



From The

Bridge

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

2011 ISSUE 1

Challenges and Opportunities

As 2011 begins, we have an opportunity to reflect on 2010 in terms of what donors have made possible for the Naval Academy, as well as look ahead.

Without question, support for the Naval Academy Annual Fund has been a highlight of 2010. Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund totaled more than \$7.8 million, exceeding our annual goal of \$7.5 million. Many of our donors ask us why we put so much emphasis on meeting this requirement each and every year. The answer has three parts, each important in its own right. First, the Annual Fund provides very important resources for the Superintendent's use each year. From jumpstarting new initiatives in advance of appropriated federal funds to meeting emergent unbudgeted needs, unrestricted support allows the Superintendent great flexibility to address funding shortfalls across the full spectrum of the curriculum. Secondly, Annual Fund gifts supplement Alumni Association program revenue to ensure that member services such as *Shipmate* magazine and the Service Academy Career Conference continue without interruption. And finally, the Annual Fund fully funds the Naval Academy Foundation's operations, enabling an average of more than \$20 million per year to be made available to support Naval Academy programs.

2010 has also seen a transition in senior leadership at the Naval Academy with the assumption of command, in August, of Vice Admiral

Mike Miller '74, USN, as the 61st Superintendent. Admiral Miller immediately committed himself to supporting the Foundation, traveling extensively on behalf of both the Foundation and the Alumni Association throughout the fall. In New Orleans, Denver, Colorado Springs, Cincinnati, Charlotte, Greensboro/Winston-Salem, New York City and Raleigh/Durham, the Superintendent engaged our donors and reinforced both his gratitude, and the continuing need, for private philanthropy in support of the Naval Academy.

Among the Superintendent's areas of focus this past fall has been continued work on the Naval Academy's Strategic Plan 2020. This significant compilation of strategic imperatives, initiated by former-Superintendent Vice Admiral Jeff Fowler '78, USN, will update and expand opportunities for donors to provide private support for a wide variety of curricular initiatives that enable excellence in all three elements of the Academy's mission—the moral, mental and physical development of midshipmen. At the same time, it will reinforce enduring program priorities in academics, athletics, admissions, character and ethics that will require continued private gift support in order to sustain the level of excellence that has been achieved by virtue of robust private support. As senior Academy leadership further refines this vision for the Academy at the end of the next

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Photo by the U.S. Naval Academy Photo Lab

Leadership by Example

In early 2009, in the midst of the nation's recent economic recession, the Naval Academy Foundation was faced with yet another severe financial challenge. A major pledge of support had been lost, and the Foundation was faced with the daunting task of finding leadership donors who would step up and fill the gap created by this significant and unexpected loss, and do so during an economic downturn of historic proportions.

Into this void stepped 39 leaders, pledging in excess of \$9 million of philanthropic support for the Foundation and the Naval Academy and making possible a remarkable recovery from this financial challenge. Nicknamed TERP, for The Enterprise Recovery Plan, this tremendously generous outpouring of support exemplifies the culture of philanthropy that our loyal donors have created over the past decade, and it stands as a profound endorsement of the Naval Academy and its mission.

To these leadership donors, and indeed, to all who have offered gifts of support to the Academy via the Foundation, we extend our most grateful thanks. You make possible the daily demonstration of excellence in the Yard. ■



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
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Challenges and Opportunities

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decade, the USNA Strategic Plan 2020 will lay the groundwork for Foundation planning that will chart a course to our next comprehensive campaign.

2011 will present its share of challenges. The Foundation, led by President and CEO Byron Marchant '78, will work collaboratively with Academy leadership as it finalizes the Strategic Plan. This review of what initiatives are appropriate for private support, and to what degree they will require private funding, will be framed in the context of the uneven recovery of the national economy from recession and the continuing uncertainty of economic forecasts.

We also are implementing a significant staff restructuring that began this past summer. This redesign will make the Foundation (and the Alumni Association) more financially sustainable. It also contains elements designed to make the Alumni Association and Foundation better able to work in concert across the spectrum of friend-raising to fund-raising. This will include more emphasis on cultivation and stewardship of parents of midshipmen and young alumni (classes who have graduated in the last 15 years), as well as an added focus on support for athletic excellence. In the process, we have gotten smaller as a staff, and the adjustment to new roles and responsibilities will be a focus of our effort in early 2011.

We maintain a very optimistic outlook for the Foundation and its support for the Naval Academy. The loyalty and generosity that you, our donors, have demonstrated throughout the first decade of the new century has been remarkable, and we look forward to working with you as we look to new horizons in 2011. ■

Editor's note

From The Bridge is published periodically by the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation and Alumni Association. From the Bridge replaces three previous newsletters—the Navigator, President's Circle and Campaign newsletters. It offers a single, integrated newsletter for donors and friends.

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Parents Fund

Three of a Kind



The Foxton family: Ken, Samantha, Heather, Julie and Josh at the 2010 Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego, CA

Julie and Ken Foxton of Columbia, MD, have a license plate that reads “USNA 3.” As the parents of multiple midshipmen—Samantha ('07), Joshua ('09) and Heather ('12)—their enthusiasm for the United States Naval Academy can be seen, quite literally, wherever they go.

The Foxtons started their journey with USNA in 2002 when Samantha was accepted to a prep school year through the Naval Academy Foundation.

“We began volunteering with the New Jersey Parents club and then at different events at the Academy,” explained Ken. “Along that journey we realized that there had been a lot of parents and alumni before us that had given not only of their time but of their financial resources as well. Stepping up to the next level of giving was a foregone conclusion.”

Julie and Ken have been President's Circle donors since 2004.

“The midshipmen of today and tomorrow deserve the best we can give, for soon we'll call upon them to give us their best!”

They also serve as associate trustees for the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation's Athletic & Scholarship Program (A&SP) that had helped Samantha in 2002. A&SP provides scholarships to promising Naval Academy applicants who've shown excellent leadership, scholastic and athletic potential in high school yet would benefit from an extra year at a prep school before entering the rigorous Academy. Through A&SP, both Samantha and Heather Foxton received partial scholarships to Northwestern, a military prep school in Crestline, CA.

“A lot of young adults graduate from high school and don't know what they want their major to be in college, let alone what they want to do for the rest of their life,” Samantha said. “Northwestern gave me a chance to figure out my next step.”

As for Heather, Northwestern helped her “to mature and come to the Academy with a more positive attitude and understanding of why we do what we do during Plebe Summer and why it is all worth it.”

Today, Lieutenant (junior grade) Samantha Foxton '07, USN, serves as a fire control officer and command fitness leader aboard the guided-missile cruiser PRINCETON out of San Diego and is preparing to head overseas for duty in Bahrain. Second Lieutenant Josh Foxton '09, USMC, began flight school earlier this year in Pensacola, FL. Midshipman Heather Foxton '12 studies political science and Japanese at the Academy.

All three Foxton children were avid swimmers as youths and can credit the sport as their introduction to the Academy.

"When we lived just outside of Patuxent River, MD, we used to come up for the kids' swim meets at the Academy," Ken said. "We used to talk about how great it would be if one of our kids were to go to school there. Never in our wildest dreams did we think all three would."

It was the events of September 11, 2001, that truly steered the Foxton kids toward a future in the military. Shortly after the attacks, the family (living in New Jersey at the time) traveled with their church youth group to Ground Zero to bring supplies to rescue workers. Samantha had just started her senior year in high school and Josh his freshman year.

"That was when Samantha came to us and said she wanted to serve in the military," Julie recalled.

Their recent move to Columbia has made it easier for the Foxtons to be involved with the Academy and their children, not that distance has stopped them before. They also serve as Blue & Gold Officers, helping to train a network of volunteers who assist in the candidate admissions process.

Ken also began volunteering on the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation's Council for Annual Giving (CAG),

a volunteer group that meets three times a year to advise the Foundation regarding their giving programs, efforts to grow donor participation and consistency of message and marketing with particular emphasis to grow unrestricted gifts.

"It seemed a logical extension that I take the skills and experience I have developed running successful businesses and apply them to the Council for Annual Giving," said Ken. "The professionals that make up the CAG are dedicated advocates for the Foundation, promoting unrestricted support, annual giving and consistent donor participation by all constituents."

As donors, volunteers and advocates, the Foxtons inspire others to become engaged as they are with the Naval Academy family.

"We just want to continue doing what we're doing: being unofficial spokespeople for the Academy," said Ken.

"The gift for us is getting to know great people," added Julie. "As Navy parents, it's about helping everyone. You're part of a team—you're part of a bigger family." ■



Lieutenant (junior grade) Samantha Foxton '07, USN; Second Lieutenant Josh Foxton '09, USMC; and Midshipman Heather Foxton '12 back in 2009 at Josh's graduation and commissioning.



*"Hear Ye, Hear Ye
President's Circle Donors.
The Zoomies are
Coming to Town!"*

President's Circle Weekend 2011 is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 30 and October 1. Mark your calendar now! An invitation to this special event for our special donors will be mailed at a later date.

GO NAVY, BEAT AIR FORCE!

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Please contact  
Jessica Hassay, Assistant Director,  
for information on how to join the  
President's Circle.  
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*President's  
Circle*



## Getting Fit with Philanthropy



Carl Liebert '87 and Tony Wells '86

One year ago, 24 Hour Fitness opened its doors in Annapolis, just five miles from the Naval Academy. At the same time, 24 Hour Fitness, with Carl Liebert '87 as CEO, rehabbed and outfitted the Halsey Field House weight room with state-of-the-art fitness equipment.

"The multi-purpose gym holds a special place for me," said Liebert. "When I was a plebe and didn't make the varsity basketball team and played on the JV team, we practiced in Halsey Field House. I like to think that made me a better person... I know it made me a better basketball player."

He had the privilege of playing on Navy's nationally-ranked basketball team in the late 80s. Liebert's focus has helped lead him to success in the business world as well.

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## From the Field to the Fleet



To get an idea of how seriously athletics is taken at the Naval Academy, consider that in the 2009–2010 school year, Navy posted an impressive record of 294–173–2 among its 32 varsity sports, good for an exceptional, .629 winning percentage.

Along the way, the Academy produced 14 All-Americans, 13 conference athletes of the year and seven conference coaches of the year. In the classroom, Navy student-athletes also shined as usual. The midshipmen boasted eight academic All-Americans, five Patriot League scholar athletes of the year, 176 Patriot League Honor Roll recipients, and its football team ranked second in graduation rate among Football Bowl Subdivision schools.

As good as that was, consider it also marked a slight step backward from 2008–2009, when Navy set a school record with 317 victories and its best winning percentage (.670) ever.

While it exists to train future Navy and Marine officers and does so

by imposing enormous academic and military demands on its 4,400 midshipmen, the Academy is driven hard to succeed on the playing field as well.

The evidence is clear in the record books. It is equally clear in how strongly the school is committed to sports as part of its core mission, from the athletic department to the Naval Academy Athletic Association. For starters, look at the massive facelift that has taken place at the Naval Academy over the past decade, thanks in large part to \$254 million in private funding raised by the Naval Academy Foundation between 1999 and 2005.

There is the \$42 million renovation to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, home of the Academy's football and lacrosse teams; the 170,000-square foot Brigade Sports Complex, featuring an Olympic-size ice rink, six indoor and outdoor tennis courts, golf instruction stations and a fitness center; Max Bishop Stadium, the renovated

baseball facility; the renovated and expanded Robert Crown Sailing Center; the Glenn Warner Soccer Facility; the Bilderback-Moore Navy Lacrosse Hall of Fame; and the publicly-funded Wesley A.

Brown Field House, the school's state-of-the-art track and field and indoor football practice facility.

"Athletics are so important here," said Captain Ed Wallace '72, USN (Ret.), vice president of the Foundation's Athletic & Scholarship Programs. "It's a great way to advertise a good school. It's also a great way to brag about the role models we have here. There's a very high correlation between being a varsity athlete here and being successful after graduation, whether it's in the business world or spending 20-plus years in the military."

*"Playing sports at the Academy forced you into situations where you had to learn leadership skills..."*

—Major Nicole Anuapu Mann '99, USMC

Major Nicole Anuapu Mann '99, USMC, who starred on the women's soccer team and was Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1999, still draws on her playing days for coach Carin

Gabarra. Mann is a Marine Corps test pilot with well over 1,000 flight hours.

"Playing sports at the Academy forced you into situations where you had to learn leadership skills," Mann said. "Getting ready to play a game equals the same kind of feeling I get before I fly. You're strapped into a 40,000-pound jet, headed for a mission over Iraq or Afghanistan. You're nervous and excited and it's game time. It's time to perform. Then, you take off and you're playing in the moment." ■



Photo by Phil Hoffmann

## Corporate and Foundation Relations

*Continued from page 4*

He credits his training and education at the Naval Academy for setting his standards high and preparing him to lead.

"My first assignment on a 44-year old oiler out of Norfolk, VA, I learned more about leadership in two and a half years on that ship than I've learned in any other job," said Leibert.

He credits clarity of mission and strong leadership as the foundation for any successful endeavor. He saw it at the Academy, and he strives for it in his day-to-day work. Simply stated, Carl's mission and the mission of 24 Hour Fitness is "to change people's lives through fitness."

His commitment to the physical mission is evident—in both his professional and personal life. Further, his sense of philanthropic responsibility began in his childhood with his parents and was developed at the Naval Academy.

"I have a responsibility that I need to give back," Carl said. He's been very active with KaBOOM, a non-profit organization specializing in creating playgrounds for children; serves on the boards of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation and the V Foundation for Cancer Research; and continues to donate to the Naval Academy through the Foundation.

One of Carl's teammates from the Naval Academy, Tony Wells '86, joined 24 Hour Fitness as the Chief Marketing Officer. "After almost 30 years, we've teamed back up to try to do something that we really believe in," Tony explained. "We've been trying to do our little bit to help support the Naval Academy and support more wins." ■

## Corporate and Foundation Relations

### Keeping it Local

The Corporate Member Program is designed to build productive and mutually beneficial long-term relationships between the USNA Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation and the local business community.

“USAA enjoys a strong partnership with the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation, bringing together two long-established associations with similar appreciation for the Naval Academy and alumni at large,” said Captain Mary Jo “MJ” Sweeney, USN (Ret.), USAA military affairs representative. “Through the corporate partnership, USAA has access to events which enables us to showcase our products and services to the newest generation of potential USAA members, the midshipmen, as well as alumni.”

With more than 50 corporate members, the program includes diverse business groups and offers a local networking opportunity for members while supporting the Naval Academy and the Brigade of Midshipmen.

“As a corporate member, we not only stay connected with our fellow business associates, but we are also able to help provide support for one of the world’s most prestigious institutions along with its history and tradition,” said Gary Zorn, vice president for operations at Frank Gumpert Printing. ■

## Corporate and Foundation Relations

### A Foundation of Support

Native Texan George Strake seems to have lived many lives. At age 75, he is chairman and CEO of Strake Energy, an independent oil and gas operator in Houston. He’s a politico too: he served as Texas Secretary of State under Governor Bill Clements from 1979 to 1981 and as State Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas from 1983 to 1988.

As president of the Strake Foundation, he’s also a philanthropist. “We give to hospitals, non-tax-supported schools, think tanks and Veterans Affairs buildings,” Strake said. “Our [funds] have been diminished with the fall of the stock market, but we intend to keep going.” He also donates to Helping a Hero, a foundation chaired by fellow Houstonian Meredith Iler, that builds houses for wounded soldiers back home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

“My foundation is about education, hospitals and being strong American patriots,” Strake said. And with all the awards he’s received for his extensive community and charitable work (he was given the title Honorary Lance Corporal from the United States Marine Corps), it’s pretty obvious he, too, is one of those American patriots.

Strake first heard about the Naval Academy’s Center for Middle Eastern



*“The Naval Academy stands for something good, and I am proud of the Academy’s young men and women.”*

and Islamic Studies (CMEIS) while serving as chairman of U.S.

Congressman John Culberson’s screening committee, which selects stellar high school students in Texas for appointments to the Naval Academy.

Established in 2005, CMEIS serves as an on-campus resource on the



history, religion, language, politics and cultures of the Middle East, where many midshipmen will serve during their professional military careers. The Center coordinates curriculum development and study abroad opportunities for midshipmen, and brings guest lecturers to the Academy. The Center is thriving thanks to generous private gifts including significant support from the Strake Foundation.

“Federal dollars weren’t covering teachings on the Arab world. It made a lot of sense to give to the Center,” Strake said. With travel and study abroad opportunities in places such as Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Oman, Kuwait and Israel, CMEIS is providing midshipmen valuable knowledge about this pivotal region of the world.

Strake explains it this way: “If you were going to be sent to France, your chances of being accepted in that country would be greater if you had made some attempt to learn basic French and become accustomed to the culture. We need to give every opportunity to the young men and women who will be on the ground in the Middle East to know more about the people they’re helping or even fighting against.”

Strake has long admired the Naval Academy. “When I got out of high school, I considered attending the Naval Academy, but ended up

going to Notre Dame,” he says. “I always liked the idea of serving in the military, but the physics and calculus requirements kept me away from the Academy,” he laughs.

Strake fondly recalls the first time he ever visited the Academy. It was 1956, and he was Senior Class President at Notre Dame. Some members of the senior class traveled to Baltimore to see a Notre Dame–Navy football game. He stopped in Annapolis to tour the Academy and was impressed. Years later, when a friend’s brother announced he’d been recruited by the Air Force Academy, Strake convinced him to go to the Naval Academy instead.

Strake earned an economics degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1957. Commissioned in the United States Navy at graduation through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), he served for two years aboard RICE COUNTY. “The Navy is where I went from being a boy to a man,” he says. He went on to earn an MBA from Harvard University in 1961.

Strake and his wife, Annette, live in Houston. They have six children and 17 grandchildren. Could any of his grandchildren attend the Academy one day? “Maybe,” Strake replied. “The Naval Academy stands for something good, and I am proud of the Academy’s young men and women.” ■

## Athletic and Scholarship Programs

### The Class of 1955 Honor Scholar



Midshipman Tyler J. Mulloy '14 and Vice Admiral Hank Mustin '55, USN (Ret.), president of the Class of 1955

The recipient of the Class of 1955 Honor Scholar, Midshipman Tyler J. Mulloy '14, met members of the class at their fall reunion at the Navy football home opener against Georgia Southern. Mulloy attended Mercersburg Academy as part of the Athletic & Scholarship Programs Prep School Program. While there, he ran track and played soccer. He served as captain of the soccer team and received the Steiger MVP Cup soccer award. Tyler graduated from high school at Iolani School in Honolulu, HI, where he received varsity letters in soccer, cross country and track. He was first team All-State in cross country and track and captain of both teams for two years. Tyler was also a member of the Red Cross Club, Students for Drug Awareness Club, Economics Club and the Futbol Club. ■



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Photo by Alison Harbaugh, [frecklephotography.com](http://frecklephotography.com)

*Every gift counts, every donor matters.*