

Spring 2009

O'Callahan Committee Inaugural Newsletter

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross

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Introducing the Committee

In 1994, alumni of the NROTC Unit at the College of the Holy Cross and other dedicated individuals formed the *Committee for the Joseph T. O'Callahan NROTC Scholarship Fund*.

The Committee was established to support the viability of the Unit and the battalion of midshipmen comprised of students from Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Worcester State College. Its primary mission was to raise funds to provide financial assistance not included in the NROTC scholarships that these students brought to their respective colleges. Later, Holy Cross and then WPI began providing financial aid in the form of housing assistance, an item not covered by the NROTC scholarship. It is provided to incoming midshipmen/ students through their respective financial aid programs.

Since then the Committee has de-emphasized fundraising. For 10 years it has focused on encouraging and cultivating the traditions associated with the Jesuit, liberal arts education of military and naval officers. It also seeks to promote dialogue with the campus communities and to recognize the military service of alumni.

Annual Dinner- The Committee's major annual event is a dinner with a featured speaker. The funds raised by this event are used support the midshipmen battalion by funding recognition awards and appropriate extracurricular activities.

Transition from Committee to Society

The O'Callahan NROTC Committee has decided to formally transform itself into an affiliate of the Alumni Office and become a membership society.

The Alumni Office will help the Society by updating & maintaining its ROTC alumni list (approx. 1,400 alums dating to the class of 1943), distributing the newsletter, promoting events and establishing a presence on its web site: www.holycross.edu/alumni/services/ocallahan

The Society will include members not only from Navy and Marine Corps ROTC alumni of the College but also from the Air Force ROTC (formerly at Holy Cross) and veterans of all military services. Like the Committee, the Society will also include non-alumni, such as persons, friends and family who have a connection to the ROTC programs and seek to advance the mission of the Committee/Society.

The Society's organizing meeting will take place on Fall Homecoming weekend (October 16-18, 2009). More information will be sent this summer. To become involved with us, contact please Bill Dempsey '63 at dempwill@aol.com or Jim Delehaunty '67 at jfdel94@aol.com.

Also in this issue:

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Page 3- News from the Battalion

Page 4- The story of Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J.

Navy's Top Lawyer Headlines 8th Annual Dinner

Vice Admiral Bruce MacDonald '78 USN JAGC returned to the campus on September 6, 2008. This was two months after becoming the first three-star promotion in the history of the JAGC in all military services. He has been Judge Advocate General of the Navy since 2006.



At the invitation of the O'Callahan Committee, he also became the third in a succession of active-duty Holy Cross admirals to speak at the Committee's annual dinner. A dozen uniformed midshipmen attended as guests of the Committee. During the pre-dinner reception, VADM MacDonald made a point of gathering them for a period of personal interactions.

The admiral's after-dinner remarks ranged from observations about his recent trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to concerns about strains on the military. He emphasized the need to expand the effort against global extremism beyond the military.

Among the 50 who attended were special guests Kristyn Dyer '94 Director of the Alumni Office; P. Kevin Condron '67, Chairman of the College's Board of Trustees; Commander Bernadette Semple '83, USN, Trustee and the Rev. Charles Dunn, S.J.

The Admiral Speaks to HCLA - The morning of the dinner, VADM MacDonald addressed the annual meeting of the Holy Cross Lawyers Association. He described the functions of and careers in the Judge Advocate General Corps. He also took questions that ranged from the roles the members of his command are playing throughout the world to the trials of detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Lawrence Rutkowski '74, President of the HCLA, presented VADM MacDonald with the Association's Career Achievement Award. In his remarks, Mr. Rutkowski noted the significance of VADM MacDonald's July promotion.

At the Homecoming football game, VADM MacDonald and his wife Karen were guests of the College's President, Rev. Michael McFarland S.J. in his box at Fitton Field. For VADM MacDonald's biography see <http://www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/bio.asp?bioID=187>.

Calendar of Events

May 22 at 8 a.m.

Commissioning

Hogan Campus Center
RDML Arnold O. Lotring '78 USN
More information on page 3

June 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Reunion 30-50th & Purple Knights

"Father Joe"

presented by Jay O'Callahan '60

Seelos Theater, Kimball Hall

More information on page 4

October 17 at 10 a.m.

Society Organizing Meeting at Fall Homecoming

Hogan Campus Center
More information on page 1

October 17 at 6 p.m.

9th Annual O'Callahan Committee Dinner

Hogan Campus Center
VADM Peter H. Daly '77 USN
More information page 4

News From the Unit & the Midshipmen Battalion

The Holy Cross Naval ROTC Unit, now in its 68th year, enthusiastically started the academic year with 64 Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) students from 18 states. The Midshipmen Battalion consisted of 34 students from the College of the Holy Cross, 20 students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and 10 students from Worcester State College.



The successful fall semester included many events for the Battalion, including the annual Military Excellence Competition, the Reach-The-Beach Relay Race in New Hampshire, and culminated in the 67th annual Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Fall activities also included 18 members from the Battalion and Unit Staff participating in the 33rd Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. The battalion won noteworthy praise for raising almost \$18,000 for The Wounded Marine Semper Fi Fund, the most by any single unit participating.

With the warmer weather arriving on Mt. Saint James, spring is just around the corner and so is the 58th Annual Presidents' Review, the Joint Military Cotillion, graduation, and commissioning.

Commissioning- On May 22, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit will be bidding a fond farewell to the 18 members of the graduating/commissioning class of 2009. The future Ensigns and Second Lieutenants of the US Navy and US Marine Corps include seven Aviators, five Surface Warfare Officers, three Nuclear Program Officers, two Marines, and one Nurse Corps Officer. Rear Admiral Arnold O. Lotring '78 USN, Commander Naval Service Training Command will commission the new officers. In October 2007, he was the featured speaker at the O'Callahan Committee's 7th Annual Dinner. His biography is at www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/navybio.asp?bioID=341

In May 2008 then-RADM Bruce MacDonald, administered the oath to twenty Ensigns and three Second Lieutenants. An O'Callahan Committee tradition is to provide rank insignia to each new officer.

Change Of Command- In August Captain Robert McNaught USN will complete his four-year tour of duty and retire. He is the 23rd Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science in the history of the Unit and the College. CAPT McNaught's biography is at:



www.holycross.edu/assets/pdfs/nrotc_co_bio.pdf.

The Unit's Executive Officer and Associate PNS, Commander John K. Bishop USN, has been extended for a fourth year at the College.

O'Callahan Online: Update your email address at the Alumni Office's web site alumni@holycross.edu to receive future communications from the Committee/Society including the newsletter and invitation to the annual dinner. Visit our web page at: www.holycross.edu/alumni/services/ocallahan.html.

The Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J.

The name of the Committee honors the Rev. Joseph Timothy O'Callahan, S.J. Fr. O'Callahan taught mathematics and philosophy at Holy Cross before and after World War II. He is the first Navy chaplain to receive the Medal of Honor, for his actions aboard the U.S.S. Franklin (CV-13) after it came under attack by enemy air forces off the coast of Japan on March 19, 1945. The medal and citation, both now in the Holy Cross Archives, were presented at the White House by President Harry S. Truman in 1946.



Copies of the citation are on view on the Holy Cross campus in the Midshipmen Battalion Ward Room in Lower Carlin and in the O'Callahan Library in the new Science Center complex. The text also appears on the College's Web page. It reads in part:

“With the ship rocked by incessant explosions, with debris and fragments raining down and fires raging in ever-increasing fury, [Lt. CDR O'Callahan] ministered to the wounded and dying, comforting and encouraging men of all faiths; he organized and led firefighting crews into the blazing inferno on the flight deck; he directed the jettisoning of live ammunition and the flooding of the magazine; he manned a hose to cool hot, armed bombs rolling dangerously on the listing deck, continuing his efforts, despite searing, suffocating smoke....”

Fr. O'Callahan died in 1964 and is buried in the Jesuit cemetery on the campus.

On Reunion weekend, June 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m., the Class of 1954 will honor Fr. O'Callahan's memory. It will sponsor a performance of “Father Joe” by his nephew, Jay O'Callahan '60, in Seelos Theater, Kimball Hall.

9th Annual Dinner - October 17, 2009

The featured speaker will be Vice Admiral Peter H. Daly '77 USN Deputy Commander, Fleet Forces Command. His biography is at www.cffc.navy.mil/deputybio.htm. VADM Daly becomes the fourth consecutive active duty HC admiral to speak at the Committee's dinner. Rear Admiral William McCarthy '78, now retired, was the first in 2006.

More information and your invitation will be sent in the summer.

2009 O'Callahan Committee Members

Chair: CDR William Dempsey '63 USNR Ret.

Vice Chair: CAPT John Nugent '68 USNR Ret.

Secretary: Alan Jackson

Treasurer: CAPT Richard Walsh '63 USNR SC Ret.

James Delehaunty '67

CAPT Donald Fitzpatrick USN Ret.

CAPT William McGurk '63 USN Ret.

Lester Paquin

MAJ Patrick Townsend USMC Ret.

Visit our web page at www.holycross.edu/alumni/services/ocallahan.html