



# The University of Memphis

## Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

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## Boosting Morale



As the end of the school year approached, one of the morale events the midshipmen participated in was dodgeball at Sky Zone Trampoline Park. Major Perry led the morale event organizing different games and teams. The competition between Fourth class, Third class, Second class, and First class proved to be intense. Even though there were some throws that completely missed the target, the games continued.

Major Perry kept the midshipmen on their toes by adding new rules and game modes. This provided a lot of laughter for the on looking midshipmen and a greater challenge for the midshipmen competing. Another game Major Perry created was more team oriented in which both teams had a captain that needed to be protected. If the captain was hit with a dodgeball, that team lost. This provided an unusual dynamic to

the game in which midshipmen were diving in front of the ball to protect their captains. The friendly competition proved to be an effective unit morale booster providing laughter and smiles, even the AMOI Ssgt Shaw took part in the fun. After the dodgeball midshipmen and staff enjoyed a meal together where it was apparent every midshipmen had fun at the event. "The Sky Zone Morale event was definitely a great way to end the semester!" – MIDN 4/C Johnston.

As the seniors in the unit are about to graduate and commission as naval officers, this is one of the last events with the Memphis NROTC they will take a part in. While the midshipmen were eating there was great comradery as the leaving seniors imparted their advice and stories of being in the unit to the rest of the company. There was great excitement throughout the unit for the commissioning seniors, and their different assignments throughout the fleet.

Kazuhiro J. Koga  
MIDN 4/C, USNR





What a fast and furious Spring for Golf Company and the Memphis NROTC Unit. The semester saw a lot of challenges and exceptional performances by all hands. MIDN 1/C Winters (now Ensign Winters) performed amazingly as the Company Commanding Officer raising the bar in the level of professional and aptitude performance by the entire command. In addition, we managed to have an impressive cumulative GPA of 3.29; a noteworthy increase over last semester. MIDN 1/C Barnes, recipient of this year's honor graduate award, will be our new Company Commander and will, no doubt, carry on this leadership excellence.

The Spring of 2015 also saw the culmination of four years of hard work and dedication for eleven outstanding Naval and Marine Corps Officers. It is my pleasure to acknowledge ENS's Ingo Bretschneider, Ethan Gray, Matthew Huetson, Isaac Parrish, Canton Phillips, Cody Silvers, Benjamin Winters, and 2<sup>nd</sup> LTs Justus Anderson, Brandon Melton, Jake Ryan, and Nathan Sampson as the Navy and Marine Corps' newest leaders. The largest commissioning class Memphis has had in recent history, these new officers will soon fill the ranks of our aviation, submarine, surface warfare, infantry, and nurse corps communities. Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmates and Marines! Do Memphis proud.

## Executive Officer's Corner

Other notable achievements include scholarships awarded to two well-deserving students. MIDN 4/C Paul Posey (Navy) received the national scholarship, and MIDN 4/C Jon Schumann (Marine) received a side load scholarship. They are a testament of what hard work and dedication can do in achieving our ultimate goals. Congrats gentlemen!

There will be quite a turnover in our staff next semester. We'd like to welcome aboard SSgt Aaron Diaz and his family. SSgt will be our new AMOI (replacing the outgoing SSgt Shaw) and will arrive just in time for our New Student Orientation – can't do it without him. Also, Capt Michael Givan, formerly MCAS Beaufort's Communications Officer, is taking over the MOI reins from Major Tracy Perry. Finally, our new Commanding Officer will report early August. CAPT Brian "Goz" Goszkowicz, currently the Commodore of Training Air Wing ONE in Meridian, MS will be the new Skipper and MIDSOUTH Professor of Naval Science. We eagerly await his arrival.

Hails are usually accompanied with farewells. Sadly, we say fair winds to our MOI, Major Tracy Perry. After

three years of commitment and excellence to the MIDSOUTH consortium, Tracy will detach and report as the G-1 for 3d MarDiv in Okinawa, Japan. We wish him nothing but continued success to an already stellar career. You will be missed, Major.

In closing, I couldn't be more proud of Golf Company's performance during the Spring of 2015 and look forward to continuing to build on our already exceptional tradition. I can't begin to adequately express my heartfelt appreciation to the NROTC staff, U of M faculty, community sponsors and Tiger alumni who lend us their generous support. Without your help, we would not be able to provide the unparalleled level of training for which the Memphis NROTC unit is known for. I am confident that with your continued support, we will be able to successfully complete our mission of developing our future military leaders morally, mentally, and physically. Thank you!

Very Respectfully,  
Adrian R. "Yo" Lozano  
Commander, USN  
Executive Officer  
NROTC, Mid-South Region





# Marine Officer Instructor

I am extremely proud of our Naval ROTC unit and your accomplishments during the spring semester. The Midshipmen, and MECEPs of The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University are determined and committed to achieving their ultimate goal— a commission in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps.

Over the course of this semester, I have continuously discussed the three pillars which I believe are vital to our success: academics (our number one priority), physical fitness, and professional development. Our students have embraced this philosophy and through their actions are building a strong foundation for the future of this unit. Average GPA remained above the university average; physical readiness/physical fitness test scores trended upward. Through guided leadership discussions and professional reading our Midshipmen are gaining valuable insight into what is expected of future Naval leaders. Focus on the future and

strive for greatness: 4.0 GPA, Perfect PRT/PFT score, and continue to develop your leadership style.

**I challenge the Midshipmen and MECEPs to continue building on what we have achieved during the spring semester and make this Naval ROTC unit even better. I would like to thank the student company leadership for a job well done!**

**Fair winds and following seas to those who have graduated and received their commissions; I hope that what they have learned here at The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit serves them well as they take on the challenges that a Naval Officer will encounter in the Fleet.**

?  
As I move on from the University of Memphis, I want to share

my thanks and gratitude for staff and student personnel that have made this experience highly rewarding. I wish you all the best of luck and I hope to see you in the future.

Semper Fidelis!  
Tracy A. Perry  
Major, USMC  
Marine Officer Instructor  
NROTC  
The University of Memphis





Hello parents, friends, and midshipmen of NROTC University of Memphis. I cannot wait to tell you about all of the exciting things that we have done this semester but first let me quickly introduce myself.

I am originally from Durham, NC but grew up in Annapolis, MD. After graduating high school, I attended Penn State University where I graduated with a degree in Nuclear Engineering in 2010. I am a graduate of the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC, the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT and the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (Prototype) in Charleston, SC. Upon graduating from prototype in October 2011, I reported aboard USS NEBRASKA (SSBN 739), a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine stationed in Bangor, Washington. While on board NEBRASKA, I completed 4 strategic deterrent patrols. On my last year on board, we entered our Refueling Overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, WA. While assigned to NEBRASKA, I served as Reactor Controls Assistant, Diving Officer, Assistant Engineer, and Refueling Officer. In 2013 I was cer-

## 1/C and 2/C Advisor

tified by Naval Reactors as a Nuclear Engineer Officer. Following my time here at the University of Memphis, I will be returning to the submarine force as a department head.

This past semester saw one of our largest graduation and commissioning ceremonies to date. We commissioned 7 Navy Ensigns and 4 Marine Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants. All of their hard work and dedication has paid off, and I am looking forward to hearing about their successful careers out in the fleet. While the training new officers receive while in the NROTC program is world-class, there is still much for them to learn about their chosen career paths. Admiral Nimitz once said, "There is no substitute for experience however, when experience is not readily available, there is no substitute for training." So while the graduation marks an end of an important chapter in life, it also marks the beginning of many more long hours of studying and practice.

While graduation and commissioning marks an end for some, it marks a beginning for others. The Navy and Marine Corps are unique in that any one ship or unit loses approximately 25% of their manpower every year. And when that happens, the remaining 75% need to step up into leadership roles and compensate for the loss of experience. I have full faith and confidence in our rising 1/C, 2/C and 3/C Midshipmen are more than up for the challenge, and I look forward to working with them next year.

As we move into the summer months, I want to encourage all of our Midshipmen to continue to work on their academics and physical fitness. I have always been a believer in the concept of "If you're not getting better, you're getting worse." The summer months are a great time to work on our weaknesses and build on our strengths. I am looking forward to meeting the incoming class of 2019 and working with our returning upperclassmen.

Very Respectfully,

LT Eric Larson

1/C and 2/C Advisor



## 3/C and 4/C Advisor

Hello to family, students, and friends of University of Memphis NROTC! We have had a successful semester full of personal growth and professional development and look forward to a summer of fleet training and the start of another academic year.

I want to start off first by wishing the best of luck to those freshmen and sophomores who I am submitting for the upcoming side load scholarships. These students have worked hard for a chance to earn a commission, and for the sophomores this will be their last chance to remain in the program. I am proud of each and every one of them for their hard work and resilience over the past couple years and honestly believe that the Navy will benefit from their selection. True to the competitive nature of the scholarship selec-

tion process, the Navy will pick only the most competitive and brightest midshipmen.

This past semester has witnessed the departure of many members of our senior leadership, both staff and student. This turnover process will present some unique challenges for the new student leadership, but I have the highest confidence that they will not miss a beat as we get ready for the next semester. We also have the privilege of welcoming new members of our active duty staff, who are fresh from the Fleet and will bring new and exciting experiences to our student body. The mark of a successful military unit is the shared cohesion from top to bottom of the chain of command. This constant state of flux will reinforce their leadership skills as they prepare for increasingly dynamic situations and environments once they reach the Fleet. I have been extremely impressed with the seamless transition that lower ranking freshmen demonstrate as they fill more demanding leadership roles left behind by rising seniors eager to step in and fill the company

leadership void left by our newly commissioned officers.

In addition to being the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class advisor, I am also the recruiting officer and continue to meet with many interested students, families, and various members of the Memphis community over the last several months. This includes prospective students from Rhodes College, the latest addition to our consortium. I appreciate their interest and look forward to receiving these students on a Navy or Marine Corps Scholarship or as a College Programmer challenging themselves to select for a scholarship in the near future.

In conclusion, I look forward to another successful and fulfilling academic year and am proud to be part of the professional development of our future leaders and warfighters.

Very Respectfully,  
 LT Michael Mayeux  
 3/C & 4/C Advisor

# Student Company Commander

As we finish another semester, I must say I could not be more proud of our Sailors and Marines. I have been honored to serve Golf Company as the spring 2015 company commander. We started the semester with lofty goals; we tried to excel in every category we could, but we were met with several challenges including an arctic winter, causing us to miss 2 weeks of school. It left us with a cramped schedule over-filled with guest speakers and events, but in the end we prevailed. We organized and ran an excellent 5K to increase our community impact through volunteerism. Even though the tasks were tough, our Midshipmen and MECEPS went above and beyond what was asked and helped create a wonderful semester for our unit.

One of our main goals this semester was the successful organization and implementation of our 5K for Freedom. It is always the largest event of the semester and sometimes the year. For the 2015 spring semester, Midshipman Gargis and Midshipman Parker were charged with the responsibility for the event, but they could

not have done it alone. All of the Midshipmen worked very hard on advertising and encouraging runners to participate. Thanks to the effort, we had almost doubled the number of registered runners on race day than we did for our 5K the previous semester and we raised an astounding \$2400 for our Midshipmen recreation fund. However, our Sailors and Marines did more this semester than raise money; they increased our impact on the community.

The idea of service is essential to the professional development of any naval officer. I believe that volunteering for our community is one of the best ways for our young Midshipmen and MECEPS to learn and teach others about service. That is why my staff and I made volunteering our top priority this semester. I am very pleased to report that for the first time in three semesters 100% of our Midshipmen have given volunteer hours to better our community and the world. I say the world because Midshipman Johns used his spring break to help the less fortunate in Turkey, earning well over one hundred volunteer

hours. As a unit, Golf Company earned just shy of an amazing one thousand volunteer hours and exemplified the ideals of service.

As we look toward the fall semester, I am excited to see our Midshipmen move up in the ranks, take on new challenges, and for some, to transform from a follower into a leader. We produce great officers, because everyone in our unit has an unwavering spirit and dedication to our country. Although the staff changes and the seniors graduate, the heart of Golf Company is treasured, taught, and passed on to every honored soul who walks our halls. I believe our Midshipmen are the best in the country and the triumphs of this semester are due to the quality of each of our Sailors and Marines, which is a testament to their unwavering dedication to duty. I could not be more proud to have served with them.

Very respectfully,

MIDN 1/C Benjamin S. Winters

Golf Company Student CO



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# Tulane University Drill Meet

On February 13, 2015, The University of Memphis' Naval ROTC took New Orleans by storm for the annual Tulane University Drill Meet. The students, called midshipmen participated in various judged drill events including inspection, armed drill, color guard, and squad drill. Each of these individual competitions require skill, precision and focus by the entire team in order to be successful.

The day began at 0800 with the team outside in the chilly courtyard practicing for the upcoming events. First up was Platoon Inspection which consists of each midshipman being critiqued on their knowledge, uniform appearance and bearing. The team

was praised for their military bearing and outstanding knowledge. The Midshipman took home a second place trophy for this event.

Platoon Armed Drill was next, which involves the group of midshipman demonstrating precise movements with an M-16 rifle in unison as well as marching movements. The Platoon Commander was Midshipman 3/C Kimberly King.

The following events of Squad Drill and Color Guard require some of the tightest movements and perfect execution due to the fact that they are small groups. The Squad Drill team was led by Midshipman 3/C Samuel Lootens, and the Color Guard

team was commanded by Midshipman 3/C Casey Guthrie.

Overall, the Tulane Drill meet can be marked down as a success for the University of Memphis NROTC midshipmen not only for the trophies won, but the quality time and comradery developed between good friends and teammates.

Kimberly M. King  
MIDN 2/C, USNR





# Navy vs. Army Basketball Game

The Basketball Game vs. the Army was a hard fought one on both sides, and both sets of bleachers were packed as the respective branches came to support their fellow cadets and midshipman. Unfortunately for Navy, Army came out on top only by a single shot or two. All fought with everything that we had, with big plays being made by MIDN Lootens and SSgt. Melton. We had more moral support than in past events and it led to our drive and explosiveness during the game. MIDN Ryan and made several shots along with MIDN Lootens

and Sgt. Anderson. Staff Sergeant Shaw came to coach along with swift kicks to the pants by Major Perry. In a different turn than in the past, everyone who was there on Navy's team got to play. They've shifted their focus from winning to 100% participation. The shift made for an environment filled with team spirit, unity, and an all-inclusive audience to cheer midshipman on. Navy gave the Army one loud congratulatory "ARMY!" at the end as midshipman and cadets shook hands, as its all friendly competition at the end of the day. Let's continue the competition be-

tween the branches as it all makes us better officers! Go NAVY!

Eric W. Jones

MIDN 3/C, USNR



## 5K for Freedom

The 5K For Freedom kicked off at 0600 when all the midshipmen showed up to set up the 5K. The unit spent two hours hauling the supplies over to the Ellipse, where the 5K was being held. This was the first year that the 5K For Freedom was hosted on the University of Memphis Campus. Normally, the 5K For Freedom is hosted in Arlington. Midshipman Gargis, the OIC of this event, decided that it would be more beneficial to our unit to have the 5K on campus. Midshipman Gargis was correct, due to the fact that it was our most successful 5K For Freedom since our unit first started hosting it. The 5K itself went very smooth with very little issues. All of the runners and supporters seemed to enjoy themselves during this event, which is always a good thing. After the awards were given out, we started breaking everything down and storing the gear. We were able to finish before noon, since the 5K was on campus. Our hard work as a unit paid off and we successfully completed one of the most difficult events we host as a unit.

Michael W. Parker  
MIDN 2/C, USNR





# Mess Night

Mess Night in the modern U.S. Navy is derived, like many other traditions, from the British Navy. It is a night to eat and laugh together with some good food and even better entertainment. The University of Memphis Naval ROTC held this year's annual Mess Night on the third of April. It was quite comical and served to bolster unit morale, as everyone left with a smile on their face and one or two shots of grog in their stomach.

Before the mess, Midshipmen could be seen enjoying cocktail hour and finalizing plans to charge their friends before the Mess with some "heinous" crime. Once inside the Mess, the beef was paraded and declared fit for human consumption by our commanding officer, Captain Bradley C. Mai USN. Then, we briefly reviewed the history of the Mess before the night was opened up to fines. Almost immediately Midshipmen stood to exact the plans they had laid, and indict other midshipmen of crimes before the mess. There were so many fines



that there was never a dull or quiet moment. Some were pretty straightforward while others were more elaborate. One group of Midshipmen was able to sneak a powered wheelchair into the Mess beforehand so that their friend could ride to the Grog instead of walk. Midshipman Parrish was forced to read aloud his April Fool's letter about deserting the Navy in favor of the Air Force, but before he drank the grog he offered a powerful and motivating rebuttal that sent Midshipman Bretschneider to the Grog instead. After the period for fines ended, the platoons, squads, and some fire teams offered even more entertainment to the Mess in the form of skits. The skits were hilarious, and gave a comical view of daily life in the Memphis Naval ROTC. First Platoon revamped last year's skit of the morning post-physical training school circle, while Second Platoon reenacted a grueling hike that finished with two



transfer Midshipmen arguing about which of their former programs were more difficult. The night ended with toasts to just about everything that the Navy and Marine Corps can toast. That brought to an end an outstanding Mess night. Quoting Midshipman 1/C Bretschneider, "It was one of the most memorable Mess Nights in all of my time here." And Midshipman Schumann enlightens us on the freshmen's perspective, "I thought it was one of the best nights of my life." And it truly was one of the highlights to the year 2015 for this group of Midshipmen.

Casey D. Guthrie

MIDN 3/C, USMC



# Super Squad

. This semester's Super Squad competition kicked off on the 20th of April, 2015 with the close order drill competition. Overall it was very successful and all squads performed well. MIDN 1/C Benjamin Winters remarked during the change of command ceremony that it had been perhaps one of the best drill competitions he had seen in his time with Golf Company. The four squads were graded on a number of criteria including: alignment, unity, intensity, and especially the command presence of the squad leader. This marked the first time SSgt Diaz was on deck, he was responsible for the grading of the squads led by MIDN 4/C Schumann and MIDN 3/C Johns, while SSgt Shaw graded the squads of MIDN 3/C Zink and MIDN 3/C Coronado. Despite a close competition, MIDN Johns displayed exceptional intensity and his squad was declared the winner.

Per usual, on the following

Wednesday of the 22nd, a field meet was held pitting each squad against each other in a variety of events. This semester the events included: sprints, pushups, pull-ups, and a tug-of-war. The first sprint, a 4x100, was won by the Marine platoon. The second, a 4x200, was claimed by 1st platoon, 2nd squad thanks, in part, to an impressive performance by MIDN 3/C Jones. Next were the push-ups, MIDN 1/C Bretschneider stands out, due to having pushed out over 80 before being told to stop. Since pushups are a main part of the Navy PRT, naturally pull-ups, the bread-and-butter of the Marine PFT, were included as well. Finally, a tug-of-war was conducted with 2nd Platoon

going undefeated.

Overall this semester's Super Squad competitions were very successful. The drill competition was a notable improvement over the previous semester's experience and, as always, friendly competition is exciting and motivating. Hopefully, these experiences will help to further comradery and professionalism within the unit.

**Nikolaus M. Schug**  
MIDN 4/C, USMC





# Commander's Cup Field Meet

In April 2015 the annual Commander's Cup Field Meet was held on the Memorial Field between the University of Memphis' Army, Naval and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units. The Field meet is one of three portions of the Commander's Cup, which also includes a basketball, soccer, and football tournament. The morning's activities began promptly at 0600 with formation of the three services followed by the first event, a 4x400 meter relay.

In the relay, each team consisted of four members who would each sprint 400 meters and then pass the lap to the next runner. The Navy team began with Navy taking last by a slight margin behind the Army and Air Force until the Navy's second runner took second. Navy held strong for the rest of the race with senior Jake Ryan taking home first place with an Army runner closing the gap but never able to fully close it. Navy finished first overall followed by Army in second and Air Force for

in their last lap, Army had managed to just push past Navy and take first place in the swim portion

The next event of the morning was the tug of war championship. As the two teams took their places along the rope, midshipmen and cadets gathered around to cheer on the teams. With their ability to get on their feet quickly, Navy took their first loss against Army. Navy was then able to claim a victory against Air Force as well. As Navy and Air Force battled for second place, the Navy tug team pulled the Air Force to the ground as everyone cheered for their respective teammates and brothers and sisters in arms.

The final event was the dodge ball tournament in the Field House Basketball court. Competition was fierce for this event and after the first match where Navy took a hard fought loss to the Army. The following game between Army and Air force was also intense, as an Army victory would

lack of victory in the Field Meet, Navy will be ready with a new group of motivated freshman in the coming semester to claim the Commander's Cup once again.

Despite the intense competitiveness between the services in these events, everyone still realizes they are on all the same team under the United States Military promoting an unrivaled sportsmanship between Midshipmen and Cadets. Although disappointed, Navy will be ready next fall for another two semesters of competition.

Very Respectfully,

Stewart Clark  
MIDN 4/C, USNR



# Navy League Dinner



On Wednesday, 22 APR 2015, five Midshipman from the University of Memphis NROTC were awarded the Navy League Scholarship. The award recipients were MIDN 1/C Barnes, MIDN C Coronado, MIDN 3/C Lavery, MIDN 4/C Shug, and MIDN 4/C Posey. The awards banquet was held at the Memphis Country Club. The guest speaker for the event was Rear Admiral Annie Andrews. Cocktail hour began at 1800 and the dinner took place around 1900. Rear Admiral Andrews gave an outstanding speech on the future of our American Navy and what was going to be in store for us. Shortly after Rear Admiral Andrews gave her speech and congratulated all the following Navy League Scholarship recipients, the awards were presented. MIDN 3/C Coronado, MIDN 3/C Lavery, MIDN 4/C Shug, and MIDN 4/C Posey were all presented the Navy League Scholarships. Following that, MIDN 1/C Barnes achieved the honor of obtaining the senior class sword with her name engraved in it. All recipients were congratulated a final time for their outstanding achievements and the banquet was then concluded.



Paul A. Posey  
MIDN 4/C, USNR



# Change of Command Ceremony



On 23 April 2015, the staff and midshipmen from the University of Memphis gathered at the ellipse for the change of command ceremony where MIDN 1/C Winters handed his Student Commander billet over to MIDN 1/C Barnes. The most notable event of the ceremony was the announcement of the new student chain of command for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. MIDN 1/C Winters and MIDN 1/C Barnes opened things up with some words of wisdom and reflections from their time in the unit. MIDN 1/C Barnes also discussed some changes she looks forward to making. She passed on very valuable insight as to what it takes to make our unit more successful in the coming semester. MIDN 1/C Winters was officially relieved of his command through the symbolization of a guidon being handed over to MIDN 1/C Barnes. Along with Change of command, several awards were handed to our hard-working midshipman. Some of those recognized for their academic achievements were MIDN 1/C Barnes, MIDN 1/C Huetson, MIDN 2/C Parker, MIDN 2/C Johnson, MIDN 3/C Lootens, MIDN 1/C Bretschneider, MIDN 3/C Coronado, MIDN 2/C King, MIDN 4/C Schumann, MIDN 3/C Guthery, and Staff Sergeant Melton. Our unit was recognized for 100% volunteerism, and accumulation of almost 1000 hours. MIDN 1/C Winters has done an outstanding job in his position as student commander, and Golf Company looks forward to MIDN 1/C Barnes continuing the success in this position.

Kristy A. Levin  
MIDN 3/C, USNR



# MOI Endurance Challenge

It was a brisk morning in Memphis as the Midshipmen of Golf Company gathered for their final mandatory pt session of spring semester. For some, it was the final pt session of the semester, for others it was their last pt session as a midshipman, but for Major Perry, it was his final pt session as the MOI. And as his parting gift, he allowed the Navy to take part in something they only watched the end of in the fall, the MOI endurance challenge.

The MOI endurance challenge is a gauntlet of exercises staggered within several rounds in full MARPATs and NWUs as the pt uniform. For the Navy option midshipmen, no boots were allowed, but the Marine option midshipmen competed in boots and with rifles. All exercises are hand-picked by the MOI and effectively utilizing all muscle categories.

Midshipmen gathered in the wardroom at 0500 and were called out to the field at 0530-earlier than usual, the Marine options compete for two things, the gift card prize, but more importantly, the pride of finishing the

Challenge better than his/her peers. Major then explained the first round, which included some station to station exercises and between was the high crawl and the dreaded low crawl with a 400 meter spring to finish it Off. Midshipman Ryan took the first round, MIDN 1/C Ryan, which was expected having won several of these in his NROTC career.

Rounds two through four turned out very different. With less of a sprint as the rounds progressed, the exercises intensified adding movements such as: star jumps, squats, push-ups, and everyone's personal favorite backward burpees. After the first round going to MIDN

1/C Ryan, the next three rounds were taken by a formidable challenger, MIDN 1/C Sampson. Very fitting for the two of them to battle it out on their last company pt as midshipmen. After it was all said and done, what took a week of grading to decide first semester's winner, Major Perry saw that MIDN Sampson was the undisputed winner of the MOI endurance challenge immediately after it was completed.

Greggrey Kingston

MIDN 4/C, USMC





# Honor's Assembly

On Sunday, 26 April, the University of Memphis held its annual Honors Assembly in which it publicly recognized distinguished students for their outstanding achievements. The awards were divided up by school or college and presented by the deans of the respective schools or colleges. Six of our midshipmen were awarded Naval Science awards by the Naval ROTC Unit's commanding officer (acting), CDR Adrian Lozano. Present at the awards ceremony were University President David Rudd and Ms. Karen Weddle-West, Provost. President Rudd is an avid supporter of the military and of the ROTC units at the University of Memphis.

The awards were as follows:

MIDN Winters received the President's Award, MIDN Barnes received Honor Graduate distinction, MIDN Parrish received Outstanding 1/C Midshipman, MIDN Gargis received Outstanding 2/C Midshipman, MIDN Guthrie received Outstanding 3/C Midshipman, and MIDN Schug received Outstanding 4/C Midshipman. These awards were carefully weighed by the commanding staff of the Naval ROTC Unit and were awarded to only the top performers of each class and in the unit overall.

In addition to receiving the Outstanding 1/C MIDN Award, MIDN Parrish was also awarded the Dean's Award from the Loewenberg School of Nursing.

Upon the announcement of each award, each midshipman walked across the stage, shook hands with CDR Lozano as presenter, President Rudd, and Ms. Weddle-West. The awards were made of custom-etched glass with each midshipman's name on the award. Following the ceremony, students were encouraged to take pictures with their peers and alongside the banners representing their respective schools or colleges.

Isaac W. Parrish

MIDN 1/C, USNR



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# Hail & Farewell

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the midshipman from the University of Memphis Naval ROTC joined to bid their friends—the graduating seniors and leaving Officer staff—farewell with one last celebration at the Hail and Farewell hosted by Central Barbeque at Summer Avenue. The seniors competed in countless games provided by the OIC and AOIC Midshipman 3/C Samuel Lootens and Midshipman 4/C Brittany Bowers, such as Chubby Bunny and a blindfolded game of “Gear up”, all to win a \$50 Visa gift card. The leaving personnel also had to share their most embarrassing stories of themselves or other commissioning seniors with their fellow midshipman to give them something to remember them by, not to mention a few laughs. After their stories, they toasted to the group and dined on their most beloved treat, the grossest sounding Gerber baby food to be found on the shelves of the grocery store. The winner of the \$50 dollar gift card was Staff Sergeant Shaw, one of the staff who is leaving the unit in order to return to the Marine Corps. Coming in a close second

was Midshipman Canton Phillips, a commissioning senior.

After all the laughter and the games came to an end, the seniors got up one by one and shared their personal experiences that they remembered most about the unit; what they enjoyed the most, and what they believed needed the most work. Using the advice and experience shared with us by the seniors, the rest of the midshipman will strive to better the unit in the coming Fall semester. We learned a lot from these fine midshipman and soon to be commissioned Ensigns and Second Lieutenants, and we wish them well as they continue on to join the fleet to serve in our country’s Navy and Marine Corps.

Brittany N. Bowers

MIDN 4/C, USNR





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# Alumni Interest Group

The Alumni Interest Group (AIG) is new to The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit. The AIG is looking for alumni who are interested in reconnecting with former classmates, helping to mentor current Midshipmen, financially supporting unit events, or providing their experience since receiving their commission. The AIG hopes to bring these individuals together in order to form a bond that will extend well after their years serving in the military have ended.

At the beginning of the semester the AIG began gathering contact information for all Navy and Marine Corps officers who graduated or commissioned from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. The AIG is excited to continue with the next step of connecting with all of the shipmates from the past.

An AIG kick-off event is being looked at for the upcoming spring semester, with hopes of having numerous University of Memphis Naval ROTC alumni in attendance.

For more information on the AIG, please contact Major Tracy Perry at [taper-ry2@memphis.edu](mailto:taper-ry2@memphis.edu).

**Mission:** The AIG's mission is to promote the fellowship and welfare of The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University Naval ROTC alumni and current Naval ROTC students by providing transition assistance, mentoring, financial assistance, social events to all members, and to enhance the visibility of the United States Navy and Marine Corps team and its contributions to the United States.

**Transition Assistance:** Provide a network to link members together as they leave The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University to their first assignment, move between duty stations, exit the Naval Service, transfer from the active to reserve component, seek civilian employment, or choose to relocate.

**Mentoring:** Offer professional and personal insight to members by remaining available to Midshipmen or newly commissioned officers seeking information on various career paths, serving as a non-command representative to current military members wanting guidance, or advising members on available military and civilian career opportunities.

**Financial Assistance:** Generate revenue to benefit the AIG and Naval ROTC unit by contributing to scholarship funds or endowment accounts, assisting students with fundraising endeavors, attending alumni or student run fundraising events,

or sponsoring awards and scholarships.

**Social Events:** Connect with The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University Naval ROTC Alumni and current students by attending or sponsoring social events such as tailgates, football games, and reunion weekends and participating in Navy and Marine Corps traditional celebrations and events.

**Liaison:** Maintain a professional relationship with the Professor of Naval Science and the assigned support staff.

Bricks are available for all naval officers from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University.



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