As in years past, this spring semester has been full of activities for the students in the Midshipman Battalion. The students in the Battalion have done well both individually and collectively, and I continue to be impressed with the quality of our students and their accomplishments. Some of the highlights of this semester include student participation in the Tulane Drill Competition, a team of our students shot well enough at the Colorado marksmanship competition to win a trophy, and a group of students attended the Notre Dame Leadership seminar. As has been the case in the past, our students have acquitted themselves well in these activities and they continue to demonstrate how well our unit compares to others around the Nation. All of our students can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

From the standpoint of our staff, we have had a complete turnover of military personnel since this time last year. We are pleased to welcome Lieutenant Sean Flanagan, USN, as our nuclear power officer and acting Executive Officer; Lieutenant Michael Lee, USN, as the surface warfare officer; Captain Mitchell Grey, USMC, as our Marine Officer Instructor; and Gunnery Sergeant Bryant, USMC, as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor. In addition, Commander Long is scheduled to return from his deployment late in the fall and we look forward to his return.

We continue to work on the issue of the Cam-
pus Recreation Center’s expansion and its impact on our unit. There has been some positive movement on this issue this semester, although it is not yet resolved, and I hope to send a letter soon to provide an update on that issue.

As we close out this semester we will commission several of our students and prepare to send most of the rest off to summer training. The summer will be a time for all of us to reflect on what we have accomplished and to prepare for what is to come. As it stands now, it appears that we may have a relatively large freshman class next year. When we return in the fall, we must be ready to continue our efforts to prepare our midshipmen to become officers in the United States Naval Services.

**XO’s Corner**

*By Lieutenant Sean Flanagan*

First, I’d like to start off by thanking every last one of you in welcoming me to the University of Nebraska Naval ROTC unit. I can tell you first hand the fleet is aware that this unit produces some of the best officers in the Naval Service and I am certainly eager to be a part of this tradition.

This has been a full semester to say the least. Most of the Midshipmen are taking upwards of 18 credit hours and still find time to participate in many of our activities. The spring semester is when a lot of that work pays off. We had a strong showing at the Tulane Drill Meet and I think the battalion came back with some valuable lessons on how to improve next year. Our performance at the Colorado Pistol & Rifle Competition was equally impressive with a third place finish in the rifle shoot. With many of our participants retaining next year, we can only get better.

We are commissioning six officers this spring, and this unit should be proud that every last one of them are top performers and will excel in the fleet as future leaders of Sailors and Marines. I congratulate each one of you and wish you the best of luck on what will be a rewarding career. I would consider it an honor to work with each of you in the future.

Of course, we still have one major NROTC Requirement to fulfill before we can start the next academic semester. Most of you will be going to various summer training programs and should be eagerly anticipating the rewards that go along with the training. For the Midshipmen going to CORTRAMID, this is the time to open your minds and absorb as much about the different warfare communities so you can start thinking about your service selection. If you’re going on a First or Second-Class cruise, don’t be a rack monkey. Get about the ship. Learn, ask questions, and show genuine interest. This could very well be your job in the future, now is the time to get excited about it. Finally, the summer training for Marine Options is designed to stress you and
Mr. Robert L. Kelly was born in Falls City, Nebraska. He was raised on a farm and graduated from Falls City Sacred Heart High in 1965. He attended Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. He graduated from Peru State in 1969 with a Bachelors Degree in Education.

He joined the Nebraska National Guard in April of 1970. He retired from the Nebraska Army National Guard on November 30, 2000. The last 20 years in the National Guard were spent in the Logistics field. He retired from an Active Guard Reserve tour as a Master Sergeant while spending the last 15 years as the supply sergeant at the Regional Training Academy at Camp Ashland, Nebraska.

His civilian employment includes one year as a high school history teacher, seven years as an accounting clerk, one year was spent as a supply representative for the Nebraska State prison system, one year as an assistant manager for a federal contractor making immigrant identification cards, four years as a contracting officer/purchasing agent for the federal immigration service, and one year as a supply technician for the immigration service.

He and his wife Kathy reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. Together they have son (Brian) and a Daughter (Christie), they also have a grandson (Hayden). Mr. Kelly is an avid sports fan, and enjoys attending the Lincoln Saltdogs baseball games and his grandson’s youth baseball games. Although he has been with the command for a short time, he will be departing the after this semester to serve as an assistant for the Lincoln Department of Homeland Security.

develop you far beyond what we can offer at the unit level. This is your opportunity to prove to yourself what you’re made of.

As a final note, you have probably noticed a few prominently displayed words in and around my office. First is the mission statement for our program. It contains phrases such as “imbue [midshipmen] with the highest ideals” and “potential . . . to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.” The other is the Commander’s Intent, which, in a nutshell lays out your primary mission as Midshipmen. Just in case it’s not clear, that mission is to earn your commission with a focus on academics and development of strong leadership qualities. These two documents guide the topside staff and should be well understood by you throughout your time here. I encourage you to not only know those documents, but to work toward their ideals.

**BNCO’s Corner**

*By MIDN Patras*

At first glance, previous semesters and years have flown by at an increasing pace. The past semester however, sticks out in my mind as exceptional. The individuals that make up the University of Nebraska Naval ROTC program continue to represent both themselves and their unit with professionalism and excellence. The teamwork and effort put forth by the Midshipmen and staff has contributed to several noteworthy accomplishments and opportunities over the course of the semester. The battalion’s tradition of strong performance was continued by the drill team’s 13th place overall finish out of 47 teams in the Tulane drill meet and the Rifle / Pistol Team’s 3rd place trophy from the University of Colorado shooting competition. I am very proud of the time and effort the members of these teams put in and I offer my congratulations to both.

As Battalion Commander, I have had the unique opportunity to observe the progression and growth of the Midshipman of this battalion. Although there are several ways in which this growth manifests itself, one of the most apparent is the manner in which Midshipmen self-regulate their own behavior and encourage their peers to do the same. As current and future leaders, this discipline will be an important element to success. Having observed the behavior and performance of Midshipmen over the course of this semester, I am able to leave with confidence that only the finest of Naval Officers are being produced in this unit.
This year the University of Nebraska Naval ROTC Pistol/Rifle Team traveled to Colorado University, at Boulder for a competition. The trip was led and directed by captain of the Pistol/Rifle Team MIDN Walter. The team started their seven hour long journey from Lincoln, on April 4th, 2008 around 1230. Despite a few short breaks to stretch, the trip went by fast as most of the midshipmen used their time to sleep or study.

We arrived in Boulder at approximately 1930 and then proceeded to our motel. We were lucky enough to be staying at the infamous “Silver Saddle Inn.” The Silver Saddle Inn is tucked back into the mountains amidst picturesque Colorado scenery. Some midshipmen believe that by staying at this fine resort it is considered to be a “right of passage” which all team members must enjoy. After checking into the motel and putting all of our belongings away, the team headed out for dinner. We chose to eat at a restaurant called the Saltgrass. After dinner we proceeded back to the motel to get a good night sleep.

On the morning of the competition, Saturday, April 5th, the team had to be up and ready to leave the motel by 0530. The first competition of the day was the rifle team which began around 0700. The pistol team shot at approximately 0900. The rifle team faired better than the pistol, as they received 3rd place out of nine teams. The pistol team placed 7th out of nine.

In the time between competitions, the team was given the opportunity to see Colorado University’s beautiful campus. We were also given a tour of Colorado’s midshipmen wardroom, and took part in some friendly competition on the climbing ropes. After the competition was over we gathered our gear and belongings and headed back for Lincoln, leaving Boulder at approximately 1330 MT. Despite the short trip the team thoroughly enjoyed it and is looking forward to returning for next year’s competition.

Rifle/Pistol Competition

By MIDN Fults

The pistol team awaits the beginning of the competition.
LT Sean C. Flanagan received his commission through the former Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2003. Following completion of nuclear power training and the Submarine Officer Basic Course in October 2003, he was assigned to the USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737) in Bangor, WA. During his tour, KENTUCKY completed five strategic deterrent patrols and a modernization period. While serving aboard KENTUCKY, LT Flanagan held billets of Reactor Controls Assistant, Quality Assurance Officer, and Operations Officer.

LT Flanagan’s awards and decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards).
This past January, the NROTC battalion drill team participated in the 2008 Mardi Gras, Drill Meet hosted by Tulane University in New Orleans. Our busy week kicked off on Wednesday with a long two-day drive. Along the way, team members passed time by watching movies, doing homework, and trying to get some sleep. Relief came when we arrived in Perryville, the first overnight stop. However, we didn’t stay long; mustering at 0530 the next morning to finish off the rest of the drive. We arrived in Tulane University just in time for the team captains’ meeting.

That night the team set up camp at The French Market Inn, just off of Bourbon Street, where we were allotted liberty and the opportunity to enjoy the pre-Mardi Gras atmosphere. The next morning was packed full of preparation for the day’s events. Midshipmen got haircuts, checked their uniforms, and attempted to commit as much general knowledge to memory as possible. Upon arrival at the drill meet on the Tulane campus, we attended a team meeting and were released for a quick lunch. Once the team reconvened, we changed into our uniforms and rifles were handed out. The team then proceeded out to the parade grounds. After a motivational speech, the team marched into position for inspection.

The team’s inspection consisted of three officers testing the midshipmen’s Navy and Marine Corps general knowledge. Following a strong showing in the inspection, we prepared to perform routines in which we had been practicing for several months. Our hard work and practice paid off, upon earning a 5th place finish overall. Next up, was squad drill followed by color guard. The color guard performed nearly to perfection, and placed 4th; a very impressive finish for all considering the number of schools present. The drill team had a respectable finish, especially considering the size of the unit. Overall the team placed 13th out of 47 teams.

After the performances and awards ceremony was out the way, midshipmen were released for a few hours to walk around and enjoy New Orleans. The next morning the midshipmen packed up their gear headed back in Lincoln, to return home just in time for Super Bowl XLII. Looking back, this trip was an incredibly rewarding experience. We left Tulane with a sense of pride in what we had accomplished. We are really looking forward to next year and the opportunity to improve on this year’s achievements.

Congratulations Seniors!

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2nd Lt. Patras
Congratulations Seniors!

**MAJOR:** Finance  
**POST-GRAD PLANS:** Naval Flight School Pensacola, CA  
Ensign Mitchell

**MAJOR:** Political Science  
**POST-GRAD PLANS:** USS Nicholas (FFG-47) Norfolk, VA  
Ensign Martin

**MAJOR:** Industrial Engineering  
**POST-GRAD PLANS:** Nuclear Power School Charleston, SC  
Ensign Martinez

The drill team executing their squad drill routine.

UNL NROTC Drill Team

MIDN Madsen leading the drill team through their routine

Midshipmen taking some time to experience the sights of New Orleans.
The weekend at Notre Dame could not have came at a better time. Preparing for another brief break from school is always refreshing. Despite the wet and cold start on Thursday, the weekend flowed relatively smooth. It was my first time in South Bend, Indiana, where I, and two hundred other Midshipmen got to see the beautiful Notre Dame campus and stay in Rudy’s old dormitory. The conference kicked off Thursday night with introductions and pizza, followed by a couple ridiculous games that helped everyone get to know each other. After the initial introductions and mingling, we heard from the first speaker, Mr. James Hunter, who spoke about servant leadership. This was the perfect start to the leadership discussions that were to follow because he laid the foundation for what a leader should be.

The next day started early with a morning run through campus. This gave me a new appreciation for UNL’s straight sidewalks as we hit several dead ends while dodging puddles. The rest of the day was productive as we heard from Mr. Doug Stanton, author of *In Harm’s Way*, Vice Admiral Maguire, who was aboard the USS Vincennes during the Air Bus tragedy in the Persian Gulf, and General Mattis, who is Commander, United States Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. The next day we heard from Lieutenant General Kramlich, Rear Admiral Atkin and a discussion panel about retaining morality and ethics in the midst of war.

While the speakers were motivating and had good insights, the best time was spent in small groups of 8 to 12 Midshipmen and Cadets. Here we had the opportunity to interact with one another while discussing topics that were covered by the speakers. Although this may not sound exciting, it was a good time just getting to know fellow Midshipmen while learning what it means to be a leader. I had a great group leader, Chief Warrant Officer Winnie, told various stories and provided insight from his 15 years of service in the Marine Corps.

The weekend held many truths, and the midshipmen and cadets who attended, gained insight into the type of leadership that is required in the operating forces. With all of this in mind, we are all aware that this conference will not make any of us a good leaders over night, but the knowledge and guidance we gained from this experience will help us along in our journey to becoming future Naval Officers.
Battalion Events

Mess Night
Colonel Litaker imparts some wisdom upon MIDN Dawson and Erickson during the annual Mess Night.

Volunteering
UNL Midshipmen volunteer at the People’s City Mission, organizing a storage room full of donations.

Rifle Range Cleanup
MIDN Vanourney dons the necessary protective gear to clean the rifle range.

Officer Candidate School
By MIDN Lembrick

This past summer I, along with two other midshipmen from UNL NROTC Unit, had the opportunity to attend Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia, for six weeks. While at OCS, candidates were exposed to hundreds of hours of Marine Corps history, fighting tactics, land navigation, martial arts, and physical fitness. However, these events were overshadowed by a more important characteristic of the Marine Corps; leadership.

Candidate’s were screened and evaluated everyday to ensure we possessed the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning. We learned that officers of Marines must have the deepest sense of ownership, self-sacrifice, and fortitude, because one day Marine’s lives could ultimately be in our hands.

While Candidates’ potential leadership was constantly monitored, we learned that by deciding to become officers in the United States Marine Corps, we have agreed to take on great responsibility and have the privilege to serve with the nation’s fiercest men and women. I quickly learned that the lack of sleep, continuous yelling accompanied with the hot-humid conditions of Quantico were in dull contrast compared to leading Marines one day.

OCS was a unique experience for the simple reason that it exposed me to what it means to be a Marine. As challenging as OCS was, the rewards were far greater, and those Midshipmen who have not attended have a lot to look forward to.
Recruiting
By MIDN Aldover

With bursts of red, white, and black, the pride of UNL was shown on the 24th of February 2008. The Big Red Road Show was about to begin, and the booth had to be set up. Table cloths were provided, the recruiting paraphernalia was laid out, and the pull up bar was assembled. Anticipation mounted as a voice announced there were fifteen minutes until the doors were opened. Managing to construct the NROTC booth quickly, there was time for hot dogs, courtesy of LT. Lee.

Then, the fun started. At first, there were only a few people silently walking past the booth. The pace started to pick up when the people figured out that they needed a stamp from us to receive a free T-shirt. Some people just wanted the free pens and lanyards that we laid out to attract attention but many of students who came by also expressed interest in joining the ROTC program.

There seemed to be a constant rush of people from 1300 to 1600. MIDN Russell, Reeder, Rowe, and Walter challenged numerous young men and women to do pull-ups or the flexed arm hang for prizes. Needless to say some of the results were surprising. MIDN Syers and MIDN Aldover tested prospective recruits on push-ups. There were many prizes awarded, but also countless pamphlets given along with every prize. The number of people started to dwindle down after 1600.

The Big Red Roadshow was worth the approximately hour and a half round trip drive to and from Omaha. This event was a great way to show and explain the life of an NROTC student, and the benefits of being a midshipman. At the end of the day, the Navy had about 30 interested students, while the Marines had twice that amount. With about 100 prospective students, a new company might have to be formed next year.