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## 2016 O'Callahan Society Newsletter

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross

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# O'Callahan Society 2016 Newsletter



## Holy Cross NROTC to Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

One of the oldest Navy ROTC units in the country, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July 2016. In May 1941, the Department of the Navy announced that the College of the Holy Cross was to be among eight colleges and universities to be added to the existing 19 Navy ROTC units. The NROTC program had been created fifteen years earlier to ensure commissioned naval service officers were available to meet unforeseen national emergencies. The NROTC unit was established at the College of the Holy Cross on July 14, 1941 with an enrollment of 115 freshmen.

During World War II, Holy Cross hosted Navy V-5 and V-12 College Training Programs in addition to the NROTC program and this support from the Navy was essential to the College's survival when so many of its students enrolled in the Armed Forces after Pearl Harbor. In the 1970s, when the powerful anti-war backlash generated by the Vietnam War resulted in the closure of many NROTC units, Holy Cross and the Jesuit Community remembered the essential support the school had received from the Navy and became the only college in New England and one of only two colleges north of Pennsylvania to keep its NROTC unit.

In 1976, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit became a Consortium program affiliated with Worcester Polytechnic University and Worcester State University and, at various times in the last forty years, also with Clark University, Assumption College, and Central New England College. In recent years, Holy Cross NROTC has sponsored the re-establishment of Navy ROTC at Yale University and is currently enrolling students from Brown University in the Consortium.

In recognition of the 75 year partnership between the College of the Holy Cross and the United States Navy, the O'Callahan Society's annual dinner on September 24, 2016 will commemorate the many outstanding achievements of the Navy and Marine Corps officers commissioned from the Consortium's participating colleges and universities.

*To assist in documenting these achievements, the **O'Callahan Society requests that readers provide digital copies of photos, documents, or anecdotes of the NROTC program that they may have in their possession by 1 July if possible. If help is needed to digitize materials, please contact us to make arrangements. In particular, the Society wishes to identify NROTC graduates who made the supreme sacrifice while on active duty in the service of their country.***

*Items may be emailed to:*

***ocallahan@holycross.edu***

## Fifteenth Annual O'Callahan Society Dinner

On September 26, 2015, the O'Callahan Society hosted its 15<sup>th</sup> annual dinner for 250 guests in the Hogan Campus Center Ballroom. The guest speaker was **Vice Admiral Bill Moran**, Chief of Naval Personnel. During the pre-dinner reception, Vice Admiral Moran engaged personally with the midshipmen and their families.

VADM Moran opened his comments by noting that there is “something special about someone who graduates from this school and it has to do with the Jesuits – the ability to think, on your own, critically.” He reinforced this statement by identifying several connections between Holy Cross and great leaders:

- Captain Thomas G. Kelley '60, Medal of Honor awardee in Vietnam and guest of honor at the 2015 O'Callahan Society dinner.
- Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, Holy Cross faculty member, the first Jesuit Navy Chaplain, and Medal of Honor awardee in World War II.
- Captain Vern Kemper, Commander of Holy Cross NROTC and Professor of Naval Science.
- General Joseph F. Dunford, former Marine Officer Instructor at Holy Cross and current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Two of the four 2015 Lone Sailor awardees from the Navy Memorial: John William Middendorf '45, former Secretary of the Navy and Ambassador to the Netherlands; and Robert S. Morrison '63, CEO of Quaker Oats and Silver Star recipient in Vietnam.  
(See Alumni Notes)



VADM Moran's other remarks covered a broad range of topics including the importance of Liberal Arts colleges to Navy ROTC, the latest submarine and aircraft technology, the evolution to Unmanned systems, recruiting, the strain of long deployments, uniform changes, and the dramatic shift in the demographics of the Navy to a more diverse population. Regarding the last point, the Admiral noted that the Navy has to make all people feel like the Navy is good for them.

VADM Moran closed by emphasizing the Navy's need for Humble, Servant Leaders. He encouraged the Midshipmen and Officers in the audience to put their people first and to constantly think about ways to keep themselves humble. Such leaders will know when it's time to do the right thing.

Of note, the Admiral stated that in preparing for this dinner, he learned for the first time that his paternal grandfather, John Francis Moran, was a Holy Cross graduate.

## **Unit News**

### **Holy Cross Support for the Ivy League**

In mid-July 2016, the Yale NROTC unit will be detached from the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium and Captain Wayne Graddock will assume duties as Commanding Officer. The Yale unit was reestablished in 2011 under the command of the Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross unit and, since 2012 when the first midshipmen enrolled in the Yale battalion, it has grown to over 50 strong and will graduate its first class of commissioned officers this May. The current Holy Cross Executive Officer, Commander Keith Lanzer, will continue as Executive Officer of the Yale NROTC Unit.

Brown University will resume offering the NROTC program to its students this year and its first NROTC midshipmen are currently going through the application process. Unlike the Yale program, Brown students will participate in the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium in Worcester.

### **New Unit Commanding and Executive Officers**

In late May Captain Vernon Kemper will be relieved as Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit by Captain Mark Edwards. Captain Edwards comes to the unit from Afghan Management Element Forward where he was responsible for nearly 200 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and civilians serving as advisors to Afghan security forces, national level ministries, and presidential officers. An H-60 Seahawk pilot, Captain Edwards' previous sea tours of duty included a Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light, two helicopter detachments on aircraft carriers, and Air Boss aboard USS Shreveport (LPD-12). Significant shore tours of duty included helicopter instructor pilot, the Chief of Naval Operations strategy office, and Executive Fellow at the Rand Corporation. He commanded Training Squadron 27 in Corpus Christi TX where he was responsible for primary flight training of Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, and Allied student naval aviators and he also commanded the Kunar Provisional Reconstruction Team providing governance and development assistance to Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Captain Edwards holds two Masters Degrees: International Relations from Troy State University and National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Captain Kemper is retiring after a distinguished 30-year career as a submarine officer and will be leaving the area.

The prospective Holy Cross Executive Officer, Commander Christopher Benjamin, is a Worcester State University graduate from 1999 and an alumnus of the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium. He comes from USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) as the Strike Operations Officer. A Naval Flight Officer (NFO), he served sea duty tours in an S-3 Sea Control Squadron and two P-3 Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance squadrons. Commander Benjamin's shore duty tours included P-3 NFO instructor and Enlisted Aviation Placement Officer in the Navy Personnel Command. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Webster University.

Other Unit officers turning over: LT Patrick O'Neil'05, Aviation Warfare Instructor, separated from the service in April. He was replaced last fall by LT Colby Carrier. This summer Captain Jeff Hart, the Marine Officer Instructor, will depart for Quantico and be replaced by Captain Timothy Wren. Lieutenant Darek Marino, the Surface Warfare Instructor, will depart for Newport enroute to a destroyer stationed at Rota, Spain. He will be replaced by LT Ryan Kelly.

## **Presidents' Review**

Due to major renovations to the Hart Center the annual Presidents' Review was held on April 15 in the Harrington Auditorium on the WPI campus. Representatives of civic and veterans groups, college faculty and administration, and family members were invited guests. RADM James Shannon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for International Programs and Surface Warfare Flag Officer Sponsor to the Holy Cross Unit was the honored guest and speaker.

The O'Callahan Society recognized three midshipmen during this event:

- Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Bowl, presented on behalf of the Holy Cross Jesuit Community to Midshipman 1/c Devin Farrell, HC '16 by Rev John Savard, S.J., Rector of the Jesuit Community.
- 1st LT John Power '42 Memorial Book Scholarship awarded to Midshipman 4/c Robert Davis, WSU '19 by Alan E. Jackson, MSGT USA (Ret), M. Ed, Director of Military Affairs, Worcester State University.
- LTJG Frank Malinski '61 Memorial Book Scholarship awarded to Midshipman 3/c Travis Rossen, WPI '18 by John B. Tata, CDR USN (Ret)

After the recognition awards were presented, the midshipmen battalion, passed in review. The reviewing party included Admiral Shannon, Vice President and Dean Margaret N. Freije Ph.D., College of the Holy Cross, Mr. Philip Clay, Dean of Students, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Ms. Lois Wims, Ph.D., Provost, Worcester State University, and Captain Vernon Kemper, Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science Holy Cross NROTC Consortium.

## **2016 Commissioning and Orders**

On May 27, family members, friends, College faculty, and administration will gather to witness and celebrate the commissioning of six midshipmen into the Navy and the Marine Corps. Captain Vernon Kemper, Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit will address these new Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant. These new officers will be reporting to surface warfare units [2], to nuclear power school [2], to flight school [1] and to Marine Corps Basic School [1].

## **Honor Flight Escort**

On April 17, College of the Holy Cross Navy ROTC midshipmen escorted World War II veteran Bob Rochette from Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences at Northborough to a limousine bound for Logan Airport for an Honor Flight New England trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Rochette, age 94, served as a Marine Staff Sergeant with Scout Bomber Squadron 341 in the South Pacific. On his one-day Honor Flight trip, Mr. Rochette and others visited the WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.

## **Class of 2020**

As of this writing, the NROTC Class of 2020 which arrives in August is expected to have 15 scholarship midshipmen. Over the summer the strength of the midshipmen battalion is expected to increase with the addition of Non-scholarship College Program freshman students.

*For more midshipmen battalion news see its spring newsletter.*

## Alumni News and Notes

### Lone Sailor Awards

The Lone Sailor Award is given by the United States Navy Memorial to Sea Service veterans who have excelled with distinction in their respective careers during or after their service. As VADM Moran mentioned, two of the four 2015 awardees are Holy Cross graduates and alumni of the NROTC program.

- John William Middendorf '45 served as engineer and navigator on LCS (L)-53 in the Pacific Theater 1945-46. After the war, he became an investment banker and founded his own company in 1963. From 1965-69, he was Treasurer of the Republican Party and subsequently served as Ambassador to the Netherlands (1969-73), Under Secretary of the Navy (1973-74), Secretary of the Navy (1974-77), US Representative to the Organization of American States (1981-84), and US Representative to the European Community (1984-87). As Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Middendorf was instrumental in the development of many key programs including the Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine, Trident missile, AEGIS missile defense system, and the F/A-18 aircraft.
- Robert S. Morrison '63 served in the Marine Corps 1963-67 and received the Silver Star and Purple Heart for combat in Vietnam in 1965. Joining the corporate world after his active duty, he joined Kraft in 1983, became President of General Foods USA (1991-94), CEO of Kraft Foods, Inc. (1994-97), CEO of Quaker Oats (1997-2001), and Chairman of PepsiCo Beverages and Food North America (2001-03). Since 2003, he has served in various capacities with Illinois Tool Works and is currently a member of the Holy Cross Board of Trustees.

### Navy Memories

*The following is reprinted from the 2015 O'Callahan Society Dinner Program*

Some 65 years ago word came that the Navy was offering me a full scholarship to any of 52 colleges and universities. My dear mother could not avoid concluding that a grotesque mistake had been made which, when corrected, would visit terrible disappointment on her son.

Well the error persisted uncorrected and your reporter proceeded. Only one of five ivy schools said "no thanks." I never knew why, but I have rooted against all of their sports teams since.

Had I chosen Harvard, I would have been expected to live at home. I was inclined towards apron string severance, yet I didn't want to be too far away, Worcester seemed about right.

Except for scrubbing decks on the Wisconsin, the midshipman years were rewarding in many ways. Active duty took me to the Arctic and Antarctic and many spots between. My last billet was navigator on a destroyer. The sextant was a surmountable challenge (the calculations needed the help of the chief). I was pleased with the arrival of loran but GPS was well into the future.

In short—God Bless the U.S. Navy – *Bob Henzler '55*

## **Society News**

### **2015 Annual Meeting**

The members of the Holy Cross O'Callahan Society gathered early on Saturday, September 26, 2105, for coffee and the renewal of old friendships before beginning their Annual General Meeting and a full day of Fall Homecoming activities, culminating with that evening's annual O'Callahan Dinner. Co-Chair Jim Delehaunty called the meeting to order at 1000 and quickly navigated the assembled members through the acceptance of last year's general meeting minutes and the Society's annual financial report, presented by Treasurer James Moran. The Executive Committee's report, presented by Jim Delehaunty, recalled a year of success and achievement for both the Society and the Holy Cross NROTC Unit.

Some of the year's most noteworthy events included the Society's financing of a \$1700 upgrade to the O'Callahan Science Library wall display. The Library, which is located on the ground floor of Swords Hall, preserves and documents Fr. O'Callahan's honored place in the history of the Navy and Holy Cross. In support of the NROTC Unit, led by Society member Sean O'Neil, a substantial contribution from the O'Callahan Fund was invested to improve the habitability of the Unit's wardroom in lower Carlin Hall, providing new furniture and a large screen television in time for the 2015 Super Bowl. During 2015, the Society's Mentoring Program, initiated by Frank Bergen, enrolled over 300 alums to establish a valuable career guidance network for the midshipmen, with ambitious plans to expand the effort by reaching out to active-duty personnel as they progress through their military careers or anticipate a transition to civilian life.

The Unit itself flourished during 2015 with an increase of scholarships - 10 to Holy Cross students and 10 to midshipmen from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Although it was anticipated that the Yale NROTC unit would be detached from Holy Cross during the upcoming summer, it was announced that Brown University would re-establish its NROTC Unit with its midshipmen coming to Holy Cross for their military training. The Society continued its stewardship and recognition of outstanding midshipmen by increasing the amount of its annual Malinski and Power Scholarships (now \$1000 each) and by supporting the attendance of midshipmen at advanced leadership training programs at the U.S. Naval Academy and Notre Dame University. The Society also funded a reception at the Newport Naval Station Officer's Club, in August, for new midshipmen attending a five-day orientation period conducted at the Naval Station. The Society was represented by John Tata and Al Jackson at this worthwhile event.

The meeting adjourned at 1035, allowing members time to prepare for the afternoon's gridiron contest between the Crusaders and the Raiders of Colgate at a well-attended open house and tailgate party hosted by the NROTC Unit outside Carlin Hall.

### **O'Callahan Society Mentoring Program Update**

*More Mentors Needed After Good First Year of Program* - This year, the O'Callahan Society paired twenty-one midshipmen with Society members from all over the country. The midshipmen had the opportunity to get insight, guidance, and advice from a very impressive group of mentors, many of whom had similar educational backgrounds and experiences in the specific areas into which the midshipmen were heading. We are looking for at least 15 more mentors to volunteer so that we can assure that every rising third-class midshipmen has a mentor assigned this Fall. If you have questions or are interested in signing up, please email Frank Bergen at [fbergin3@gmail.com](mailto:fbergin3@gmail.com).

## Join Us on LinkedIn

Over 185 Holy Cross NROTC Unit Alumni have already joined the O'Callahan Society's group on LinkedIn. It is a fantastic way to network and reconnect with old battalion mates from Holy Cross, WPI, WSU, Clark and all the other cross-town schools. Just search for "Holy Cross NROTC Alumni" (aka The O'Callahan Society) once you have logged into LinkedIn or type the following into your browser to be taken to the group's home page where you can request to join the private group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8220455>

## O'Callahan Society Initiatives Fund

Since 2012, each spring we have asked for your support of Society Initiatives that enhance the experience of the students enrolled in the NROTC program. By now, you should have received this year's solicitation. Your generosity has allowed us to sustain and increase the Society's commitment to the NROTC Unit at the College.

## Holy Cross Crossworks

We are pleased to announce the online availability of the [Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan S.J. Collection](#) through [CrossWorks](#). This collection contains digitized materials about the namesake of the O'Callahan Society and includes biographical resources, an image gallery, and a series specifically created to collect and preserve items produced by the activities of the [O'Callahan Society](#). Programs of the Annual Dinner, newsletters, and photos of Society events are just some examples. More content can be added as it becomes available.

All of this digitized content resides in [CrossWorks](#), the institutional repository of the College of the Holy Cross. It is an online space used to collect, preserve and provide open access to the intellectual, creative and scholarly works of the Holy Cross community, as well as the unique materials of the Archives and Special Collections. Essentially, CrossWorks serves as a digital archive and publishing service of the Holy Cross Libraries.

Having the Father O'Callahan and the O'Callahan Society collections in CrossWorks allows anyone with an internet connection to freely access the content. Members of the Society, alumni, researchers, and other interested parties will now be able to search for, discover, and read or download material that was once only available by visiting the Archives at the College. The Father O'Callahan and O'Callahan Society collections will benefit from long-term preservation and accessibility. Each item in the collections will have a permanent, linkable URL that can be shared.

The collections will also enjoy increased visibility due to Search Engine Optimization. In the future we hope to expand both collections to make them as robust and informative as possible. The links to CrossWorks and the O'Callahan Collections are:

- CrossWorks: <http://crossworks.holycross.edu>
- The Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J. Collection: [http://crossworks.holycross.edu/ocallahan\\_joseph](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/ocallahan_joseph)
- The O'Callahan Society: [http://crossworks.holycross.edu/ocallahan\\_society](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/ocallahan_society)

For questions about CrossWorks, The O'Callahan Collection, or the O'Callahan Society Collection, please contact Lisa Villa, Digital Scholarship Librarian at Dinand Library, at [lvilla@holycross.edu](mailto:lvilla@holycross.edu) or 508-793-2767.



## Calendar of Events

**Homecoming**  
**September 24, 2016**  
**75 Years of NROTC**

**Society Annual Meeting**  
**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
Hogan Campus Center

**Battalion Tail Gate**  
**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Carlin Quad

**Annual Dinner**  
**5:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
Hogan Campus Center

