chapel Hill, feel free to stop by the Unit for a visit.

Dennis A. Haines
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

This year's selectee for the UNC NROTC Alumni Association's Scholarship Award is Midshipman 3/C Elizabeth Brannen Bagley. Midshipman Bagley, who is from Virginia Beach, Virginia, is a sophomore in the Nurse Scholarship Program. While participating in numerous battalion activities, including being a member of the Drill Team and serving as a Squad Leader, she managed to achieve a 3.613 cumulative grade point average during her freshman year.

Competition for the award this year was very keen and it was an extremely difficult task for the selection board to narrow the field of five applicants down to one.

On the application, applicants are asked to describe new ways the NROTC Unit can contribute to the University (and improve the image of the Unit and the University). Midshipman Bagley's response was:

At a large university like UNC Chapel Hill there are numerous opportunities to become involved and learn more about important global issues. As an NROTC Unit it is important that we are aware of both campus activities and forums featuring expert speakers from a variety of fields. I believe both the unit and the university would benefit from our presence at more functions and guest lectures. Each month representatives from the unit could be chosen to attend several events and report back during lab time about the content presented so others are aware of further opportunities to become involved. Also, the entire unit could participate in a presentation about NROTC, or open our labs to students outside the program so others are conscientious of our presence and purpose.

On behalf of the entire membership of the NROTC UNC Alumni Association, the Board of Directors would like to congratulate Midshipman Bagley for her achievements within the Midshipman Battalion, and for attaining such a high cumulative grade point average during her freshman year. Well Done!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS FOR 2003-2004

by Vicki Stephens '82

The continued success of our organization depends on much more than monetary contributions. We have been richly blessed by the ideas and talented efforts of many alumni that have moved our association forward over the years. I strongly urge each of you to consider board membership to keep the momentum going. You don't have to live in Chapel Hill to serve. The board meets twice a year but most of the business is conducted via email and phone conferences between meetings. We have a wide variety of committees upon which you can choose from to volunteer your leadership and time. For instance, there will be a need for help with the newsletter publication in the coming year with my own departure from the board.

Elections will be held for the Board of Directors during the Fall meeting. If you'd like to serve on the board, please contact us. Check the appropriate block on the registration form on the last page. A board member will contact you later this summer to discuss board membership. The final list of candidates will be published on the website and in the next newsletter. We plan to offer online voting again this year for members that cannot attend our meeting. Results of elections will be posted on our the website. I look forward to seeing each of you at the reunion.

WHERE GOEST THE NROTC?

By Dick Cashwell '59

In our last newsletter, we brought to your attention the University's long range plan the demolition of Venable Hall and the current Armory in order to build a bigger and better chemistry building. The demolition of the current NROTC building would take place in 2005. The ROTC programs would be moved into temporary quarters until permanently housed possibly in the new Science building in 2008. The details for space allocation for the NROTC program were not finalized yet in the last newsletter.

The University still has not included designated space for the ROTC programs in any of its plans for new buildings. I find it interesting, actually I am concerned, that the University has plans to tear down the old armory but does not have a plan in place to house the ROTC programs in any of its new construction. While there have been verbal assurances to the PNS that "the ROTC programs will be taken care of", there is nothing specific that guarantees the space needed to adequately house the ROTC departments.

Frankly, it was my experience while working for the University that if a specific commitment is not in the plans then the likelihood of not providing for the programs is real. I fought too many losing battles when I was assured that Admissions would be "taken care of", only to lose space to another department or program with more political clout than Admissions. The ROTC departments, like Admissions, are not high in the academic pecking order and unless there is either an advocate, like the Chancellor or the Provost, or an ironclad commitment then strange things can happen.

Unfortunately, the turnover in the ROTC staffs and the concomitant ability to work the system usually means the ROTC programs are not "remembered" when space is allocated. Therefore it is the responsibility of the ROTC Alumni to be constantly vigilant and to miss no opportunity to push any and all University administrators to give a specific commitment for adequate space for the ROTC departments.

We need to work together to insure that our voice is heard and I ask you all to "bug" the people in Chapel Hill you contact to remember the ROTC departments. It is only just that the departments that furnish more scholarship help to incoming students be housed in adequate spaces. Please visit our website for more information on who you may contact to express your support of the ROTC programs. Also, contact your classmates who may not be aware of this situation and ask for their support too.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Several key board members sacrifice tremendous personal time performing administrative duties for our organization free of charge. Realistically we can not always depend on the willingness of future board members to do this. We need to transition to professional services as soon as possible but we must first grow our dues-paying membership to a level that we can afford it. We hope this can be accomplished with the help of class representatives. The class representatives support the association by verifying that our database is accurate, encouraging non-members to join our association and participate in events, and serve as advisors to the board of directors. We have already had a handful of volunteers step forward this year. This is great excuse to contact classmates you haven't seen in a while. If you can help, contact contact Vicki Stephens or Dick Cashwell.

Whispers & Gossip

Gerard "Jerry" Marder '44 moved back to Asheville from Gastonia with his bride of two years. This winter they spent their time in Boca Raton. He is enjoying walking, swimming, biking and reading. And he pops his pills twice daily. Email: JrryJnMrdr@aol.com

Marshall Ward '44 is now 79 and staying alive. But the years and years of pounding destroyer decks is catching up to him and he reports that the old bones and muscles don't work as they used to. He attends several Navy and family reunions each year and tries to schedule his visits back to the East to accommodate as many as possible. Email: mdwardusnret@home.com

Robert Eric Comet '45 retired from the U.S. Navy in 1969 after 26 years service. He worked with Union Camp Corporation in Franklin, VA until 1991, then retired. He does a lot of traveling and some sailing. He builds ship models while volunteering as an interpreter at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk, VA. He sings bass in the church choir. His first wife, Dorthea died in 1999. He remarried in December 2000 to Mary Karen. He now has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 step children and 2 step grandchildren. He is in reasonably good health and enjoying life. Email: RComet316@aol.com

William Kinney '45 has spent lots of time researching the whereabouts of the 1945/46 crews of *USS SC 1281* and *USS LSM 36*, respectively known as "Mighty Mite" and "Leaping Lizzy". Both crews have had reunions and he is in the process of planning more. He has accounted for 69 men out of a war compliment of 97. Email: wkinney@carolina.rr.com

Warren S. Perry '45A is still practicing law in Kinston, N.C. He and his wife just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are fortunate to have 4 children and 12 grandchildren (11 of them are boys) that live in the Kinston area near them.

Charles Powell '45 returned to Newton, NC after WWII. With the help of two others, he founded Catawba Realty & Ins. Co., Inc. They are now strictly a local insurance agency. His son, Bill, an attorney and UNC grad, has taken over and he's lending support and his 50+ years experience. Email: custservcric@twave.net

Joseph Mirsky '46 is still writing letters to the editor of various publications. Sadly, Guinness no longer has such a category!!

S. Jay Plager '52 was recently cruising in the Florida Keys and the Bahama Islands in his trawler before returning to the Chesapeake in the in the Spring. He will be in Chapel Hill for his 50th reunion. Email: Tricefield@aol.com

Donald M Moseley '64 just finished serving as Secretary of Administration for the Governor of Virginia. Now its back to to private life. Email: dmosley@moonstar.com

Charles Wolfe '65 retired after 30 years in Municipal Finance in New York City. He's currently having discussion with the NROTC unit regarding the establishment of an annual award to be presented to the graduate showing the greatest improvement in the past 4 years. He hopes to have it in place for the graduating class of 2003. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Email: cwolfe1@bellatlantic.net

Captain Jeffrey Hilton Thomas '72 is currently a serving in the Navy Reserves and is scheduled to retire after 30 years commissioned of service in June. He is working in Charlotte for BellSouth as the National Account Manager for Bank of America. Email: jeff.thomas2@bellsouth.com

Whispers & Gossip (cont.)

Chris Bishopp '83 has been an Air Traffic Controller with the Federal Aviation Administration for 10 years. He is currently working at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, NC. As a secondary occupation, he is an Independent Cruise Consultant for Cruises Inc. In his spare time, he coaches soccer as well as officiates high school soccer and basketball. Email: cbishopp@cruisesinc.com

CDR Lynn Miller '85 was called to active duty for 3 months in Oct 01 to work with the Counter Terrorism Task Force for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

CDR Mark Fava '85 is an operations attorney for Delta Air Lines in Atlanta. He has also been selected as commanding officer of Naval Reserve Squadron VP-62 at Naval Air Station in Jacksonville. E-mail: markfava@delta.com

Pat Connelly '85 and his wife have a son, John Patrick "Jack" Connelly born 2 September 2001. Email: Flierpat@cs.com

CDR Robert Hatch '86 has been on Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) in Albania and Germany since Sept 1996. He just completed ADSW in Feb 2002. Awarded Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) during this period. He was promoted to Commander on 1 Aug 01. Robert's Mom and Dad flew over from Atlanta to Stuttgart, Germany for his promotion. Robert's Dad, CAPT James C. Hatch, SC, USN (Ret), wore his Service Dress Whites and swore Robert in as a new Supply Corps Commander. Robert just started a new job as an overseas contractor doing business development in eastern Europe with DynCorp Systems and Solutions. He and his wife Eneida live in Stuttgart, Germany. If you are coming to Europe, give us a call!

Email: roberthatch@yahoo.com

MAJ Dan Rabil '86 married the former Megan Farnsworth of Redwood City, CA on 1 Dec 2001 in Menlo Park, CA. **Sam Hughes '86** attended. Email: patrius@patriot.net

LCDR Chuck Carroll '87 graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School and is now attending Joint Professional Military Education Phase II in Norfolk for 3 months. He and Alice will be living in (or near) Dahlgren, VA where he will be working for JWAC. They look forward to catching up with many of their alumni friends. Email: chuckandal@earthlink.net

CDR Chris Kennedy '87 is serving as Communications Security Officer for SACLANT. Email: kennedys-5@home.com

LCDR Wade McSwain '89 is Branch Chief in NR EUCOM JAC 0167 (intel unit) at Ft. Gillem, GA supporting Joint Analysis Center, Molesworth, UK. Appointed Branch Chief of the Maritime Analysis Branch in October 2001. He received completed and received his NC Real Estate Broker License in December 2001. Email: hankmcswain@earthlink.net

Bill Olmstead '91 will be working in investment banking on wall street with Barclays Capital this summer. If you are in New York City, he asks that you look him up. Email: BillOlmstead@cmu.edu

Kirsten Jones Shuford '91 & Gene "Mac" Shuford had a son, John McMurray Shuford, born September 6, 2001. Email: shufords@worldnet.att.net

Bogomir Glavan '97 is currently on deployment flying missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He's stationed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Email: btglavan@hotmail.com

Alumni Focus: Captain Kenny “Pink” Floyd, USN, ‘80

By Bill Foster ‘80

I recently had the opportunity to get together at the Oceana O’ Club and reminisce with one of my fellow active duty classmates, Captain Kenneth E. Floyd (call sign “Pink”). Kenny has had a distinguished Naval career, attributing much of his success to the great start he got at Carolina. An F-14 Radar Intercept Officer, he has accumulated over 2800 flight hours and over 725 carrier-arrested landings. Having recently assumed duties as Deputy Commander of Carrier Air Wing 7 (CVW 7) based at Oceana, Kenny is headed to the Middle East aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), and is clearly looking forward to a cruise as a key leader in a war zone.

Kenny came to Carolina in the fall of 1976 from Lewisburg, West Virginia. He looks back fondly on his years at Carolina, stating, “The only real “do-over”, if I could, from my Carolina days is I’d never sign up for a 0800 class and I’d go to class religiously. My GPA was probably the bottom of our class. Being one of the high school grads that never had to take a book home I found that didn’t work my first semester when I failed physics...using the SAME book we’d used my senior year in high school! Got to go see Captain Stevens (the CO) after ‘fessing up’ that I was flagging. He told me (in no uncertain terms) that I was going to make that class up prior to the fall semester. I told him he was mistaken as the class wasn’t offered again until the fall, so I could be done by beginning of the next spring semester. He, of course, straightened me out on that...pointing out, quite correctly, that the class was offered in summer school. Guess where I spent my summer after 3rd class cruise? That also elevated the scenario to a call home because the old scholarship doesn’t cover summer school. Got my mind ‘right’...got a B+ on the retake and a B in the subsequent class. It suffices to say I would have my mind ‘right’ much sooner, go to class, take my books home, and start out with a decent GPA as opposed to scrambling for the next three years to recover...Obviously the Navy never held my GPA against me but I couldn’t be a Nuke, and that’s a good thing.”

Kenny credits other staff members with making a difference in his life. One was Chief George Markert: “The one lecture I can really remember is his Leadership pitch to our class (as Juniors)...in one of those hot little cubby holes upstairs in the Armory. (It was) excellent stuff and I still use it in my Leadership 101 pitch to young Officers and Sailors. The other guy that made a huge impact on me, you, and probably all of us was CDR Chris Mills, our original XO. The guy was everywhere and probably the most positive Naval Officer I’ve ever met. I still want to be like him.” Kenny also credits his roommate and NROTC classmate, Bob Noxon (a career Marine Corps officer) as “absolutely essential to my getting through...I leaned on his leadership, friendship, and unbelievable sense of humor almost every day.”

Since graduating from Carolina and commissioning as an Ensign in May 1980, Kenny has taken the valuable lessons learned at UNC along on his impressive journey to his current position. Kenny reported to Pensacola for flight training. He recalls, “Thanks to Captain Stevens, I had my mind right when I got to flight school and finished at the top!” Kenny was designated a Naval Flight Officer in August 1981. It was during flight training that he met his wife, Debbie, then a Navy nurse. Upon completing training in the F-14A at VF-101, he reported to VF-84 in May 1982 and made two Mediterranean deployments onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). Kenny recalls thinking, as a Lieutenant on his second cruise aboard NIMITZ,

(continued)

Alumni Focus (*cont.*)

“Why am I doing Navy stuff away from home, spouse, and family and getting shot off the front end (of the carrier) in the dark, in the back seat with no controls.” He sat in his stateroom doing the math, calculating a long 15 years until retirement. Little did he know then that his Naval career would take him much further than that calculated mark.

After his initial operational squadron tour, Kenny returned to VF-101 as a Fleet Replacement instructor in the F-14. In November 1987, he reported to VF-11 where he served as Assistant Maintenance Officer and Assistant Operations Officer and deployed to the Indian Ocean and North Atlantic Sea onboard USS FORRESTAL (CV 59). In February 1989 he reported to the Naval Space Command in Dahlgren, Virginia as Aide to the Commander and subsequently as Flag Lieutenant, Commander Carrier Group Eight in Norfolk Virginia in March 1990.

In November 1990, after completing F-14 refresher training at VF-101, Kenny reported to VF-33 where he served as Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer. While assigned to VF-33 he deployed to the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf in USS AMERICA (CV 66) for Desert Storm and also completed deployments to the Mediterranean and North Atlantic Sea. In July 1992, he was assigned to the Naval War College and received a Master of Arts degree upon graduating in June 1993. He then reported in July 1993 to the Commander, Fighter Wing, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and served as the Chief of Staff.

From there, he entered the path to the ultimate measure of a successful Naval career – command. Joining VF-32 on USS EISENHOWER (CVN 69) in the Arabian Gulf in December 1994, Kenny began his XO/CO tour ultimately taking command of the "Swordsmen" in April 1996. As CO, he deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf in USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71).

After a highly successful command tour, Kenny’s Navy journey continued taking the Floyds to Brussels, reporting to the United States Delegation to the Military Committee in October 1997 where he served on the staff of the United States Military Representative.

In December 1999, Kenny headed back to sea, to USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) as Executive Officer where he deployed to the Western Pacific in March 2001. After a brief stop in Saudi Arabia as the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia Deputy J3, he reported to CVW-7 in his present position as the Deputy Commander. He will eventually “fleet up” to be the Commander or “CAG”, in charge of all of the airplanes and aircraft squadron personnel embarked in an aircraft carrier.

Looking back to his “calculation” of 17 years ago, he says, “can't tell you how glad I am to have stayed Navy. Best job in the world working with the best people.....not gonna get rich monetarily (though never miss a paycheck). The satisfaction to me is in the people and the responsibility.....and that's really from day one as an ensign! Command of course is the ultimate....So 17 years later, we're O6's, and now we really can start making a difference!”

Kenny is a distinguished Naval leader we can be proud to call one of our own. Let’s all keep Captain Kenny Floyd in our thoughts and prayers, along with the rest of the active duty contingent of the Tarheel Navy, during these difficult times.

Do you have a friend or classmate who has done something noteworthy? Help us profile those Alums who have made a difference, in the Navy/Marine Corps or in the “civilian world.” Contact Bill Foster '80 via email with inputs: wffosterjr@aol.com

Congratulations Class of 2002

United States Naval Reserve

Ensign Maria Kristen Buss, NC, USNR
 Ensign Conor Ferguson Glover, USNR
 Ensign Lucas Michael Grant, USNR
 Ensign James Daniel Haley, USNR
 Ensign Kerry Patrick Hicks, USNR
 Ensign Adrienne Elizabeth Martin, NC, USNR
 Ensign Megan Jo McCarthy, USNR
 Ensign William Mason Phillips, USNR

United States Marine Corps Reserve

Second Lieutenant Charlotte Marie Pauline Brock, USMCR
 Second Lieutenant Kevin Scott Crockett, USMCR
 Second Lieutenant Luke Barkley Hardison, USMCR
 Second Lieutenant Roger Allen Holliday, Jr., USMCR
 Second Lieutenant Thomas Forest Lockwood, USMCR
 Second Lieutenant Jennifer Jaie Ryu, USMCR

PAT CONNOR AWARD

Congratulations to Kerry P. Hicks, this year's recipient of the Pat Connor Award. He will be reporting to flight training in Pensacola in July.



Visit our website at: <http://www@uncnrotcaa.org>

If you haven't received your member password for our web site, it's because we have no record of your e-mail address. To get your password, send an e-mail to webmaster@uncnrotcaa.org



In Memoriam

John Archibald McPhaul '45 died July 14, 2001. He was a stockbroker and investment counselor for 45 years. He was senior vice president of Whet First Securities Inc. in Southern Pines, NC

Richard Russell Brandt '48 died December 18, 2001.

William Kelso '52, of St. Petersburg, FL died August 8, 2001. He was a retired regional representative with IBM.

Alan Pultz '59 died October October 25, 2001. He was a director with A.L. P. Productions Inc. He was the director of General Hospital (1978-1999) and won the Director's Guild of America award for outstanding directorial achievement in 1995.

CDR Charles R. English USN (ret.) '61 died of a heart attack on August 31, 2001. Charlie was a life member of the UNC NROTC Alumni Association. His memorial service was held in Virginia Beach, VA and his burial service was held in Brevard, NC, his home town.

LT Eric Alan Cranford '92, an alumnus of NCSU and a graduate of the NROTC program (through the cross-town enrollment program) was killed in the Pentagon attack on September 11, 2001. Cranford, 32, went straight to naval aviation school upon graduation. He trained as a helicopter aviator in Texas and Florida, then joined a helicopter anti-submarine squadron in March 1995. His first sea assignment was on the cruiser *Gettysburg* in April 1996, followed by tours on the *McInerney* and *Carr*, both guided missile frigates. He joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in April 1999.

USS Cole (DDG 67) Homecoming

April 26, 2002

by Harold Brown '72

It was surely a morning only a sailor could love. Flat seas under rainy gray skies with low ceilings and visibility down to 3 miles. I thought more than once that it would be too easy for a fresh, green crew to scrape the bottom on this cold, wet day with millions of American eyes on them. But the old hands carried the day. CFR Kevin M. Sweeney and his crew brought the guided missile destroyer up the Elizabeth River into the Norfolk Naval Station to Pier 4 safely and on time. The Determined Warrior was home.

After an Odyssey-like adventure that began in August, 2000 with a scheduled six month deployment to the Persian Gulf, the *USS Cole* had made a week-long training run from Grumman's Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, MS to its homeport in Norfolk, VA. The *Cole* was attacked by terrorists on October 12, 2000 leaving 17 dead and a gaping hole on the port side, amidships. During the 18 months the guided missile destroyer was in the yards, the 509 foot ship had two of its gas turbine engines replaced, 350,000 feet of electrical wiring run and 350 tons of steel welded into place on the 6 year-old vessel.

The homecoming preparations for the families welcoming the *Cole* back to Norfolk on April 26 began the evening before with a briefing from the Captain of *Cole*'s pier-side neighbor. This Captain assured all crew member's families that the Navy wanted a low key welcome home. The base was closed to the public for the day and the ship was not expecting visitors other than family members. The Navy wanted to provide some relief to the families seeking closure in the deaths of their loved ones. At Pier 4, two tents were set up: one for the families of the sailors who died in the attack; and the second for the families of new crew members. Once the *Cole* was tied up, an orange snow fence separated the two sets of family members so that the people who had lost a family member could go aboard first. Officers and CPO's were assigned as escorts for the grieving families. One of the areas where families congregated after their tour of the ship was the crews mess. The passageway surrounding the mess contained 17 stars to honor the fallen crew. A plaque was hung on the bulkhead near the mess entrance with the photos and life history of each sailor killed that day. It was a touching memorial. I was glad that the Navy did it right. My hat is off to CDR Sweeney for a deft touch handling his ship and crew.

I was in Norfolk to visit my son, Ensign Wesley A. Brown, and to go aboard a Navy ship for the first time in over 25 years. Wes was recently assigned to the *USS Cole* in the Weapons Department and is currently serving as the Ordnance Officer. I believe he is beginning to understand that serving aboard a Navy combat ship is a 24/7/365 assignment. He likes his work and is providing new answers to questions parents ask, such as, "What does a kid do who isn't allowed to play with guns or have a pet as he grows up?" He joins the Navy, gets assigned to the ship's armory and buys a dog.

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USS Cole (DDG 67) Homecoming April 26, 2002

Continued from previous page

In the mid-70's, I had always thought I was a modern day sailor. The two ships I served aboard were WWII relics, the USS *R H McCard* (DD822) and the USS *F D Roosevelt* (CVA42). The visit to the *Cole* told me how out-of-date I really am. Compared to the FRAM II *Rockin' Bobby McCard*, the *Cole* felt liked being aboard a starship. The Combat Information Center on the *McCard* was just large enough for three scopes and a navigation table; the color geo screens and multiple terminals for surface, air and submarine tracking and weapons control on the *Cole* were really impressive. I hope that stuff works. The *Rusty Rosey* was just that: an old ship with too many sailors for her size and a mission equal to that of the newer carriers of the day, like the *Kennedy*. I couldn't relate to my son's current dilemma: another set of exercise equipment, including a treadmill, was being installed to complement the existing weight room on the starboard side. He really would like to have access to a treadmill on the ship but wasn't keen on losing a Weapons Department space to it. It wouldn't register. However, nothing brought my old school ways front and center like the fact that two of the 17 sailors killed aboard the USS *Cole* that day in October, 2000 were women. We've come a long way.

The trip to Norfolk was cathartic. It's good to be reminded where you've been. It's also good to see where events are going in order to put life's lessons into perspective. I have maintained a place close to my heart for Navy ships and sailors at sea. I was pleasantly shocked when my son unexpectedly announced he was going to join the Navy and see the world. Been there; enjoyed doing that. When the USS *Cole* was attacked, I may have paid closer attention than many outside the Navy. I couldn't believe my son was being assigned to the one warship I could immediately recognize and had tried to follow since the day it was loaded onto a heavy-lift transport ship to return to the US for repairs. I will continue to follow the USS *Cole* especially since my son is on board. Good luck to her, her Captain, and her crew.

2002 Alumni Registration Form

You have already paid your dues for 2002. Use this form only if you wish to update personal information, make charitable donations, purchase a membership directory or convert to life membership now.

Name _____ UNC Class _____ or Staff _____
 Military Rank (current, retired, or at the time of discharge) _____ Branch of Service _____
 Street Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
 Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

If still serving in the military:

Duty Station: _____
 Billet Title: _____

Tax Deductible Contributions or Life Membership:

Memorial to honor UNC Alumni who died on active duty _____

Scholarship Fund _____

LT Patrick K. Connor, USN Memorial Fund _____

Capt. David Dawson, USMC Memorial Fund _____

I desire to convert to life membership now: _____

One time payment \$350 or installments of \$125 for three years _____

Membership Directory

2002 NROTC Alumni Association Directory@\$10.00 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Care to pay by credit card?

Circle one: VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS MASTERCARD

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Thank You!

Make checks payable to “**UNC NROTC Alumni Association**” and mail to:

Mark Whitson
 c/o Maupin Taylor & Ellis, PA
 Drawer 19764
 Raleigh, NC 27619

or you can make payment via our secure web site: **<http://www.uncnrotcaa.org>**

LET YOUR CLASSMATES KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING THESE DAYS!

“Whisper & Gossip” inputs for the September newsletter.

(Inputs may also be e-mailed directly to Vicki Stephens '82 at Vicki205@aol.com)

ELECTIONS THIS FALL

The success of our organization is driven by board members willing to contribute their ideas and a little time. We will have elections during our next Fall meeting to select some upcoming vacant spots on our board of directors. Each term is 2 years. Service on the board requires travel to Chapel Hill twice a year. The rest of the business is accomplished through emails and conference calls. We have a wide variety of committees on which you can choose to volunteer. If you are dedicated toward the future of our organization and would consider board membership in the coming year, please check the box and a board member will contact you this summer to answer you questions and tell you more.

I am interested in serving on the board of directors in during the next term (2003-2004).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

We are looking for volunteers to support our organization as class representatives. Duties would include verifying the accuracy of our alumni database, encouraging classmates to join our organization and participate in events and providing ideas/feedback to the board of directors. If you can help, please check the box below. We'll publish the list of class representatives in our next newsletter.

I would like to serve as a class representative for class _____.