

2015

# O'Callahan Society Newsletter

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross

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## O'Callahan Society 2015 Newsletter



### Commander Godwin Retires

After 24 years, Commander Jamie Godwin will retire from the Navy this summer. At this year's commissioning ceremony the College and the Navy took time to recognize his service while at Holy Cross.

Commissioned from the Naval Academy, Jamie was a surface warfare officer before he became a naval aviator. He reported to the College in May 2010 as XO of its NROTC Consortium. In the spring of 2011, the Navy and Yale announced that they would reestablish ROTC on the New Haven campus. However until Yale's midshipmen battalion came up to strength, it would be staffed by the Holy Cross unit and under the command of the Holy Cross CO in Worcester.

When the CO retired in June 2011, Jamie assumed command of the Holy Cross/Yale NROTC Consortium. For the next three years he led these two units in a highly effective manner. In early 2014 Commander Keith Lanzer reported aboard as the XO and in the spring Captain Vern Kemper took command of the Holy Cross/Yale Consortium. Jamie remained on the staff pending his retirement.

At the 2015 commissioning, Rev. Boroughs, S.J., President of Holy Cross, spoke of Jamie's devotion to his students while on campus. Captain Kemper presented him with the Navy's Legion of Merit. The award's citation set out specific achievements made by the Holy Cross/Yale NROTC Consortium during Commander Godwin's tenure at the College. Following Jamie's remarks, a Relieve the Watch ceremony was performed by the new generation of commissioned officers that he had trained and mentored. He was then piped ashore by the Unit staff.

With thanks for his enthusiastic and unfailing support of our mission, the O'Callahan Society wishes Commander Jamie Godwin and his family "fair winds and following seas."



Cdr Goodwin, Fr Boroughs & chaplain Paul Covino at Fr. O'Callahan's grave

## Fourteenth Annual O'Callahan Society Dinner

On 27 September 2014, the O'Callahan Society hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> annual dinner for 240 guests in the Hogan Campus Center Ballroom. The guest speaker was **Admiral Michelle Howard**, the 38<sup>th</sup> Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the first woman and first African-American to achieve four star rank in the United States Navy. During the pre-dinner reception, Admiral Howard engaged personally with the midshipmen and their families.

Admiral Howard opened her remarks by noting the 'sense of community that is astounding' which she observed during her short visit to Holy Cross. The theme of her remarks was courage in its physical, mental, and moral forms, citing Holy Cross Medal of Honor winners Father O'Callahan aboard the USS Franklin and Marine Corps Lieutenant John V. Power on Kwajalein as examples of physical and mental courage.

Focusing on moral courage in most of her talk, Admiral Howard stressed the importance of 'practicing courage in small doses' to establish a foundation of character and exercising 'ethical muscles.'



Her illustration of moral courage was a Naval Academy Officer of the Day who inspected the room of Midshipman Wesley Brown (USNA '49) immediately after it had been trashed by bigoted classmates and declined to issue demerits to Midshipman Brown. This seemingly small gesture of support was later cited by Midshipman Brown as an inspiration to him and a decisive moment in his ultimately successful quest to become the first African American graduate of the Naval Academy.

Prior to Admiral Howard's remarks, the Society honored **Paul Covino** and the **Honorable Paul V. Mullaney '42**, both of Worcester.

Paul Covino has served in the College's chaplains' office for over twenty years. During that time he has been the chaplain to the midshipmen battalion and has provided instruction to seniors who wish to serve as lay chaplains in the fleet. In the spring of 2014 he organized the memorial service on the fiftieth anniversary of Father O'Callahan death at St Joseph's chapel and the graveside.

Judge Paul Mullaney '42, a student of Father O'Callahan, served as a Marine officer in World War II and in the Korean War. For heroism in Korea he was awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars. He also received three Purple Hearts. A dedicated public servant, Judge Mullaney was mayor of Worcester, served on the City Council, and was district court judge before retiring in 1991.

The O'Callahan Society recognized these men for their outstanding service to community, college and country. A donation was made in their names to Holy Cross' Nativity School for young boys. They were also presented with the Society's 'Bravo Zulu' Bowl.



Jim Delehaunty, Judge Paul Mullaney, Capt Jeff Hart MOI & Admiral Howard

### **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.

In addition to our usual level of support, this year we were able to add \$1,000 to our memorial scholarships presented at the President's Review. We also provided \$7,000 in upgrades to the O'Callahan Room in Lower Carlin Hall.



## **Unit News**

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

The Navy has advised the College that the Yale NROTC unit will be detached from the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium in 2016. The Yale unit was reestablished in 2011 under the command of the Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross unit. Since 2012 when the first midshipmen enrolled in the Yale battalion it has grown to over 50 strong. This has outpaced reestablished NROTC programs at Harvard and Columbia.

In addition, the College was advised that Brown University will resume offering the NROTC program to its students next year. Unlike the Yale program it would be provided through the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium in Worcester.

### **New Unit Staff Officers**

Reporting aboard: Naval Science Instructors, Lieutenants Chris Johnson and Colby Carrier respectively, submarine and aviation officers; and Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, Staff Sergeant Patrick DeForge.

### **President's Review**

The annual Presidents' Review was held on April 17 in the Hart Center. Over 150 representatives of civic and veterans groups, college faculty and administration, and family members attended. RADM Christopher Paul, Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the honored guest and speaker.

The O'Callahan Society recognized three midshipmen during this event. Midn 1/c Ryan Kennedy received the Father O'Callahan Memorial Bowl. It was presented by Rev John Savard, S.J. Rector of the Jesuit Community. The 1st LT John Power '41 Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Midn 4/c Cullen Coulter. The LTJG Frank Malinski '62 Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Midn 4/c Noah Gebo. Both awardees are Marine Option. Respectively, the presenters were, Brian Chandley, nephew of Lt Power, and Bill Dempsey, Chair Emeritus of the O'Callahan Society.

After the recognition awards, the midshipmen battalion, 58 strong, passed in review. The reviewing party included Admiral Paul, Rev Philip Boroughs S.J., President of the College of the Holy Cross, Mr. Philip Clay, Dean of Students, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Barry Maloney, President of Worcester State University, and Captain Vernon Kemper, Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science Holy Cross NROTC Consortium.

### **2015 Commissioning and Orders**

On May 22, over 100 family members, friends, College faculty, and administration gathered in the Hogan Campus Center to witness and celebrate the commissioning of thirteen midshipmen into the Navy and the Marine Corps. Francis X. Martin '84 CAPT, USN [Ret] addressed these new Ensigns (including his son) and 2nd Lieutenants. These new officers will be reporting to surface warfare units [6], to submarine school [2], to flight school [3] and to Marine Corps Basic School [2].

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

## **Society News**

### **2014 Annual Meeting**

On September 27 2014, thirty members and friends assembled in the Hogan Campus Center in the morning for coffee and reminiscing before the O'Callahan Society's sixth Annual Meeting. Another seven members participated in the meeting via conference call. In addition to normal business there was a spirited discussion about the Navy's proposal to eliminate NROTC scholarships for liberal arts majors.

At the meeting Kevin Sandkuhler '75 BGen USMC (Ret), Dr. Malcom Joseph '71 Col USAF (Ret), and Frank Bergin '91 were nominated for the Board. Their resumes were presented and they were elected by acclamation.

### **O'Callahan Society Mentoring Initiative**

This initiative was endorsed at the 2013 Annual meeting. In March of this year under the leadership of Frank Bergin '91 LT, USN (Ret), we began to implement this initiative with an outreach for volunteers.

The Mentoring Initiative's aims are to: a) pair up members of the NROTC Unit with an alumni mentor who can help guide them on their journey out of Holy Cross into the fleet and their careers after service; and b) unlock the power of our group of alumni by making it easier to connect with one another.

You can help support the Mentoring Initiative by joining the over 150 of our Society members who have found us on LinkedIn; "Holy Cross NROTC Alumni (aka The O'Callahan Society)" or clicking on [https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8220455&trk=anet\\_ug\\_hm](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8220455&trk=anet_ug_hm).

Come on over and see who has already joined. Post a question...share a job you are trying to fill...let the group know where you're going to be stationed next...

Consider volunteering to mentor a midshipman. If you are willing to be paired up with a current mid, please send an email to Frank at [fbergin3@gmail.com](mailto:fbergin3@gmail.com).

Please pass this information along. We would like to build up more connections especially those who were in NROTC from the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium colleges.

## **Calendar of Events**

Homecoming  
**September 26, 2015**

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

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

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