

# The Blackshirts of National Defense



## University of Nebraska

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps



### Mission

To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically, and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission graduates as officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.

## UNL NROTC Battalion



Visit us on the web at [www.unl.edu/nrotc](http://www.unl.edu/nrotc)

# UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NAVAL ROTC



## SPRING 2010



## CO's Corner *By Captain Jeffrey Whiting*



The spring semester crept by during one of the coldest winters in the last 20 years of Nebraska's history. Luckily, the weather kept people indoors to study (I hope). It certainly didn't slow down the thinking and discussions of the seniors in my Leadership and Ethics class. It was quite an experience to discuss ancient philosophers' views on ethics in the context of modern military ethics with our bright and engaging graduating midshipmen. I believe all of us learned more than expected.

Now that good weather is upon us, we are preparing for the Chancellor's Review, Navy Day, Graduation and Commissioning. The end of the year is coming at us fast, and the end of college will soon be upon our graduating seniors. Our seniors will graduate and immediately afterwards become commissioned officers in the Navy and the Marine Corps. We

CO's Corner	1	look forward to their continued successes and hope that we have prepared them for the challenges that
XO's Corner	2	they will surely face.
BNCO's Corner	3	There are still many of us who will still be here
Battalion Activities	4-5	next year to continue to carry out the mission of NROTC. Everyone needs to remember to keep active
Tulane Drill Competition	6-7	and healthy over the summer, keep mentally prepared
Mess Night	8-9	as well (take the initiative to experience a book from
Community Service	10	at the CNO's or CMC's reading list), and return
Hail & Farewells	11-13	ready for an eventful fall semester. We look forward
Graduating Seniors	14-17	to the new class of freshman who will arrive to start
Battalion Information	18-21	their own journey to commissioning in the United States Naval Service.

# XO's Corner

By Commander Kevin Wesley



Another successful semester is quickly coming to a close. The oppressive Nebraskan winter has given way to the excitement that we associate with the completion of another academic year and the preparation for a multitude of spring ceremonies. For our Seniors, this translates into Graduation and Commissioning!

Congratulations to the rest of the Battalion as well for another stellar semester of service, dedication and performance. Continue to work hard and concentrate your efforts on maximizing all that Summer training has to offer-as is the case with most things in life, you get out of it, what you put into it. Take care of yourselves AND your buddy throughout your training!

I cannot express how impressed I am with the Senior class that will be reporting to the Fleet in a few short weeks. With the utmost sincerity, I fully expect great achievements from every individual in this outstanding class. Thank you for your leadership within the Battalion, and more importantly, for your decision to serve our Nation.



MIDN Will McLaughlin  
MIDN Austin Kromberg  
MIDN Miles Essay

MIDN Chris Tomlinson  
MIDN Cassandra Powell

MIDN Michael Schiavine

MIDN Samuel Lee

Edgar J. Boschult Memorial Scholarship  
Edgar J. Boschult Memorial Scholarship  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Award  
Powell Scholarship  
Supreme Counsel of the Scottish Rite of  
Freemasonry  
Daughters of the founders of the patriots  
of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
Award



## TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Gretta Walter  
Tide and Current Advisor: Captain Mitch Grey

Special Thanks to all the writers and editors for their contributions!

## Congratulations Top 6, Fall 2010

Battalion Commander: MIDN Daniel Walkemeyer  
Battalion Executive Officer: MIDN Samuel Lee  
Operations Officer: MIDN Jeffery Skiles  
Administration Officer: MIDN Janice Vanourney  
A Company Commander: MIDN Charles Lewis  
B Company Commander: MIDN Rick Holdcroft

## Awards

<b>LCDR Chris Wichman</b>	<b>Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal</b>
<b>Capt Mitch Grey</b>	<b>Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal</b>
<b>LT Michael Lee</b>	<b>Navy Commendation Medal</b>
<b>LT Sean Flanagan</b>	<b>Navy Commendation Medal</b>
<b>MIDN Janice Vanourney</b>	<b>Chancellors Academic Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Adam Flannery</b>	<b>Chancellors Academic Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Adam Flannery</b>	<b>Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship</b>
<b>MIDN Adam Flannery</b>	<b>Reserve Officer Association Award</b>
<b>MIDN Jared Dawson</b>	<b>Reserve Officer Association Award</b>
<b>MIDN Jeffrey Skiles</b>	<b>Reserve Officer Association Award</b>
<b>MIDN Chris Tomlinson</b>	<b>Sons of the American Revolution Award</b>
<b>MIDN Cassandra Powell</b>	<b>National Sojourners Award</b>
<b>MIDN Joshua Curry</b>	<b>Forty and Eight Scholarship Award</b>
<b>MIDN Ryan Reeder</b>	<b>Veterans of Foreign Wars Award</b>
<b>MIDN Jeffrey Skiles</b>	<b>Katherine B. Weber Scholarship</b>
<b>MIDN Janice Vanourney</b>	<b>Katherine B. Weber Scholarship</b>
<b>MIDN Ryan Reeder</b>	<b>Military order of the World Wars Award</b>
<b>MIDN Sara Prewett</b>	<b>Military order of the World Wars Award</b>
<b>MIDN Austin Kromberg</b>	<b>Military order of the World Wars Award</b>
<b>MIDN Eric Russell</b>	<b>General Military Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Janice Vanourney</b>	<b>General Military Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Miles Essay</b>	<b>General Military Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Gretta Walter</b>	<b>General Military Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Travis Davidson</b>	<b>General Scholastic Excellence Award</b>
<b>MIDN Joseph Boyer</b>	<b>Daughters of the American Revolution</b>
<b>MIDN Greg Syers</b>	<b>National Defense Industrial Association</b>
<b>MIDN Steve Glendenning</b>	<b>Society of the War of 1812 Award</b>
<b>MIDN Greg Syers</b>	<b>Sons of the Union Veterans - Civil War</b>
<b>MIDN Miles Essay</b>	<b>Sons of the Union Veterans - Civil War</b>

## BNCO's Corner

*By MIDN Eric Russell*

While serving as the Battalion Commanding Officer (BNCO), I have learned that there are many expectations that occur while serving in a high position of responsibility. My greatest functions were to provide guidance, show concern for specific issues and maintain situational awareness. It has been an honor to watch our Battalion grow and learn throughout the semester.



Initially, I approached this position with hesitation, having previously hoped to merely supervise and mentor junior midshipmen and “coast” through my final semester within the unit. Although I did get the opportunity to take on my initial aspirations, I also assumed the responsibilities as BNCO. Looking back, I wouldn't want it any other way. I have learned a great deal about myself and the members of the Battalion. I have been impressed with my staff and fellow midshipmen. I feel like I have grown as a leader and challenges that I overcame will assist me as a Marine Corps Officer. I have a new found personal pride in the NROTC Unit, and greater admiration for the Naval Service.

The pride our unit possesses can be seen in a variety of ways. The manner in which Midshipmen carry themselves is the most prominent characteristic, whether it be grooming standards, customs and courtesies, or general professionalism. I and the members of the NROTC Battalion are proud in how we represent the Naval Services. Our pride is nationally recognizable since placing second in platoon basic drill at the Tulane Drill Competition. We continue to expand our influence on the local community through volunteer clubs, highway cleanups, intramural sports, and color guards.

I appreciate the mentorship and guidance from the NROTC Staff. I credit them for my success in the program through the past four years. I would like to commend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln NROTC Battalion for their performance throughout this semester. They provided me invaluable learning experiences. Hopefully they too took something positive away from my time as BNCO. Keep up the good work, enjoy your summer, and be sure to hit the ground running in the fall. Carpe Diem and Semper Fidelis!

# Battalion Activities



**Awards** (Top left) MIDN Reeder is presented a trophy from the Commanding Officer for his efforts as platoon commander at the Tulane Drill Competition. The team placed 2nd in platoon basic drill. (Top right) MIDN Peterson is sworn in by the Commanding Officer, upon receiving the NROTC scholarship.

**Guest Speakers** Rear Admiral Gary Watters, a UNL NROTC alumnus, discusses the future of the us Naval service.



**Naval Science Lab** Once a week, all Midshipmen participate in Naval Science Lab. This consists of different activities and lessons that help us focus on Officer development. (Bottom left) Dr. Schmidt instructs a self-defense class. (Bottom right) CAPT Terry Stentz, US Navy (Ret), from the Construction Management College, UNL, provides a leadership lecture to the Midshipmen Battalion.



**REMINDER:** Your donations to the NROTC through the UNL Alumni Association are welcomed. Your financial contributions allow the NROTC Foundation to make students stronger in all areas. Thank you for your generous support!

YES! I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT NROTC FOUNDATION!

Enclosed is my check made payable to: **UNL Foundation #27780** for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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(All personal information is kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with any organization outside NROTC.) Gifts to NROTC through the UNL Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**PLEASE DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:**

**NROTC at UNL**

**Attn: Commanding Officer**

**103 M&N Building**

**Lincoln, NE 68588-0139**

Alumni interested in being sponsors for Orientation Week 2010, please contact the NROTC Unit Executive Officer.

**CDR Kevin Wesley**

**(402) 472-4441**

### ROTC Alumni Group forming!

We are currently in the process of forming an alumni group for the University of Nebraska ROTC. This is a chance for you to connect or reconnect with your fellow ROTC friends.

### PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

We are planning an inaugural event for Friday, Nov. 12, 2010 in Lincoln, Neb. An informal meeting to discuss the formation of the group will be held at 3:30 p.m. that day at the M&N building on the UNL campus. Following the meeting, everyone is invited to attend "Football Friday" at the Wick Alumni Center. Football Friday is the place where alumni, fans and friends gather before each Husker home game to enjoy food, fun and Husker spirit, and get the scoop on the next day's game from our panel of sports writers and former Huskers.

At 7 p.m., you and a guest are invited to stay for a cocktail reception at the Wick Alumni Center to celebrate the formation of the group and to reconnect with each other.

Nebraska plays KU on Saturday, Nov. 13. This is the Salute to the Veterans game. Please let us know **by July 1, 2010** if you are interested in a pair of game tickets and we will enter your name into a drawing for tickets. Please note the game tickets do need to be used by a veteran and his/her guest.

We hope you are able to attend some or all of the events we have planned. A formal invitation with more details will follow.

In the meantime, if you would like to take an active role in helping to form the alumni group, planning this event, or have any additional questions, please contact Brooke Janousek, Nebraska Alumni Association at [bjanousek@huskeralum.org](mailto:bjanousek@huskeralum.org), or Kimberly Pappas, ROTC at [kpapas2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:kpapas2@unlnotes.unl.edu)



**Rifle Pistol** MIDN Glendenning firing from the prone position during the Rifle/Pistol team practice. This was in preparation for the annual Tri-Service Rifle/Pistol competition hosted by the UNL NROTC.

**FEX 1** Each Spring, Marine Option midshipmen travel to Camp Ashland to participate in a Small Unit Leadership Evaluation (SULE 1). This experience prepares midshipmen who will be attending Officer Candidates School (OCS) this summer. (Right) MIDN 1/C Bromen reads an operation order aloud to MIDN 2/C Reeder.



**Battalion Picnic** The end of the year picnic provided Midshipmen an opportunity to relax while enjoying various activities. (Above) MIDN Whitted catches a Frisbee in mid-air. (Right) The Commanding Officer provides the results for the Top 6 staff for the Fall Semester of 2010.



# Tulane Drill Competition

By MIDN Ryan Reeder



After two semesters and countless hours of practice, the day finally arrived for our NROTC Battalion Drill Team to make its annual trip down to New Orleans, Louisiana for the Tulane University Drill Competition. The trip there and back was extremely long and tiring; the NROTC Staff shared driving duties and attempted to keep Midshipmen's spirits up. Unlike years past, the cold northern weather traveled down with us, and we occasionally saw sleet and snow throughout the trip. Upon arrival, the weather forced the competition indoors, catching every competing university and academy off guard. Although our drill team had not proficiently practiced the inclement weather card, they performed admirably, keeping true to the motto of "Semper Gumby". The platoon drill placed 2nd, the color guard placed 5th, and the entire NROTC Drill Team placed 5th out of 47 competing universities and academies. The Midshipman carried themselves with the utmost professionalism and were exemplary ambassadors of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The trip to New Orleans was an immense success and the NROTC Battalion looks forward to carrying on their winning tradition through next year's competition.



(above) The NROTC Battalion Drill Team

# Congratulations Seniors!



**2nd Lt William Walter**

**Major:**  
History

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA

**2nd Lt Matthew Zach**

**Major:**  
Biochemistry

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



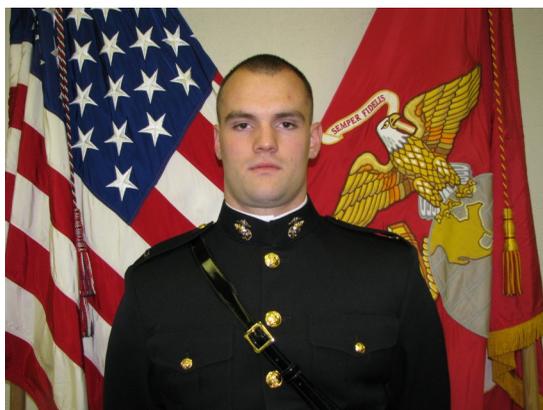
# Congratulations Seniors!



**2nd Lt Parker Lacy**

**Major:**  
Construction Management

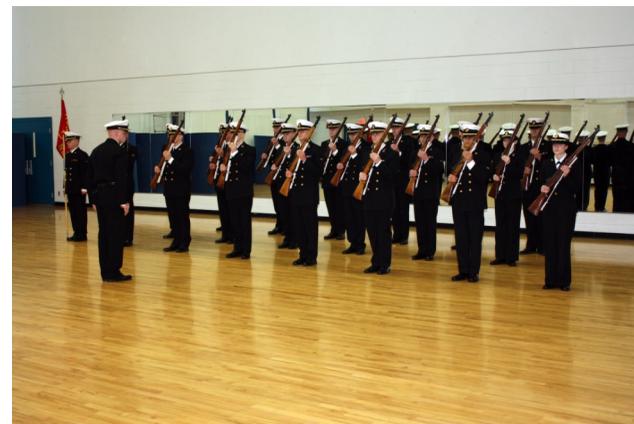
**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



**2nd Lt Eric Russell**

**Major:**  
Sociology

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



MIDN Reeder commands the platoon to perform Inspection arms as the instructors inspect.

Members of the Color Guard practice prior to being inspected. (From left to right) MIDN Flannery, Essay, Davidson, Schiavone, and Porter



MIDN Lee prepares his squad in the main gymnasium prior to the inspection.



# Mess Night

*By MIDN Gretta Walter*



Each Spring semester, there is one event that the Midshipmen in the Semper Fi Society anticipate most, Mess Night. This semester's Mess Night was held in the Embassy Suites in Downtown Lincoln. The event consisted of a formal dinner, a speech from guest speaker Captain John Irons (USMC Ret.), and a night full of egregious accusations. Members of the mess levied fines against different midshipmen, which provided great entertainment prior to the Notes from the Guest of Honor. Once again, this event held true to the traditions of the mess night.



(Left) Midshipmen of the freshmen class wait for the ceremony to begin.

(Right) MIDN 1/C Walkemeyer defends himself while addressing members of the head table.

(Below) MIDN 1/C Zach articulately levies a fine against several member of the mess.



# Congratulations Seniors!



**Ensign Jared Dawson**

**Major:**  
Construction Management

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
Naval Flight School  
Pensacola, FL



**2nd Lt Andrew Johnson**

**Major:**  
Business Administration

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



# Congratulations Seniors!



**2nd Lt Joseph Boyer**

**Major:**  
English

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



**2nd Lt Joseph Broman**

**Major:**  
Political Science

**Post-Grad Plans:**  
The Basic School  
Quantico, VA



(Top left) Sgt. Johnson presents a plaque to the event's Guest of Honor, Captain John Irons USMC (Ret).

(Bottom left) Freshmen Midshipmen Gamero, Bolland, Alt and Stone pose for a photo between dinner and the Guest of Honor's speech.

(Right) MIDN Prewett poses for a photo with the Guest of Honor, who happens to be her Grandfather.



**The Naval ROTC Battalion Staff** (From left) GySgt Aguilar, LT Flanagan, CAPT Whiting, CDR Wesley, LT Lee, and Capt Grey.



# Community Service

*By MIDN Janice Vanourney*

This semester several midshipmen within the NROTC Battalion were given the opportunity to coach a YMCA youth sports team. I personally enjoy working with children, and having played soccer, I took advantage of what seemed like a great volunteer opportunity. Although it meant the sacrifice of a portion of my personal time for practices and games, the benefits have outweighed the costs.

As future officers in the military, it is important to perform community service and volunteer work. By giving back to the community, a sense of humanity and compassion for others is learned; these are important qualities that all officers should possess. By sacrificing your time to help others, you develop better as a person, and subsequently as a member of the military. There are so many leadership aspects one can develop such as selflessness and compassion that will aid each of us during our careers in the Naval Service. Furthermore, it is important to be seen by the community in such a positive light. By taking advantage of these opportunities, the community sees the military as a beneficial and productive organization. The children that we coach look up to us. They look up to us for encouragement, leadership and mentorship. We can all remember "that someone" who inspired us in our childhood. Someone who was there for us when nobody else was around or who believed in us and let us know we had a special hidden talent. This leadership they imparted directly impacted why many of us are here in this program or in the military today. Volunteering is my way of "paying it forward."

Win or lose, this season has been a successful and fun time for myself, and the girls that I coach. As a coach, I have the opportunity to set an example for these girls and to help teach them about teamwork and sportsmanship. In return, coaching them is helping me to develop as a leader, and will benefit me immensely in the future.



*LT Michael B. Lee*

As my tour at the Navy's finest NROTC unit comes to a close, I can look back and say this has been one of the busiest and most rewarding tours of my Naval career. It is one that has been filled with several unexpected jobs and adventures along the way. I am pleased to see how well the Battalion constantly performed and excelled in everyday events and challenges of being midshipmen and college students.

I want to congratulate the graduating seniors, your outstanding work here at the University of Nebraska and at the NROTC unit has proved that you are ready to become commissioned officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Work hard, play hard, and above all else take care of your Sailors and Marines. They will take care of you! So as finals near, I wish everyone the best of luck. Thanks again for all the hard work! Have a great summer, and be safe. I look forward to seeing you in the fleet someday. Fair Winds and Following Seas!





### *LT Long*

Lieutenant Wayne Long was raised in Albany, Ga. After high school he enlisted in the Navy in 1997 and completed Naval Nuclear Power Program's enlisted training. He qualified submarines on the USS PORTSMOUTH in 1999 and completed a deployment. He was selected for the Naval ROTC scholarship program in 2000.

He graduated from Auburn University in 2005 with Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. He served as the Electrical Assistant, Main Propulsion Assistant, Ship's Diving Officer and Damage Control Assistant aboard the USS PHILADELPHIA completing two CENT-COM deployments.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He and his wife Miranda have been married for five years.

## Farewells

### *LT Sean Flanagan*

Throughout his tour at UNL, Lieutenant Flanagan has been a valuable member of the topside staff. He provided valuable knowledge and experience, guiding several midshipman through the process of applying to the Submarine Warfare Community, mentoring Nursing Options and administering exams for future Aviation Candidates. He left the command in March 2010 to attend Submarine Officer Advanced Course in Groton, CT training for his follow-on Department Head tour. Upon completion of this school, he and his family will transfer to Hawaii, where LT Flanagan will serve on the USS TUCSON. We wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas."



## Hails

### *LCDR Wichman*



LCDR Christopher Wichman is a native of Omaha Nebraska. Upon completion of high school from Millard North High School he earned his commission through the Nuclear Power Officer Candidate Program. He earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mathematics from Creighton University in 1992, a Master of Engineering in Materials from the University of Virginia, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Following completion of nuclear power training in October 1993, he was assigned to the staff of Submarine School as a curriculum development staff member. After graduating from Surface Warfare Division Officers Course, LCDR Wichman was assigned to the USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69). While serving aboard EISENHOWER, LCDR Wichman held billets of Chemistry and Radiological Controls Principal Assistant, Repair 4 and 7A Locker Officer, and Shift Supervisor during reactor complex overhaul. After three years aboard EISENHOWER, he was assigned to the Surface Analysis Branch for Evaluation and Reporting (SABER) at the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) as a surface warfare tactics analyst. In 2000, He left active duty and joined the Navy Reserve. Assignments in the Reserve include, XO Deployable Ammunition Handling Team Eight, XO Inshore Boat Unit TWO-SIX, OIC DESRON 24 Detachment A, OIC CHINHAE Detachment 6, and most recently as an analyst for USSTRATCOM J55 Plans, Evaluation, Analysis and Research Division. From January 2003 to July 2003, LCDR Wichman was recalled to active duty with IBU 26 and deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean, where IBU 26 provided waterborne AT/FP patrols at a refueling point for over 300 US and Allied Warships.

LCDR Wichman is the first Naval Reserve Officer to perform the duties as an NROTC instructor. He has taught Engineering and Navigation in Spring 2010. His excellence in teaching has superbly filled behind our Nuclear Power Officer who departed without a contact relief.

His awards and decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) and various service and unit awards. He and his wife Tammy have been married for 16 years, and they have four children together.