

# NORWICH RECORD

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2019

## THE MAKER ISSUE

Mars Mining Bot + Concrete  
Canoes + Tiny Art + Fab Lab +  
Solar-Powered Spacecraft +  
Motorcycle Mania + Adaptive  
Music + New Media Marketing  
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# Top 10 Reasons to Attend Homecoming This Year

SEPTEMBER 18–22, 2019

## It's Norwich's 200th Birthday!

A milestone this significant deserves revelry, champagne, and fireworks! Homecoming 2019 has all that ... and more!

10

9

## See the New Bicentennial Stairs

Its 78 granite steps memorialize Norwich trailblazers, leaders, and other distinguished alumni. (Don't miss the ribbon cutting on Thursday, September 19 at 4:00 p.m.)

8

## Celebrate 200 Parties

Pick the Friday night party to suit your style: Sit-down dinner, champagne, and formal wear at the Bicentennial Gala in Shapiro Fieldhouse, or a laidback All-Class Social and Buffet in Kreitzberg Arena. Both join for knock-your-socks-off fireworks at 9:00 p.m.

7

## Cheer Homecoming Football

The Cadets vs. Coasties rivalry continues. Watch Norwich defeat the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Saturday, September 21 starting at 2:00 p.m.

6

## Join the Alumni Dog River Run

Back from last year, the second annual Homecoming tradition is rigorous enough to be fun but not too taxing. Friday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.

5

## Bicentennial Block Party and Beer Garden

Sample the offerings of Vermont artisans, food trucks, and the 14th Star Beer Garden on Friday and Saturday behind Plumley Armory and on Central Street.

4

## Harmon Memorial Wall

Don't miss Friday's Harmon Wall and Valor Plaque ceremony at 2:30 p.m. at White Chapel. The updated memorial's rededication follows at 3:30 p.m.

3

## All-Class Welcome Party

Kickoff Homecoming Weekend on Thursday, September 19 at Sugarbush Resort's Castlerock Pub where you can share memories with classmates and friends over light fare and drinks.

2

## See How Campus Has Grown

Nearly every facility on the Norwich campus has been renovated or newly constructed over the past 28 years. Take a student-led tour, flag down a golf cart, or walk the paths around the Hill.

1

## Connect with Classmates and Friends

Reconnect with others who have shared the Norwich experience. Whether you graduated 6 months or 60 years ago, Homecoming Weekend is your annual invitation to come home.

For details and registration information, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/Celebrate200](http://alumni.norwich.edu/Celebrate200).

## NORWICH RECORD

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Front cover photo: Chemistry Prof. Ethan Guth in his home metal-working shop. Photograph by Sean Markey



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# AUDREY MEAKIN '19

**Student Government Association President**

Major: **Management, concentration in leadership**

Hometown: **Marblehead, Massachusetts**

Post-Graduation Plans: **Commissioning as a  
Logistics Officer in the United States Air Force**

I chose Norwich because I knew it was the path less traveled. As Norwich's first female Student Government President, I am proud of our work to improve student life by implementing Norwich's first Mental Health Week. Serving our community at large has prepared me to lead in the military and the private sector, just as Captain Partridge intended.



Each year, gifts to the Norwich Fund help students like Audrey gain the experience needed to be a leader in today's world.

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call Brian Baker at (802) 485-2754**



# Leveraging Our Cybersecurity Leadership

In March, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) paid a visit to the Hill to announce \$7.3M in federal cybersecurity grants to Norwich and the Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI) for the purpose of advancing our cybersecurity programs. This award is the latest development in a two-decades-long relationship between the “cyber senator” and Norwich. I want to give great credit to Phil Susmann ’81 for his work as the president of NUARI to make these awards possible.

I had the distinct pleasure of introducing Sen. Leahy, who expressed his deep appreciation of our efforts to “keep the country safe” from cyber threats through critical education and training. He called Norwich the “tip of the spear” and our students our “lasting legacy,” not just for our generation, but for “generations to come.”

The grants include an Army Energy Resilience Contract (\$499K) to fund the development of a research track on energy resilience that includes cybersecurity issues; a Reserve Forces Scholarship Program (\$905K), which will help pay for cybersecurity training for members of the National Guard and military Reserve Forces through CGCS; and a DECIDE® Energy Contract (\$5.9M) from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Air Force to help develop cybersecurity simulations for the energy sector.

Students receiving the cybersecurity scholarships are already in classes, and the energy resilience research started earlier this year. But the biggest new endeavor, the DECIDE project to expand simulation cyber tools to the energy sector, is now beginning and will continue for 36 months.

At the press conference, Leahy noted that federal agencies in Washington are well aware of Norwich’s stellar reputation in the area of cyber education and said that he will “keep sending the money” as long as we “keep getting the students,” stressing, “You can have the most advanced technology in the world, but you have to [have people who] know how to use it.”

For the past 27 years, I have put my best foot forward to help Norwich live up to its mission “to make moral, patriotic, efficient, and useful citizens, and to qualify them for all those high responsibilities resting upon a citizen of this free republic.” Although the threats to our nation have changed dramatically since this school’s founding in 1819, our commitment to combat them has not. Computers are the new weapons, and cyberspace is the new battleground. And the more we can do to protect ourselves and our infrastructure from attack, the safer we as a people and our country will be. Please join me in celebrating this wonderful opportunity to continue to be of service to America in the years and decades ahead.



“[Sen. Patrick] Leahy noted that federal agencies in Washington are well aware of Norwich’s stellar reputation in the area of cyber education.”

Richard W. Schneider  
RADM, USCGR (RET.)  
PRESIDENT

# News From



## A Tiny House for Homeless Vermonters

NU's Design-Build Collaborative and community partners recently announced the near completion of LIFT, an affordable, energy-efficient tiny house prototype designed and built by NU students and faculty. Two of the roughly 300-square-foot custom-designed, energy-efficient small homes will soon be located on a vacant lot once inhabited by blighted, deteriorating housing in downtown Barre City, Vt.







**FUN FACT** The NUCC Regimental Band will play at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 12, 2020.

## 5 STORIES YOU MISSED ON NORWICH.EDU

### 1 NEW OFFICERS HEAR FROM ONE OF THEIR OWN

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark J. O'Neil '86 returned to Norwich to speak to ROTC commissioning officers during a formal ceremony on May 12.

O'Neil has served as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska since 2017 and has held key staff and command positions for both Army units and Special Operations organizations throughout his career.

He earned his commission as an infantry officer in Norwich University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

### 2 MEN'S HOCKEY REACHES CHAMPIONSHIP

The 23-5-3 Cadets rode a stunning 19-game win streak to reach the 2019 NCAA Division III National Championship game in Milwaukee, Wisc., in March. Despite a valiant effort, the team fell 3-2 in a heartbreaking overtime loss to the tournament's No. 1-ranked team, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The match marked NU's fifth appearance in the national championship title game and capped a season full of stand-out play.

A highlight: Goalie Tom



Aubrun '20 from Chamonix, France, was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association East Region All-American Third Team. Ranked among the nation's best Division III goalies, Aubrun logged one of the best single-season performances in the 100-plus-year history of the Norwich men's ice hockey program.

### 3 WOMEN'S HOCKEY STREAK

The lady Cadets (21-5-2) won their ninth New England Hockey Conference to advance for the third straight year to the 10-team NCAA national tournament. It was their 10th NCAA Tournament appearance in just 12 years as a varsity program.

Unfortunately, the reigning NCAA Division III national champions fell to Williams College in their Division III first-round matchup.

On the bright side: Junior forward Amanda Conway scored her NCAA Division III-leading 30th goal of the season.

### 4 PROFESSOR'S \$3 MILLION GIFT

Prof. Emeritus Don Wallace, who retired in 2017 after over five decades of teaching in the Department

of Mechanical Engineering and passed away in November, left in his will over \$3 million to the David Crawford School of Engineering.

An endowment has been created to fund The Donald Wallace Visiting Professor Chair in Engineering.

"Don's impact on his colleagues and students during his career was profound," Pres. Schneider said. "What we did not know was that Don would have the final say in this story."

### 5 VGN RESEARCH GRANTS

Assistant Professor of Biology Allison Neal was awarded \$75,000 to support her work "Division of Labor in Freshwater Trematodes: The Host Longevity Hypothesis."

Meanwhile, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Thomas Shell has been awarded a Vermont Genetics Network Project Award for \$75,000 for a second year in a row. Since arriving at NU in 2017, he has continued research on the project "Development of Photopharmaceuticals to Treat Head and Neck Cancer."

Last year, Shell worked with three students in his lab, who also received funding through the Vermont Genetics Network or NU's Undergraduate Research Program.

## Year's Best Military Book: *Army of None*

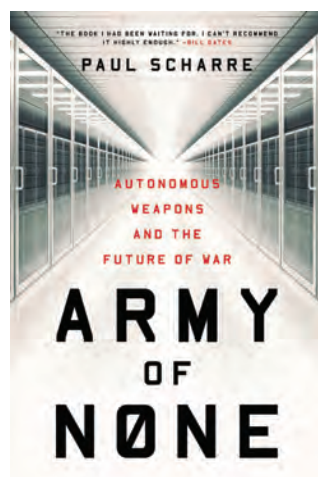
*Paul Scharre wins Colby Award for book  
on AI, autonomous weapons*

First-time author Paul Scharre has won Norwich University's 2019 William E. Colby Award for his book, *Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War*. A former U.S. Army Ranger who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Scharre is a senior fellow and director of the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. He previously worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2008 to 2013, where he played a leading role establishing policies on unmanned and autonomous systems and emerging weapons technologies.

His prize-winning book is page-turning, narrative nonfiction that explores what could happen when next-generation weapons change warfare. His book examines the role of artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons, the complex legal and ethical issues involved, and their growing use worldwide. Scharre combines military history, philosophy, science, and global policy with interviews with defense experts, activists, analysts, and psychologists. His argument: technology should be utilized when it provides benefits and makes war more humane, spares civilian lives, and increases precision. But autonomous technology is no replacement for human empathy, judgment, and decision-making.

Reviewing *Army of None* on his GatesBlog, Bill Gates wrote, "It's the book I had been waiting for. I can't recommend it highly enough. Scharre is a great thinker who has both on-the-ground experience and a high-level view." Thomas E. Ricks, writing in *The New York Times*, called *Army of None* "one of the most interesting books on military affairs that I have read in some time."

Now in its 20th year, the Colby prize is awarded annually by Norwich to a first solo work of fiction or nonfiction that has made a major contribution to the understanding of military histo-



ry, intelligence operations, or international affairs.

"I'm incredibly humbled and honored that *Army of None* was chosen for the 2019 Colby Award," Scharre said. The Virginia-based author will receive a \$5,000 honorarium during the Norwich University Military Writers' Symposium, September 24–25.

Other finalists for this year's Colby Award include *Facts and Fears* by James R. Clapper, *War on Peace* by Ronan Farrow, *A Spy Named Orphan* by Roland Philipps, *Brotherhood of Mamluks* by Brad Graft, and *The China Mission* by Daniel Kurtz-Phelan. ■

## New Online Nursing RN to BSN Degree

The School of Nursing and the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies (CGCS) have launched a new online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) degree-completion program. Designed for licensed RNs who want to pursue their degree while balancing work and other life responsibilities, the program's first trimester begins August 2019.

"Increasingly, employers are recognizing the importance of BSN-prepared nurses in meeting the complexity of healthcare delivery," School of Nursing Director Paulette Thabault, DNP, APRN, JD, FAANP, says. "This program serves our communities and the nursing profession by allowing a path for nurses to advance their education and their careers."

Similar to other CGCS online degree-completion programs, the new degree can be completed in 18 months or less and will have multiple start dates throughout the year. The RN to BSN curriculum focuses on leadership, evidence-based practice, evolving concepts in technology and informatics, human patho-pharmacology, community nursing, and end-of-life care.

"This is a great opportunity ... [to] provide working registered nurses with the ability to expand on their current expertise and achieve their career and educational goals," says CGCS Vice President and Dean William Clements. ■



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

FORGING  
THE FUTURE

*Development & Alumni  
Relations VP Dave  
Whaley '76 discusses the  
Bicentennial campaign's  
progress and impact*

**What is the latest on the  
campaign's progress?**

As of April, we've raised \$104 million. So we've already exceeded our original goal of \$100 million, which was set in 2014, when this campaign started. The Board of Trustees have challenged us to raise another \$10 million. We know we'll get there by year's end. Why? Because our alumni, our parents, our friends, our faculty and staff support what we're trying and need to do to provide the right academic environment for students today. This campaign is totally focused on the academic side of the house. Mack Hall, North, Dewey, Ainsworth, Kreitzberg Library—all of these renovations and new construction have been centered on helping students learn better. Webb, Dewey, and Ainsworth Halls had not been renovated in 50 years. We've now brought them to the standard, in which we know our students can thrive in. The campaign allowed us to create it.

**Can you give us another example of  
the campaign's impact?**

Mack Hall, which is our brand-new academic building, now houses our cybersecurity program. When we started that program 15 years ago, it was located in the basement of Dewey Hall, a place where the roof leaked when it



Mack Hall photograph by William Horne; design architect: Jones Architecture; architect-of-record: Freeman French Freeman

rained. Today we have a new, nationally known lab for cyber. We built it to allow our students and faculty to study better and be more effective. It also creates the right atmosphere, one that says, "Hey we're good. We want to be great. Here's your chance. We're going to give you that opportunity, the right equipment and environment to thrive in." It's the wow factor.

**Why should alumni get involved in  
the campaign today?**

President Schneider has been with us now for 27 years and has one more year to go. He has set a vision for this school since day one. He has remained true to our past and our culture, while moving us forward. Whatever he has set out to do, he has followed through on his vision and delivered with the support of our alumni, parents, friends,

staff, and students. If Pres. Schneider says the *Forging the Future* campaign is going to be important for Norwich—not only now, but for the next generation of students that want to come here—then I want to be part of that.

So my message to our friends is, if you haven't been part of the campaign yet, or you want to be part of it again in a bigger way, now's the time to act. We're only going to be 200 years old once. We want to show regionally, nationally that we're a place to be reckoned with. So if you want to be part of something bigger than yourself, part of making a place that I believe made a difference in most of our lives, you have a chance now to make that same impact in our third century. It's a small way to give back, to ensure that Norwich is here forever. ■

*For more information, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/waystogive](http://alumni.norwich.edu/waystogive)*

ROOK BUDDIES

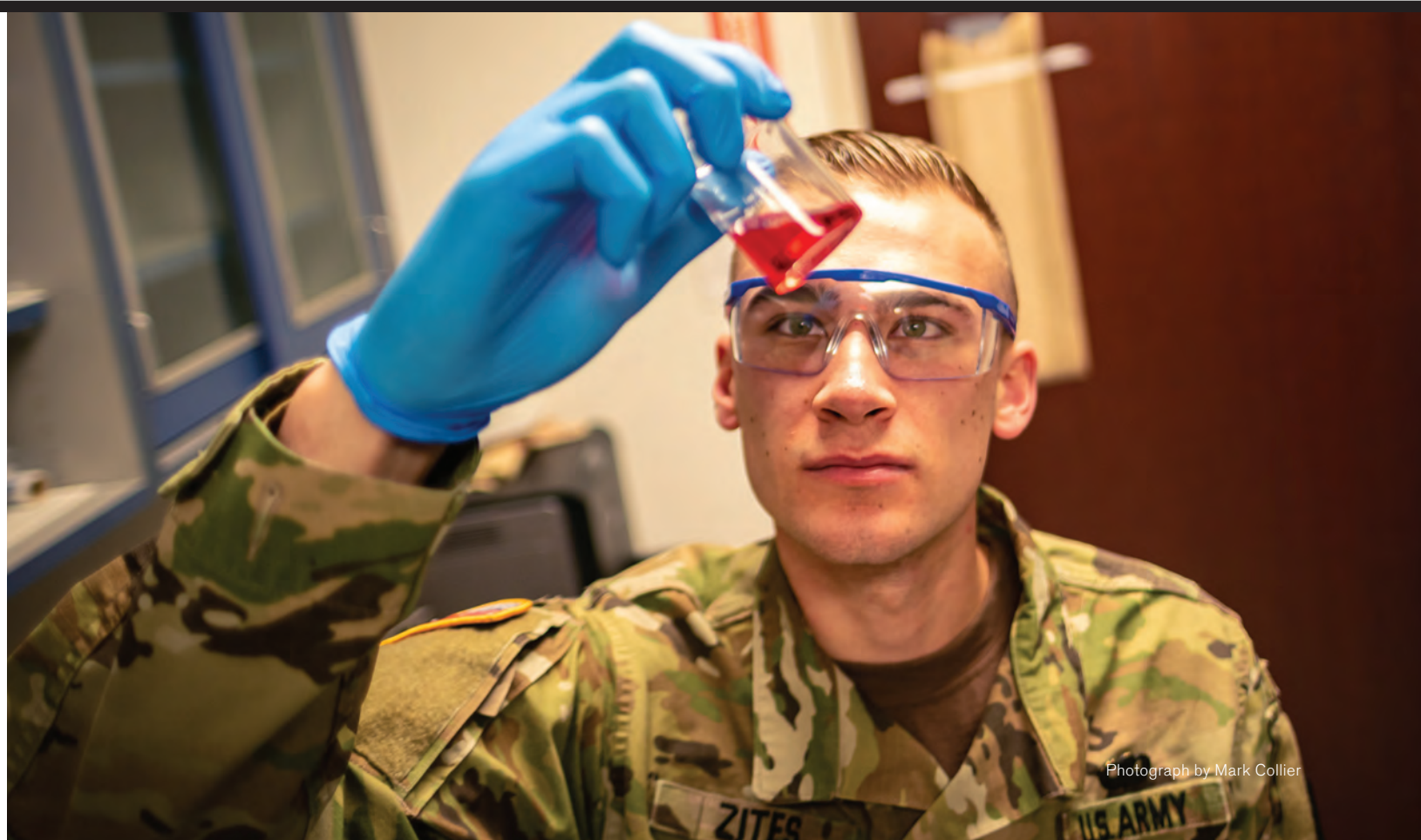
KYLE GERMANY '19  
AND NATHAN LEACH '19



Members of the same rook platoon, seniors Kyle Germany and Nathan Leach met during their first days at Norwich. They've been friends ever since. "We hang out together on weekends," says Germany, who hails from Boulder, Colo. The two pals have gone rock climbing in the Flatirons and launched road trips to Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park. Leach is an international studies and Spanish double major from Jericho, Vt. "His family is great, and they kind of host a lot of our freshman group," says Germany, who commissions into the Air Force after graduation before heading to flight school. Leach studied in Costa Rica for five months last year and hopes to begin a law enforcement career with the Vermont State Police or his local police department. Suffice it to say, the two friends plan to stay in touch. ■

Photograph by Mark Collier





Photograph by Mark Collier

## Dillon Zites '20 Takes Cancer Research to Capitol Hill

Biology major Dillon Zites of Clarksville, Tenn., presented his research on improving cancer treatment at the prestigious Posters on the Hill undergraduate student research showcase in Washington, D.C., in April. Hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research, Posters on the Hill 2019 highlighted 60 top student research projects chosen from around the country.

Zites was the third Norwich undergraduate in five years to be selected for the national research showcase, says Prof. Michael McGinnis, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. At the Capitol, Zites presented his re-

search project, "Light Mediated Cancer Treatment Utilizing Cobalamin Derivatives," which he conducted under the guidance and mentorship of Assistant Professor of Chemistry Thomas Shell. Shell is a groundbreaking researcher in the field of light-activated drugs known as photopharmaceuticals.

The pair continued ongoing research into light-sensitive molecules derived from vitamin B<sub>12</sub> that can bind to chemotherapy drugs and shield their toxic properties while traveling through the body. When the drug-carrying molecules reach cancerous cells in mice, researchers expose them to light, causing the molecules to split apart and

release their drug payloads for more targeted cancer treatment.

Zites' well-deserved success highlights the many opportunities for students to engage in high-impact undergraduate research at Norwich. "Through undergraduate research, [students] are transformed into scholars," Prof. Karen L. Hinkle, NU's associate provost for research and chief research officer, says. "They take the skills of reasoning, critical analysis, creativity, and discovery beyond the undergraduate years to improve not only their lives but society." ■



## JOURNEYS



### PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

MARCH 8, 2019 3:45 P.M.

Michelle Masperi '19 used her iPhone to capture this raven's-eye view of the narrow streets of Prague's Mala Strana, or Lesser Town, neighborhood. Masperi visited the Czech capital earlier this spring for a two-day human rights conference cosponsored by Norwich University and Prague's Anglo-American University. A communications major and member of the 2018 NCAA Division III championship NU women's hockey team, Masperi served as a conference reporter for the gathering, which highlighted student scholarship. In all, 20 Norwich students, faculty, and staff attended the inaugural conference co-organized by history professor and human rights scholar Rowly Brucken. The conference convenes again in 2021 on the Norwich campus.





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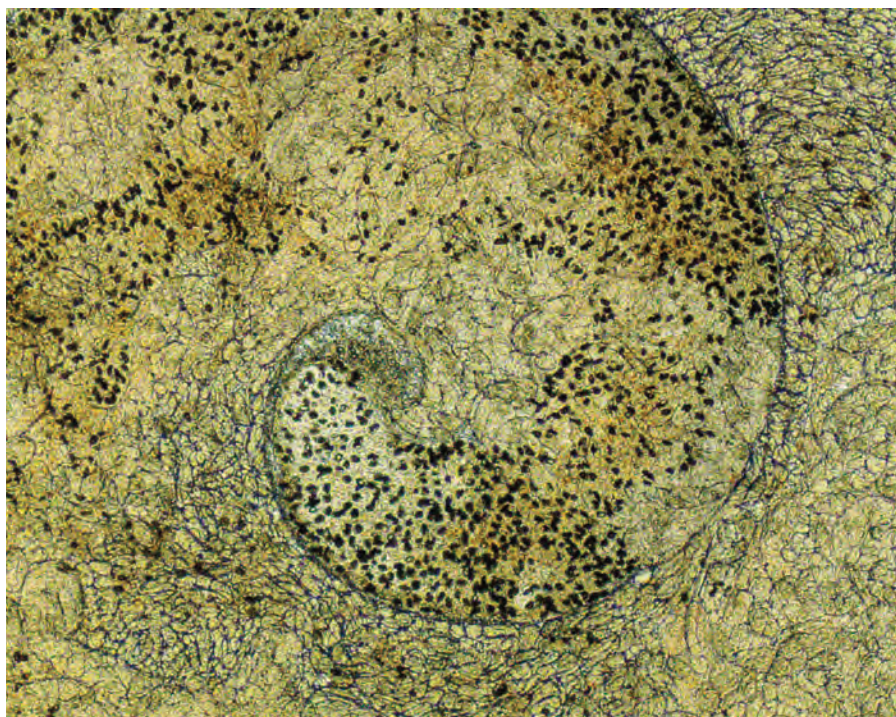
## RESEARCH

## THE COMPLEX, ENTHRALLING LIVES OF PARASITES

*Biology Prof. Allison Neal on the lure and impact  
of studying species that give us the creeps*

I was drawn to study parasites, because I am fascinated by the complexity of their life cycles and the different perspective they offer on life. Once you get past the “ick” factor—which I admit is also a draw to teaching parasitology—you come to appreciate the amazing adaptations parasites have. They can be mind-altering (e.g., *Toxoplasma*), cause alien-like structures to burst out of their hosts (e.g., *Cordyceps*), or harness food webs and cause a spectacle to get from one host to the next (e.g., *Leucochloridium*). They also show surprising sophistication in subtler ways: they can adjust sex ratios to maximize their reproduction with or without competitors. (This was the topic of my PhD research.) It’s also possible that they adjust the ratios of soldiers to procreators to best utilize host resources. This is the focus of my current \$75,000 research grant from the Vermont Genetics Network, a funding arm of the National Institutes of Health. NIH supports work like mine because, unfortunately, too often that host is us.

My research focuses on trematodes, a group of parasitic flatworms. For us humans, the most important trematodes are the schistosomes (especially genus *Schistosoma*). Also known as blood flukes, these parasites have surprisingly poor name recognition here in the U.S., despite their devastating impact in other parts of the world. They cause a disease called schistosomiasis or bilharzia, a.k.a. “snail fever.” Each year, they infect over 200 million people and kill hundreds of thousands.



Schistosomes damage the kidneys and liver. This can ultimately prove fatal. But long before it does, development in children can be seriously impacted. Death is not the only suffering caused.

There are other neglected tropical diseases, diseases that also have human-infecting trematodes as their cause. They include *Paragonimus* (“lung fluke”) and *Fasciola* (“liver fluke”), the drivers of the diseases paragonimiasis and fascioliasis. Here in Vermont, and often of most relevance to those of us in the United States, trematodes are the source of “swimmer’s itch” or “duck itch” (the technical term is cercarial dermatitis). The causative

species are schistosomes that naturally infect birds. However, their larvae can cause rashes if they target us instead of their preferred avian hosts. Fortunately, these schistosomes are not human specialists, so the resulting disease is less serious.

Like many parasites, the lives of trematodes are complex. They spend part of their life cycle infecting snails, where they clone themselves to produce many genetically identical worms. Within the past 10 years, researchers have found evidence that these “worm clones” show division of labor (like queen and soldier ants) in marine systems. Some worms continue to repro-



duce, while others specialize instead in defending the snail from other trematodes that might try to invade it —picture a clone army protecting their cozy, food-rich castle.

I find these tiny worlds and clever strategies for survival endlessly fascinating, and in my current research, I hope to learn whether trematodes that infect freshwater snails also show this division of labor. I specifically aim to test a hypothesis that snail longevity affects whether or not the parasitic trematodes it hosts display similar divisions of labor. Schistosomes do not belong to the group of trematodes that display this strategy, but they are often competitively inferior to those that do. This hints at a possible control mechanism to avert disease both here and abroad.

I could say much more about our collective understanding of parasites, their wondrously strange lives, their impact on our own, and the scientific mysteries that remain. Trying to understand how parasites live has required me to change my perspective on the world. What do they need? How do they get it? Thinking this way takes imagination and creative thinking. But there's a payoff. It enables like-minded researchers to better understand our parasitic foes. In doing so, we can combat them more effectively. ■

## What I Wear to Class

**Shawn Houle '19**

Political science major  
from Methuen, Mass.  
Army ROTC Cadet

"This is the **new army combat uniform**. The operational camouflage pattern changed from the digital uniform adopted after 9/11."

"My grandfather and father were both in the Army. But growing up, my father never tried to push it on me."

Jump wings from airborne school. "I wear the [black] dot because I'm an MS4, so I've completed Advance Camp."

The three-year Army ROTC scholar commissions as 2nd Lt. after graduation and heads to Fort Benning, Ga., for a basic officer leader course.

Serves as **South Hall residence advisor**.

"I get to hang out with all my residents and plan events for my building and try and get everyone as involved as I can."

"I try to wear clothes that don't have a lot of writing on them. I like a lot of stripes and polka dots and stuff, but I'm very neutral."

**Favorite tattoo?** "A replica of a tree from my camp that I grew up at. It's a big oak. It was there for hundreds of years. We called it the Trinity Tree. You could see it from the other side of the lake, it was [so] big."

What her grandfather, President Schneider, thinks: "If I wear jeans with holes in them he's quiet about it, but he doesn't love it."

**Jordan LeFebvre '20**

Psychology major from  
Northfield, Vt.

IMPACT

# A FAB LAB FOR ENGINEERS

*A \$600K gift transforms the Carrara Family Fluids Lab at the David Crawford School of Engineering*

BY SEAN MARKEY

Last year, finishing touches were made to renovations of the engineering Fluids and ProtoCAM Lab in the basement of the Bartoetto Science Complex. Thanks to generous gifts from Paul '59 and the late Joanne Carrara over several years, funds were in place to update the lab with a new wind tunnel, renovated flume, 3-D printer, and a computer-assisted manufacturing lab space. Whiteboards and open, flexible classroom space were added, along with fresh paint, new lighting, and refinished floors—lending the space the distinct vibe of a Microsoft campus.

The updates have significantly impacted the student experience, says Department of Mechanical Engineering Chair Danner Friend, an aerospace and manufacturing expert who teaches classes on engineering design and innovation, among others. “[It has] allowed us to be much more experiential in the types of projects and interactions we have our students work on.”

Faculty colleague Karen Supan, PhD, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, agrees. Students in first-year engineering design courses can not only design small wind turbines, but print 3-D plastic prototypes, and test them in the lab’s new wind tunnel. Some students even used the

tunnel while designing a mobile greenhouse system. “You wouldn’t have thought [so],” Supan says. “But they were testing different materials and their wind strength.”

Prof. Stephen Fitzhugh, who directs the David Crawford School of Engineering, says the greatest asset in the lab isn’t a piece of equipment, however. It’s machinist Eric Wood. “He’s got so much knowledge,” Fitzhugh says. “For our students, he’s the link to the manufacturing department that a company would have. As designer[s], engineers are always thinking, ‘Okay, this is a great neat thing, but how’s it gonna be made?’”

The renovated lab and the proximity of manufacturing and testing equipment make hands-on learning easier—especially for senior engineering majors working on their senior capstone design projects.

As faculty advisors, Supan and her colleagues encourage seniors to build early prototypes of these projects—out of boxes, Styrofoam, LEGOs, anything. “We want you to get that thought out of your head,” Supan says. “Because once you start being very tactile with something, you all of a sudden realize, *That’s the worst idea I ever made.*” Only then can you refine it and design something great. ■







**A REALLY BIG FAN**  
*Associate Professor of  
Mechanical Engineering  
Karen Supan, PhD, holds on  
by the wind tunnel exhaust  
fan in the renovated Science  
Building Fluids Lab.*

Photograph by Sean Markey



CAREER STRATEGY

# FORMER FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR LARRY POTTS

We talk to the expert behind  
Norwich Pro's new 16-week  
online Corporate Compliance and  
Investigations certificate program.

BY SEAN MARKEY

Not so long ago, *The Wall Street Journal* described corporate compliance as the hottest job in America. Today, the field remains just as full of opportunity, says Larry Potts, who spent 23 years with the FBI before jumping into the field himself. "It's frankly a great second career." The former deputy director of the FBI most recently spent 14 years as the chief compliance officer and senior vice president for Scientific Games, a multi-billion-dollar international gambling and lottery products and services company based in **Las Vegas**. Here,

The industry and city were once synonymous with organized crime.

Potts breaks down the compliance field and the new certificate program he'll teach for Norwich Pro<sup>sm</sup> at the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.





### So what exactly is corporate compliance?

It's become synonymous with creating a [corporate] culture that not only regulators look for—but also stockholders, investors, [and] banks—where people do the right thing for the right reasons. They build a great product, but they do it in the right way. They have a great marketing program, but

"Compliance [also] plays a huge role in mergers and acquisitions," Potts says.

it's one based on integrity and honesty. So it's not just rules. It's

the way you do your **business**. The way you live your life within the corporation.

### You said it's a great second career. For whom?

People who come out of law enforcement, the military—even attorneys. There're lots of jobs in compliance for people like that. There are also a lot of side jobs; there're a ton of private investigative jobs in this country that focus on due diligence. They're not following people around and doing surveillance and stuff. They're actually working major, major cases as private investigators, working with a company to do due diligence as an external part of a company's compliance program.

### Why do you teach?

Because I like to talk. (*Laughs.*) I've been very fortunate in my life. I've had some great mentors, in school and business and the FBI, and I've learned from all that. I love being able to pass that along, to pass it forward to others who are coming up.

### So what do you want to pass along to your Norwich Pro students?

This program is all about letting people understand what a compliance program is, why it's required, what kind of laws it's based on, how to interact with regulators, and what things are required in a compliance program. For instance, how to do a risk assessment, how to establish internal controls, how to set up a business code of conduct,

how to do policies on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, how to have a gifts and entertainment policy that's not going to get you in trouble. How to do due diligence in internal investigation. And definitely at the end, a lot of focus in this course is on how to establish that culture.

### You spent 23 years at the FBI. What did you do there?

The great thing about the FBI is that you get a chance to do a lot of different things. I worked everything from bank robberies and the fugitive squad to working in white-collar crime. I focused a lot in the middle part of my career there on public corruption cases. I was the chief of the White-Collar Crime section, and was literally pulled out of there and sent to be the inspector in charge of a case called VANPAC. That was the murder of a federal judge and a civil rights attorney by mail bomb. I worked that **case** as the inspector in charge for about two years. And then I was the assistant director in charge of Criminal Investigations for couple of years, and a deputy under FBI Director Louis Freeh for a while. So, I had a lot of very satisfying assignments and got to work with a lot of great people.

"We were able to identify who was responsible and prosecute him."

### You've also been an invited speaker at Harvard's law school and its John F. Kennedy School of Government and you served on the Harvard Stanford Task Force on Terrorism. Talk about the latter, if you would.

I sometimes felt a little out of place when I looked around and saw the others at the table. A lot of former secretaries of defense and people like **John Deutch** and **Jamie**

Deutch, a former deputy secretary of defense and CIA director, now teaches at MIT.

### Gorelick—some really first-rate

minds. We were trying to really look at what terrorism is and how can we just

Shortly afterward, he became secretary of defense, serving under Republican Pres. George W. Bush and (later) Democratic Pres. Barack Obama.

The former deputy attorney general is now a highly respected attorney in D.C.

be better prepared.

One day, we focused on law enforcement and intelligence relations. And so I took the lead, along with Bob Gates. **Bob**

**Gates** had been the

director of the CIA when I was over at the FBI, and we had worked together. So Bob and I had a really fun day.

### What's it been like to put together the compliance certificate program for Norwich Pro?

I will tell you, I had no idea. I have so much more respect for professors. I used to think, "What a cushy job." Well, I have learned some serious lessons about how challenging it is to put together a program that's going to be fun and interesting and really help the people who are taking the course. I've had some great help from Norwich on that. You start out by thinking, "Well, what are the things I wish I had known the day I first got into compliance?" And then, "What are the things I've learned as I've gone along?" And "What are the things that I know now that are really the kind of the secrets of the trade in terms of figuring this thing out and doing the best you can for the company you're working with?" It's been a terrific experience. I'm really indebted to Norwich for giving me this opportunity. ■

Interview condensed and edited for length and clarity.

### MORE INFORMATION

*The Norwich Pro<sup>sm</sup> certificate program in corporate compliance and investigations begins August 26. For registration information and details on other professional certificate programs from Norwich University's online College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, visit [pro.norwich.edu](http://pro.norwich.edu).*



## The Hill



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## PURSUITS

# THIS MAKER SPACE ISN'T FOR WIMPS

A home workshop feeds the motorcycle repair and metal-working obsessions of chemistry Prof. Ethan Guth

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN MARKEY

There's a fine line between obsession and madness. Let Ethan Guth show you around his basement metal-working shop at his North Burlington home some Saturday, and you may realize—having missed it earlier—that you're suddenly approaching that boundary at 120 mph. The big hint comes when Guth casually mentions the oxyacetylene and TIG welding torches he uses in his basement. As in, the densely packed workshop you're currently standing in with the low wooden ceiling beneath the living room full of small children. But then the PhD points out the vent hood and steel plates he had installed. How mad could he be?

Yet, the maker delirium soon reveals itself again when you ask Guth what he does with all that stuff. The hundreds upon hundreds of wrenches, screw drivers, gauges, hammers, drill bits, calipers, power tools, and metal-working accessories that line the walls, fill the drawers, and cover the floor. The metal lathe and two milling machines. The industrial 575-volt air compressor. (Answer: It's not to inflate his kids' bike tires in 0.01 seconds. It's to sandblast.) The second, even larger lathe (c. 1905) crammed in his garage. Guth collects all those tools so that he can ... machine

parts to fix other tools. And, in theory, with those newly fixed tools, he will machine other parts to fix other tools. Until, at last—perhaps years if not decades later—he will have the right gear to once and for all get to what he really wants to work on, which is restoring old motorcycles. And, yes, the lovely old Vespa that his wife spied in the family barn will be first out of the gate. But only after Guth has personally retraced the Journey of Man through the Industrial Age.

It seems ironic that Guth chose such a hard path. He is, after all, a molecular chemist who uses the gene-editing tool known as CRISPR—the ultimate evolutionary short-cut—in his research to engineer radiation-resistant bacteria. But exploring his past explains things a little. Guth grew up on the back of his father's motorcycle and began riding his own at age five. (His father was a psychiatrist, his mother a scientist turned technical writer.) Guth says that from his earliest days, he was fascinated by mechanical things and how they worked. “As soon as I could use my hands, I would be taking something apart,” he says. By the age of 15, Guth was racing motorcycles on a New Hampshire circuit, and he spent the

next decade “heavily invested” in motorcycle culture. “When you're racing, you're always crashing and rebuilding and fixing and modifying.” Guth honed his mechanic skills in high school working for a local Harley mechanic. He repaired the shop's broken-down Japanese imports, inheriting 20 of them when the shop closed. (They are still in his family barn.)

Guth sees the connections between his passions for molecular chemistry, motorcycle repair, and machine tools. It's the quest to build things and to understand how smaller parts and systems fit together and work, whether they're made of steel or chains of carbon molecules. There are differences, too. The human species is a million years old, Guth observes, and our brains evolved over that span firmly rooted in the natural environment around us. So for Guth, metal-working is as timeless as flint-knapping a spear tip. After spending eight hours of “intangible” work typing on a computer, “I need to get back to the physical world and see a direct effect of my action in the world around me,” he says in his shop. “Like when I'm down here ... making a simple part, it just feels good.” ■

# THE MAKERS

From the architecture studio to the engineering lab, Norwich undergraduates shine when hands-on learning requires hands-on making. A showcase of tiny art, concrete canoes, Mars mining bots, and other inspired creations.

BY SEAN MARKEY

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# DIG IT!

## A Mars Mining Robot

For their senior capstone project, mechanical engineers Alfred Freed '19, Caryn Ojemann '19, and Brendan Watson '19 teamed up with electrical engineer Cody Moore '19 to design, build, and test a system to mine ice chunks from the Martian surface. Why ice? Because future astronauts will find exploring the Red Planet thirsty work.

Sponsored by NASA's Vermont Space Grant Consortium, the Norwich team had a running start, thanks to a repurposed chassis from colleagues at UVM. Watson, the team's project manager, says they considered three approaches when designing their digger. They ultimately landed on a bucket chain as the best solution.

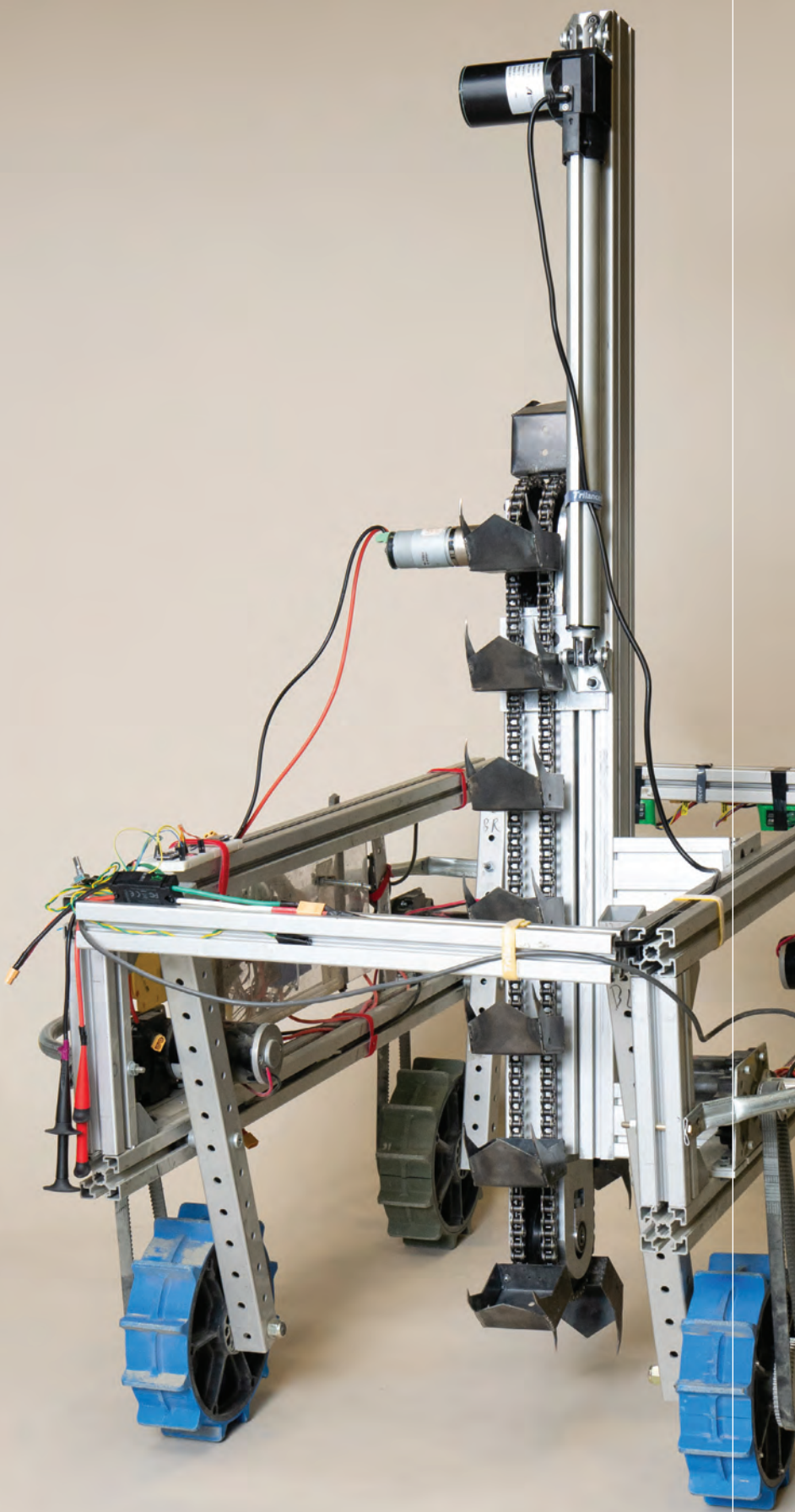
In all, the team spent hundreds of hours designing, programming, and assembling their digger. Watson alone burned 100 hours on computer-aided modeling. The team spent another 25 hours just to cut, bend, and weld the robot's 15 toothed buckets.

Moore, who programmed the bot's micro-controllers, says his goal wasn't to build a robot that would travel to Mars. Rather it was to build a bot in which NASA engineers might find "the slightest idea that helps them innovate and create and engineer an amazing robot that can." Words alone that seem ready-made to inspire.

### MARS MINER

*The bucket chain design on this Mars digger was inspired by river dredges and Alaska gold-mining equipment. Future mods: a collection bucket with infrared sensor.*

Photograph by Sean Markey





# A 21-FOOT CONCRETE CANOE

And, Yes, It Floats





## HEAVY-DUTY MAKERS

*Left to right: Juniors Will Andon, Vincent Polhemus, and Andrew Peary pose in Mack Hall with the Partridge, the roughly 400-pound concrete canoe they built as sophomores.*

Photographs and collage by Mark Collier

Last year, civil engineering majors Vincent Polhemus '20, Will Andon '20, and construction management major Andrew Peary '20 built this 21-foot, four-person canoe and entered it in the American Society of Civil Engineers Concrete Canoe Competition. The rook brothers didn't gain a single credit hour for the estimated 1,000 hours of work they put into the project. It was all done for fun.

This year, Polhemus and his team, aided by a dozen freshmen, went

full-NASCAR in their quest to shave weight. The big leap forward: lightweight, high-performance concrete of their own formulation. By adding hardened shale (baked and expanded at 2,600 °F) and small beads of recycled Styrofoam covered in anti-static coating, they could produce concrete that was 45 percent lighter. "It's very lightweight, and it's still pretty strong," Vincent says, noting its 2,600-psi rating.

So why build a canoe from concrete? Prof. Ed Schmeckpeper chairs the De-

partment of Civil Engineering at the David Crawford School of Engineering and has advised the project in the past. He says the main benefit is the challenge of using conventional materials in unconventional ways. The contest also demands skills engineering majors will need in their future careers: teamwork, design, technical writing, problem solving, budgeting, and time management. There are no extensions, after all. Your boat floats, or it doesn't.

# POWER TRIP

## An Inflatable Solar Array for Mars-Bound Spacecraft

The International Space Station can generate 120 kilowatts of power, enough to run life-support systems and support the research activities of a six-person crew. For their yearlong capstone project, senior mechanical engineers Jacob Erickson, Nick Skinner, Arran Chivell, and Shane Hutchins designed a solar array for a Mars-bound rocket that can generate twice that power—but still fit into a 10-cubic-meter payload at liftoff. Their solution: a pair of inflatable solar arrays and some clever engineering for deploying them in space. “Each one is a quarter of a football field” in size, Erickson says. “It’s massive.” The team had to design around a host of engineering hazards, from thermal welding to micrometeorite punctures. They also built redundancy into their deployment system (five inflation tubes per array), enabling the power panels to deploy should one tube fail. “The deployment idea was a really new idea ... especially unrolling it the way we do,” Skinner says, adding that if you’re heading to Mars, an inflatable design works well.

### HIGH-VOLTAGE THINKERS

*Clockwise from top left: Jake Erickson '19, Nick Skinner '19, Arran Chivell '19, and Shane Hutchins '19 with a 1:40 scale mockup of their inflatable solar panel design.*

*Photograph by Sean Markey*







## TINY ART TINS

First-Year Architecture Majors Craft  
Small Objects Full of Big Ideas

By the time they graduate, architecture majors design structures on a grand scale. But as freshmen, they start small. Kicking off the first two weeks of classes with a period of collective creativity known as CATALYST, School of Architecture + Art faculty members Cara Armstrong and Arthur Schaller challenge first-year majors with a series of small projects. One involved choosing a subject from a list of 50 historic figures, reading about their work, and creating a small shrine in an empty Altoids peppermint tin.

Diverse by design, the luminaries range from influential architects (Le Corbusier) to mathematicians and philosophers (René Descartes), urban planning critics (Jane

Jacobs), artists (Leonardo da Vinci), and choreographers (Martha Graham, as seen above). The idea is to expose students to new perspectives. “There’s multiple ways of looking at architecture and thinking about architecture,” says Armstrong, herself a multifaceted architect, educator, writer, and illustrator. “Architecture really draws from everything. There’s no right answer.” On a practical level, constructing shrines lets students practice key skills. “It’s an introductory blitz to many of the tools that are used” in architecture, says Schaller. “Drawing, modeling, thinking, diagramming—everything all at once. And then we keep repeating.”

Photograph by Sean Markey



## A MECHANICAL FLUTE

*Electrical engineering major Colin Blake '19 holds part of an adaptive flute controller for amputees, which he helped design and build with project partner Chandler Whipple '19.*

**Photograph by  
Sean Markey**





# ADAPTIVE MUSIC

## Designing an Instrument for Amputees

An estimated 50,000 Americans undergo limb amputations each year, with one in four losing an arm or hand. So how can they regain their ability to play music or enjoy the mental health benefits of learning an instrument for the very first time? Two teams of Norwich students addressed the problem for their capstone senior engineering projects. Mechanical engineers Daniel Keating '19, Noah Richwine '19, and Thomas Williams '19 designed and built a remote-control flute, using solenoids and actuators to play notes on a stand-in wooden flute made of PVC—something flutists would normally do with their fingertips. Meanwhile, Chandler Whipple '19 and Colin Blake '19 made the corresponding electrical microcontroller system. Their design: a five-finger controller capable of playing 20 notes (more than two octaves) while gripped in just a single hand. "There's a lot of different things that go into making a full product work," Whipple says, reflecting on his project experience. "You're not always working hand in hand with the people who are going to be building your devices. So being able to come up with a plan, talk to them every so often, and reach a final product that kind of meshes and works together "is key."



# MARKETING THE MAKERS

Matt Valsecchi '19 and CJ Davis '20 didn't craft this museum-quality comb-back rocker. Instead, they created a social media marketing strategy for the people who did. Last fall, the students worked as marketing consultants for second-generation Windsor chair maker George Sawyer and his small family-owned Vermont company, Sawyer Made. The team was handpicked by marketing Prof. William Jolley for the business development project sponsored by the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation. Working as paid consultants with oversight from Prof. Jolley, Valsecchi and Davis aimed to increase Sawyer Made's social media presence. They were "careful not to overlook the financial implications of their recommendations," Jolley says. But first the students had to lay the groundwork. They updated the company's website, researched their target market, and then developed social media strategies. "Getting to know the Sawyers was easy," Valsecchi says. "They were very open to our ideas." The Sawyers had an important idea of their own—they wanted to grow their business at a pace they could handle. ■

—Jim Graves

The writer is the NU Internship Coordinator for the Career and Internship Center.

Photograph by George Sawyer





# Mission of Mercy





In March, School of Nursing Director Paulette Thabault led students on a service-learning mission to Costa Rica, where they staffed a medical clinic for refugees fleeing violence in neighboring Nicaragua. We sent long-time *National Geographic* photographer Karen Kasmauski—known for her Pulitzer-nominated work on global health, nursing, and refugees—to join them.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAREN KASMAUSKI  
TEXT BY SEAN MARKEY



Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. It is also one of its most beautiful and troubled. In April 2018, the country's notoriously violent and corrupt president, Daniel Ortega, sharply cut social security benefits and raised taxes. "People who were already being squeezed were squeezed even harder," says School of Nursing Director Paulette Thabault, DNP, JD, a frequent medical volunteer there.

Pensioners and students took to the streets to protest. Their nonviolent movement was met with a brutal crack-down by pro-Ortega paramilitary and government forces. Churches were attacked and the Internet shut down. More than 500 people have been killed

and hundreds more imprisoned and tortured. UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, estimates that at least 62,000 Nicaraguans have fled the country since the violence began. Of those, some 55,500 have sought refuge in neighboring Costa Rica, a country that has long offered asylum to its Central American neighbors during decades of strife in the region.

The asylum-seekers include students, former public officials, opposition figures, journalists, doctors, human rights defenders, and farmers, according to Geneva-based UNHCR spokesperson, Liz Throssell. "A significant number arrive in need of healthcare, psychological support, shelter, and food assistance."

To help meet a small portion of that need, Thabault led a week-long experiential learning trip to Costa Rica over spring break in March. For nursing majors, it was also chance to learn about community-based nursing and population health while putting their clinical skills into practice.

Working through the faith-based medical and humanitarian relief nonprofit Corner of Love, Norwich volunteers set up a temporary medical clinic in the Costa Rica village of La Cruz, located half an hour from the Nicaragua border. They brought with them 3,000 pounds of donated medical supplies, medicines, and other basic necessities—from soap, shampoo, and toothpaste to clothing, shoes, and reading glasses.





Paired with licensed doctors and nurse practitioners, nursing students and a few international studies and criminal justice majors worked long days to help distribute food, clothing, medical care, and fellowship to hundreds of Nicaraguan refugees based in from San Jose and other locales.

Patients presented a range of medical conditions—from parasitic infections and pneumonia to heart conditions, psychological trauma, and late-stage cancer. Some cases were easily treated with antibiotics or other available medicine. Other cases seemed all but hopeless, such as a mother of two who arrived with signs of metastatic breast cancer and advanced liver failure.

Simple things made a big difference.

Children could play with coloring books and soap bubbles. Refugees received toiletries, food, and water bottles. At the end of each clinic day, they gathered in a group to share personal stories of fleeing their homeland and their worries about the uncertain future ahead.

Among the trip's volunteers was Dr. Peter Gunther. A Burlington-based doctor who is also married to Thabault, he reflected on how the clinic benefited the refugees. "The most important thing, in my mind, is we gave them a couple hours of joy, hope, and maybe some laughter," he said. "And I think, given these folks' lives, that's a huge gift."

Cultural immersion was an important aspect of the learning experience for student volunteers, says nursing program director Paulette Thabault (left). "They were in a country where everyone spoke Spanish, and most of them did not." For future nurses, cultural empathy is an essential skill.



Despite the violence and turmoil back home, Nicaraguan asylum seekers remain intensely patriotic. Here, they sing the Nicaragua national anthem. "They were torn from their country that they love," Thabault says. At the clinic, many refugees shared stories about family members who were shot, imprisoned, or tortured. Some patients had their teeth pulled in prison or showed scars from electric shock. Others had their hands and fingers broken. "They're still suffering from [those] physical and emotional wounds and not knowing what is going to be in front of them," Thabault says. "Their future is really unclear and uncertain."















"All of the refugees were so grateful for what we could offer them," says nursing major Morgan Smith (not pictured). "I [felt] blessed to be able to make even the smallest impact in their lives. I wish there was more that could be done." Smith says her volunteer experience changed her, professionally and personally.



Nursing majors were challenged to consider the social determinants of health in the population of Nicaraguan refugees they saw. School of Nursing Director Paulette Thabault says the field known as community health looks at how factors such as birthplace, education, access to food, safe housing, and clean drinking water can affect the health status and outcomes of individuals and populations.















TOP RIGHT: Dr. Peter Gunther and nursing majors treat a Nicaraguan refugee for a severely ingrown toenail. Other cases were far harder to address. Gunther recalls that of a 36-year-old meat cutter from Managua, who played baseball in his youth. "He wanted to be Big Papi," Gunther says, referring to the former Boston Red Sox star. "Papi" explained that he felt chest pains for 48 hours starting on the same day every month, despite his otherwise perfect health. Gunther says he was told that on that date five months previously, Papi had been walking in Managua near a protest with his 19-year-son. Paramilitary members arrived and started shooting students. Papi's son was shot point-blank in the chest with a shotgun and died in his arms.











TOP LEFT: Paulette Thabault shares a hug and a teary farewell on the last day of the clinic. The woman opposite was the matriarch of a family of four in especially poor health. Her husband suffered heart problems. One of her children had an enlarged liver, and both suffered parasitic infections. The mother was in even graver condition, presenting signs of advanced metastatic breast cancer and liver failure.

Student nurse Soon-Yi Dempher recalled working with the family alongside Thabault's daughter, neonatal nurse practitioner Kaitlin Johnson. "I sat there and watched Kaitlin ... tell the mother in front of her two children that she was very, very sick and did not have much time left on this earth." Dempher said at that moment, she realized that being a good nurse was not just about charting patient interactions or assessing their lungs. "It was about compassion. So I held her hand, and I hugged her when she cried. Because in that moment, that was what she needed."







# THE OPIOID CRISIS

**Norwich law enforcement alumni  
on the front lines of the nation's  
most deadly drug epidemic**

STORY BY SEAN MARKEY  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARAM BOGHOSIAN





Dana Dexter '03 became a cop because he wanted to help people. A former champion runner, he also knew from an early age that he didn't want to spend most of his adult life trapped in a cubicle. So after Norwich, he followed his older brother onto the police force in Concord, N.H. Sixteen years later, he is now a master police officer and training officer with the department's patrol division. Four years from retirement eligibility, Dexter still loves putting on the uniform, still loves not knowing what any given day will bring. One minute he could be rescuing a cat, the next chasing a felon down a river.

But lately, compassion fatigue is a phrase that crosses his mind. Dexter still cares. When it comes to the state's opioid crisis, however, it's hard not to be affected by the sheer number of overdoses and deaths. By returning to the same house, stairwell, or bathroom time and again. By seeing people so trapped in their addiction that they get angry when you pull them back from the brink of death because you've ruined their high.

As far as the national opioid crisis goes, New Hampshire is among the hardest-hit states in the country. Its per capita death rate from opioid overdoses trails only that of West Virginia, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 2013 and 2016 alone, the number of people who died in New Hampshire from opioid overdoses tripled. The National Institute on Drug Abuse at the federal National Institutes of Health attributes the spike to the abundance of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 times more powerful than heroin.

Elsewhere across the U.S., the annual death rate from opioids—64,000 in 2017, the most recent year in which federal statistic are available—now exceeds that caused by traffic accidents or gun homicides. The impact has been so significant that the average life expectancy for Americans has been declining in recent years. According to the CDC, some 400,000 Americans have died from opioid-



related causes between 1999 and 2017.

For public servants on the front lines of the nation's opioid crisis, police officers like Dexter and other first responders, the burden of the crisis has been a heavy one. Harrowing brushes with death and hopelessness are now a regular part of the job—as prescription painkillers, heroin, fentanyl, and other synthetic opioids tear lives, communities, and families apart.

Last July, shortly after Independence Day, I visited Dexter in Concord to learn firsthand what the front line of the nation's opioid crisis felt like. We spent the day patrolling his beat in his police-issue, black-and-white Ford SUV. Loud and gregarious, Dexter is a high-energy, meticulous cop with advanced training in mental health crisis intervention and specialized firearms skills.

As we drove around the city, I asked Dexter how the opioid crisis has affected him and his work as an officer. Did a recent case stand out? The Norwich alum thought for a moment and then told me about a 911 call he went on several months earlier. Dispatch relayed a reported overdose in a boarding house on Fayette Street. Dexter arrived at the three-story building, where he met city firefighters and paramedics. At first, no one knew where to find the victim. But after climbing a filthy, narrow stairwell to the building's gabled attic, they found a one-room apartment. Inside there was a couple in their 20s, the male slumped unconscious on the floor. His female partner sat rocking in one of the room's mismatched chairs, still clutching the phone she used to call 911 and still shouting for help. Drugs and intravenous needles littered a small table.

Paramedics began pushing Narcan, the trade name of the opioid overdose-reversing drug naloxone, into the addict. As Dexter recalls, it took an extraordinary number of doses—it could have been eight or ten—to revive the male. “He was dead. He had no pulse. He was not breathing,” Dexter said. He went on to add that when the

addict came to, “he got angry at us for ruining his high.”

In 2015, New Hampshire passed a Good Samaritan law, which allows anyone witnessing an opioid overdose to call 911 for emergency help without fear of later prosecution. While the law has likely saved many lives, it also ties the hands of law enforcement. Officers can't work cases. The best Dexter and his colleagues could do that day was to bag—and later destroy—the evidence and persuade the victim to go to the emergency room for further treatment. (While lifesaving, naloxone wears off faster than heroin and fentanyl. When OD victims revive, they can relapse into respiratory failure.)

For Dexter, the 911 call represents the new normal that he and other officers face on the front lines of the opioid epidemic. It is a source of deep frustration, he says. “Because I know that I'm going to go back to Fayette Street at some point and deal with these two, and there's going to be drugs there.”

“We're not fixing the problem, and nobody has the answer,” he says. “If we had the answer, we would be working towards the goal.” Dexter says he feels at times like he's chasing a unicorn.

For those who say addicts are responsible for their problem, let them die, Dexter has a ready response. “Well, that's not why I became a police officer,” he said. “If somebody has a problem, I want to help them.” If only he knew how. Dexter is not alone in his frustration. One could argue that our entire nation shares his dilemma, whether we want to or not.

**T**he roots of today's opioid crisis were planted 25 years ago, when Purdue Pharma introduced OxyContin, a time-release formula of synthetic heroin in pill form intended to ease chronic pain in the terminally ill. For patients, the drug was life-changing. “These were miracle pills for terminally ill patients,” says Mark Tully '92, a 24-year veteran of the DEA, who serves as a Mas-

sachusetts-based group supervisor for one of 10 agency national strike forces. Taken whole, the pill would dissolve slowly in a person's stomach acids, releasing its dose of painkiller over four to eight hours. But drug abusers learned that if you take the pill and crush it, “the time release is gone,” Tully says. “Now it's heroin.”

On its own, OxyContin would not have been enough to spark the nation's current opioid crisis. But as a growing number of state and federal lawsuits brought by state attorneys general and federal prosecutors have contended,







Concord, N.H. master police officer  
Dana Dexter '03.

pharmaceutical giants like Purdue falsely marketed their opioid drugs as non-addictive. They also directly and indirectly targeted doctors and the medical field through sales reps and the funding of nonprofit organizations, such as the American Pain Society, to aggressively prescribe opioids or consider pain “the fifth vital sign.”

One result was that doctors overprescribed OxyContin and other opioids, and gave them to patients in unprecedented numbers. Adults and teenagers received large opioid scripts for non-terminal medical con-

ditions—pulled wisdom teeth, blown knees, chronic back pain caused by injuries in coal mines and construction sites. Patients could experience addiction in less than a week. When their legal prescriptions ran out, some turned to illegal sources. Priced at up to \$30 a pill, however, even these illegal supplies soon grew out of reach for many addicts. Many of them turned to what had once been unthinkable. They bought cheap heroin off the street at \$10 a bag and starting shooting up.

In 2007, Purdue Pharma, its pres-

ident, top lawyer, and head medical officer were fined \$634.5 million in U.S. District Court for their deceptive marketing practices. (Today, more than 1,600 lawsuits are pending. In March, the company settled with the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office for \$270 million. The state sued the drug maker for aggressively marketing OxyContin while downplaying its addictive nature.)

As Tully points out, drugs like cocaine are psychoactive. Our minds become addicted, but not our bodies. Opioids, however, are physically ad-



dictive. “Once your body has it, your body demands it,” Tully says. “And there’s no saying no to it. It’s impossible.”

**T**ully shared his direct comments last May at a Norwich alumni “Legacy of Learning” event in Andover, Mass. The meeting was held in a small, wood-paneled auditorium in the town’s public safety building, which houses the town’s police and fire departments. The topic that night was the opioid crisis. A half-dozen Norwich alumni, who worked for local and federal law enforcement agencies in four states, were on hand to share their perspective and experience. Hank Shaw ’88, head of the FBI’s Boston field office at

the time (he has since retired from the bureau), led the night’s panel discussion. Joining him and Tully were Dana Dexter, Andover Police Chief Pat Keefe ’90, Federal Marshall Service supervisory deputy Aaron Ward ’07, and Vermont Capitol Police chief and area paramedic Matthew Romei ’98.

As Tully outlined that evening, the human toll of the heroin epidemic in New England started to blow up five years ago, when fentanyl was introduced. Addiction rates soared, as did overdose deaths. Traffickers replaced heroin with fentanyl, because its high was bigger and its grip on addicts closed faster and more tightly. “People don’t sell drugs because they’re trying to help their community,” Tully said. “They sell drugs to make money, and

fentanyl is a huge money maker.” Paramedics and ER staff use the drug legally as a swift, powerful pain reliever. However, the opioid can also be illegally mass produced from precursor chemicals brought in from China and other countries and then smuggled into the U.S. Tully and the FBI’s Shaw explained how Mexican and Dominican Republican drug-trafficking organizations work side by side, sometimes sharing a central command center, to control the production, movement, and distribution of opioids in the U.S. In New England, Dominican organizations “own the market,” Shaw said.

One of the more interesting aspects of the discussion that evening was the surprising reach, scope, and complexity of the problem law enforcement officers described. Shaw shared the fact that not four months earlier, he lost a cousin to opioids. Dexter and Andover police chief Pat Keefe, meanwhile, spoke to the close ties between mental illness, opioid addiction, and police interactions. “Fifty percent of our calls are mental health calls,” Keefe said. He went on to add that opioid addicts in his community are very often people who’ve also been diagnosed with a mental health illness. Dexter echoed Keefe’s experience.

The DEA and its law enforcement partners work hard to make arrests, dismantle drug-trafficking organizations, and seize their assets, Tully said. But he cautioned that “we’re never going to arrest our way out of the problem.”

Near the end of the evening, Matt Romei, the Vermont police chief and paramedic, shared an observation. “I got my EMT license in 1996, and I never opened a box of injection Narcan until 2010,” the former Army officer and Alabama native said. “And now it seems like we might need a sort of aerial distribution in some ways.”

Romei said he didn’t know how he could ask law enforcement officers to have compassion for an addict who had to be revived with Narcan four times in the same week. But he said



Andover, Mass. Chief of Police Patrick Keefe '90.





Andover clinical social worker and former Iranian national wrestling champion Sobhan Namvar.

he felt compelled to anyway, because compassion was what was necessary for law enforcement officers to help addicts navigate “the ship channel” of treatment into recovery.

**I**n January, I returned to Andover to spend more time with Pat Keefe, the town’s police chief, and a licensed community social worker he hired named Sobhan Namvar. As the three of us sat down in Keefe’s second-floor office to talk about the opioid crisis, Keefe relayed the news that five minutes earlier, his department had fielded another opioid overdose call.

Keefe has served on the Andover police force for 21 years and as its chief of police for the past six. The son of the former adjutant general for the Massachusetts National Guard, Keefe is himself a U.S. Army National Guard colonel, who served on active duty in Iraq in 2004–05. He grew up in western Massachusetts, and likes to joke

that the only way to live in Andover is to have been born there or marry someone who was, which is what he did. Keefe leads a staff of 86, of which 53 are sworn officers. Andover is home to Phillips Academy prep school and is upscale by most any standard. Walk its downtown of glass-front shops, restaurants, and bars and you’ll soon spot a half-dozen late model Porsches and Maserati SUVs parked curbside. But the town’s luxe patina hides another side of the community, one where some families struggle to get by and live in public housing. Or the teenagers in the upper-middle-class neighborhoods, who take Adderall to boost their GPAs and escape the crushing weight of their parents’ expectations.

In Andover, as elsewhere, opioids are an equal opportunity addiction. Keefe says he’s been called out to multimillion-dollar houses, where opioid OD victims were in their 50s. Andover

experienced its collective wakeup call to the gravity of the opioid crisis on New Year’s Day in 2014. That was the day, Keefe said, that a young girl in high school—someone who was well-liked and seemed full of promise—died from a heroin overdose.

New England has always had a heroin problem. Andover is cradled by the Merrimack Valley, long a major trail for heroin distribution. Fentanyl dominates its opioid market today and is smuggled from the southern border or the Dominican Republic by land, air, and sea. For Andover police, aggressive law enforcement interdiction for suppliers, dealers, buyers, and users is still a front-and-center effort. Two full-time detectives are tasked with undercover drug buys and investigations. Another works full-time on a regional federal task force led by the DEA and FBI. Rank-and-file officers

CONTINUES ON PAGE 61



# CON- NECT



## STORM DAMAGE

*Floodwaters from Hurricane Florence turned homes into unwelcome islands in Bladen, N.C. Photographs courtesy FEMA.*

200

50 NORWICH RECORD | SPRING 2019



# When the Floodwaters Recede

*FEMA's Albie Lewis '73, M'98 helps North Carolina recover from Hurricane Florence*

BY CAROLYN HALEY

Last September, the thousand-year rain event known as Hurricane Florence heaved across the coastal southeastern United States. Over the course of four days, the slow-moving Category 1 storm dumped as much as 35 inches of rain on parts of the Carolinas and Virginia. The inundation flooded thousands of buildings, killed 53 people, and caused an estimated \$24 billion in damage—a figure comparable to the 2018 California wildfires, according to NOAA.

Within days of the disaster, Norwich alum Albie Lewis had arrived in the region to help respond to emergency needs and lead recovery efforts for the Federal Emergency Management Agency as one of the agency's four top federal coordinating officers.

His twofold mission: get people and resources where they needed to be during the crisis, and distribute funds appropriately for rebuilding after the immediate crisis had passed. Since joining FEMA in 2007, Lewis has responded to at least three dozen natural disasters, many of them headline grabbing.

"I've been seeing the same type of damages since I started, as some disasters are close to Katrina." In his estimation, such disasters are now more frequent.

At this writing, Lewis had already spent six months helping North Carolinians recover from Florence. "I did get home for 10 days at Christmas," he says. "I expect to be here until May or June, unless another major disaster hits somewhere else. I am usually deployed over 90 percent of the year, and missed my 45th Homecoming [last] year."

It's not a lifestyle most people would choose. But Lewis isn't like most people. As a child, he was a ward of the state at Scotland School for Veterans' Children in Pennsylvania. He says he experienced firsthand what it means to have nothing vs. something vs. everything. Lewis counts himself one of the lucky ones: he emerged as an adult wanting to serve others and pay back the assistance he received as a young person.

Lewis says a career in disaster response can be tough. Family support helps him keep an even keel amid the



risk and heartbreak, constant stress, and long absences. "You've got to have that kind of support," he says. "During a response phase, it's not unusual to be working 24/7—many times sleeping on a cot in the state's emergency operation center." Those hours "drop" to 10- or 12-hour days, seven days a week. Eventually they return to a normal 40- to 50-hour five-day work week.

Lewis spent 28 years in the Vermont National Guard, where he helped establish the Army Mountain Warfare School and retired as a colonel. He also worked for Vermont state government, directing the state's emergency

management agency, and co-chaired the International Emergency Management Group, a consortium of the New England states and five eastern Canadian provinces for emergency response and mutual aid.

Lewis says the empathy he learned as a youth underlies all those endeavors. Being able "to talk to people on the worst day of their lives," he says, is a crucial skill for aiding them in a disaster. "We're always criticized by the last place to get power," Lewis says. "But bringing it in, and seeing what everyone did, is very satisfying, and I'm glad to be a part of it." ■



## THE GREATEST GENERATION

REMEMBERING D-DAY,  
75 YEARS LATER

*WWII veteran Robert F. Crecco '47 landed at Omaha Beach after the first assault. Now 94, the Norwich alumnus recalls in a 2013 interview that experience and how he spent the war.*

I was drafted while attending Norwich as a freshman. There were about 179 of us freshmen at the time. The school was basically taken over by the Air Corps. There were 1,200 Air Force cadets, and the school revolved around them. It's surprising that Norwich even had a freshman class—all the others had left; the juniors and seniors were immediately inducted into the service, and the sophomores were being decimated by drafting. All the dormitories were taken up by the Air Corps, so we stayed in the fraternity houses. I was the oldest in the class, so I was the first to get drafted.

I was inducted in Montpelier and then sent to Fort Devens for pulmonary activities and then Fort McClellan in Alabama for basic training. They told me at Fort Devens that I was to be put in an Army specialized training program. I was scheduled to go to Texas A&M for that. But three months after Basic, conditions changed with the war plans and so forth, and they decided to cancel all Army specialized training programs. Since we were being trained as infantrymen, we were to go back to that. We shipped out for England about a month later.

We were on a troop ship. It was an Australian meat refrigerator ship they used to bring mutton from Australia to England. It was pretty bad. It was not a fun ship. We were packed in there like sardines, and the smell below deck wasn't too great. We came in at Bristol, England, and went into camp near a place called Leamington. We were in tents, four men to a tent. All we did was march and march and march up and down all those winding roads in England.

After training for what seemed like a long time, we finally get word to pack up and get on these trucks. And lo and behold, we're in Southampton. They loaded us on ships. The initial attack on the Continent had begun. We were on the ship overnight and then finally we sailed the next day. Late on June the 7th, we landed on Omaha Beach.

Well, it was still a mess. The fighting had proceeded up off the cliff, and they were going inland. The beach was littered with all kinds of equipment. There were still some dead bodies on the beach. They had been lined up. I guess they were in the process of taking them off. After we got off the beach, we went up on the top of the cliffs. Our forces

had already pushed a couple of miles inland. Rangers had cleared the cliffs the previous day, even though they sustained quite heavy casualties. We didn't know what was going on. All we knew was that we had to get off the landing craft. We could hear the noise up ahead, the shells and everything. They were still bombarding the area from the battleships and the cruisers. They were still shelling way inland. They kept us there for a while, and then they told us to advance. The lead troops had pushed way inland. So we weren't in the front line at that time, we were in the backup. I was with the 2nd Infantry Division. About ten days later, we were near Saint-Lô surrounded by small villages.

We were near a village. I was on a patrol, and I got wounded by a mortar shell. It was at night. That whole country there is full of hedgerows. You'd have these dirt roads going between the hedgerows and then across the hedge. Or, on the near side of the hedgerow would be a little pasture and then on the other side road would be another hedgerow and then a pasture and the hedgerows all the way around. That's how the country was. Normandy was full of hedgerows, and it was very difficult fighting in those areas. On patrol at night, you'd go over a hedgerow, and then you'd sit there and see what the opposition, the Germans, were going to do. Whether they were putting out patrols.

They must have seen us, because they sent over three mortar shells. There were three of us. Our sergeant got killed. I was wounded. The other fellow, he didn't get hit at all. So we dragged our sergeant back to our lines. I got wounded in the arm and also my foot, so I was evacuated. At that time, they were evacuating everybody to England. We had control of some airfields. So we were able to get these ambulance planes there. They'd load the wounded





## HONORING WWII VETERANS

*Robert Crecco '47 lives in Stuart, Fla. Fellow Norwich alumni who also served in WWII are slated to return to campus for Homecoming 2019.*

into one of those. I got evacuated to a general hospital near Oxford.

I was there for about two months, because I couldn't walk. And then my wounds got infected. They reclassified me as limited service. While we were in England, we had it pretty good. We got to visit a lot of places, and see a lot of those Shakespearian plays. On reassignment, they sent me back to Paris. I was in a reassignment depot. We got some leaves to Paris. It was all right, but I was really not into it. I was still pretty young. Some of these guys were hep for getting drunk and then picking up

[prostitutes]. I wasn't into that. I didn't enjoy Paris that much. But I got reassigned. Since I was on limited duty, I wasn't going to a front-line outfit. I ended up in 90th Division of 537th Headquarters Battery. It was an automatic weapons battery. I was on headquarters duty. They were looking around to put me to do something. All of a sudden, this warrant officer in charge, he said, "You went to college, didn't you?" And I said yes. "Well, we're going to have you do the morning report." It was a nothing job. Which was fine by me, because it kept me out of the front lines. So that's how I survived the war.

**W**hen the war in Europe ended, we got sent up to Brussels, where we stayed in tents for a few weeks while on occupation duty.

In *Stars and Stripes* one day, we read that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Japan. Then, the next day another bomb had been dropped. At the time, we were about to be retrained for a unit that was going over to the Pacific. So the dropping of the bomb, we didn't understand the implications of this until we saw, reading in *Stars and Stripes*, that the war was coming to a close in the Pacific. ■

**Editor's note:** *This reflection—excerpted and lightly edited for length and clarity—is based on Robert Crecco's 2013 interview with Jennifer Payne for the Sullivan Museum and History Center's Oral History Project.*



# Club News



## Seattle Alumni Club Kicks Off Bicentennial Birthday Tour

Celebrating NU's Bicentennial in a place near you couldn't be easier: Just order our "Party in a Box" (cake, music, and decorations included), invite area Norwich members, and have fun. Dennis Downey '81 shares highlights from the event he organized in Seattle.

**The scene:** "We had a really diverse group come out to celebrate with us. Some families planned to come from as far away as Spokane, which is a five-hour drive. We were at an amazing location with great food, beer, and a laid-back atmosphere. We all enjoyed the personal video message from President Schneider and the delicious birthday cake. We planned for the event to last three hours, but some people stuck around for four, because they were having so much fun."

**Favorite parts:** "Getting everyone together to video record us singing 'Norwich Forever.' We're really excited about the idea of our video being featured in the Homecoming 2019 program. We rehearsed before we clicked record, which we definitely needed! Some of the younger, '90s alums were really essential in making it a success. I also really enjoyed watching alumni, who were seeing old friends and classmates after many years and how effortlessly they picked up conversations and renewed friendships."

**Bragging rights:** "I always love going first, so it was great to have that distinction. Thanks to all who attended!"

—HEATHER SOCHA  
Director of Alumni & Family Events



**PARTY IN A BOX**  
To request your own Norwich Bicentennial "Party in a Box," contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@norwich.edu](mailto:alumni@norwich.edu).





## Careers: Changing Spring Break to Spring Forward

When most college students think about spring break, they see themselves lounging on a beach soaking up some sun. NU Clubs are working to challenge that. They want Norwich students to picture themselves furthering their future careers. For several years now, Norwich | Connects events have brought together alumni, students, and family members during spring break to network at get-togethers around the country. This year, nearly 250 Norwich students, alumni, and friends gathered to share career aspirations, advice, contacts, and job leads—and, of course, to socialize. As one alum observed: “I got to recruit two students and see some old pals. It’s what these events are for!”

These Norwich events not only foster professional relationships (dozens of students have received job offers after attending), but also personal connections. Claudius Colombo ’71, who attended an event in New York City, says he enjoyed speaking with current students while learning more about them. Most impressive: the staggering size of their class rings compared to his own.

### Mark Your Calendar!

Want to meet NU’s newest class of standout students? Do you have great Norwich stories to tell? Come share your experience with the incoming Class of 2023 at a summer Student Sendoff! For a list of events and locations and to register, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/Sendoffs](http://alumni.norwich.edu/Sendoffs)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY

**3** Independence Day Parade,  
Montpelier, Vt.

### AUGUST

**23** Faculty/Staff Tribute  
Dedication, NU Campus

**8/31–9/2** Labor Day Celebration,  
Northfield, Vt.

### SEPTEMBER

**18–22** Bicentennial Homecoming  
Weekend, NU Campus

**21** Bicentennial Birthday Tour:  
NU Club of Brevard County, Fla.

**28** Founders Day Celebration,  
Norwich, Vt.

### OCTOBER

**16** Celebrate 200: Washington, D.C.,  
Bicentennial Gala, National Museum  
of the U.S. Army

### NOVEMBER

**14–15** Sullivan Museum & History  
Center’s Citizens & Soldiers Exhibit,  
Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass.

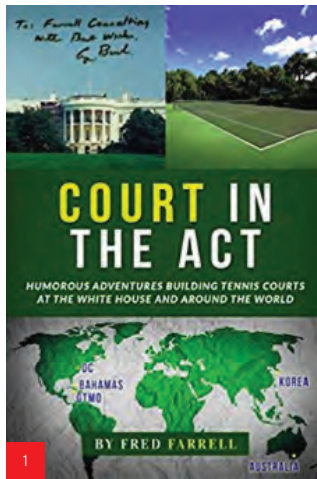
**16** Celebrate 200: Boston Gala,  
Seaport Hotel

### JANUARY 2020

**25** Celebrate 200:  
San Francisco Gala, JW Marriott,  
Union Square



# Class Notes



## Class of 1971

Frederick Farrell recently published his book *Court in the Act*, which recounts his many humorous adventures building tennis courts at the White House and around the world. It is now available on Amazon. *Photo 1.*

## Class of 1974

Col. Jonathan Kissane (USA, Ret.) was awarded the Major Jonathan Letterman Medical Excellence Award by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at its annual dinner on October 11, 2018, in historic Gettysburg, Penn. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that carry on Major Letterman's legacy of innovation and service to military medicine and patient care. Jonathan was

recognized for his significant contributions to the logistical sustainment of Army and joint health services. He served 30 years as an Army Medical Service Corps officer and is currently a senior consultant to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md. *Photo 2.*

## Class of 1981

Dennis Downey was recently presented with the Saint Philip Neri Silver Order by Col. Owen Ray, Commander, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). Created by the Army Special Forces Command, the award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to Army Special Forces. Dennis was honored for his extensive volunteer work as president of the First in Asia Association, which built a memorial wall and plaza to honor the fallen from the 1st Special Forces Group (A) and provides support to Gold Star families from the unit. *Photo 3.*

Lip Hor was conferred the Dato' Setia Di Raja Kedah (Knight Companion) DSDK award in conjunction with the 88th Birthday of His Royal Highness the Sultan of Kedah. The award was presented during a ceremony at Istana Anak Bukit, Kedah, Malaysia.

## Class of 1985

Alberto Higuera, a revenue enforcement and servicing officer at the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, was recently promoted. In his position, he serves and enforces tax warrants on people and organizations that have large tax liabilities owed to the state of Connecticut. Two years ago, Al received a Certification in Public Leadership and Management from the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy, attending the program as a Connecticut Fellow. The fellowship is awarded to state employees who show potential for higher leadership positions within state government.







Left to right: Jeff Harrington '87, George McDonald '88, Jason Rock '91, and Doug Smith '82.

Christopher McCrillis '94 with his son Camden.

## Class of 1987

Jeffrey Harrington shared an update from the Pasco Sheriff's Office Shotgun Shootout on February 15, which drew over 400 shooters—including four NU alums. Jeffrey said part of the proceeds from the event were raised to support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. *Photo 4.*

## Class of 1989

High school boys hockey coach Christopher Googins was named Coach of the Season by the *Whitman-Hanson Express* newspaper. Christopher is a teacher and dean of students at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School in Whitman, Mass. In his third season after returning to coach the Panthers, Christopher brought his team to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament, marking the team's first appearance since 2013.



## Class of 1994

Christopher McCrillis shared news that Maine is living up to its motto "The Way Life Should Be." He is working full time for the Searsport Police Department as a school resource officer for Searsport district schools. He recently bought a home in the Hampden area and is "blessed with two wonderful sons." He says he's looking forward to the Class of 1994 reunion during Homecoming. *Photo 5.*

## Class of 2003

Steve Gagner, owner and founder of 14th Star Brewing Company in St. Albans, was named the 2019 Vermont Small Business Person of the Year. Steve was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration for employment growth, financial success, expansion, and community involvement. Steve earned his MBA from NU's online College of Graduate and Continuing Studies in 2017.

## Class of 2005

Julia Luft (née Sledz) shares happy news that she and her husband Dave welcomed their second son, Michael Andrew Luft, into the world on February 28. *Photo 6.*







### Class of 2006

**Danielle Rupert M'07** reports that she and fiancé Angelo Iacuzza have a growing family. Their son Luciano Sebastian was born in April 2018. *Photo 7.*

### Class of 2007

**Tom Keefe** has been named interim chair of liberal arts at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design in Denver, Colo. Tom's academic research focuses on identity construction—whether through a religious, racial, ethnographic, or ideological lens. Last year, he presented at the American Academy for Religion on religion in public space. In April, he presented on Native American genocide at the Genocide: The Final Stage of Genocide Conference hosted by the Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Center at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. *Photo 9.*



### Class of 2009

**Richard Ellbeg** was appointed assistant professor for nursing education at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Mass. *Photo 8.*

### Class of 2013

In August, **Brian Scroggins** was named the National Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year in the United States by the International Association of Emergency Managers. The honor recognized Brian's work following the October 2018 Las Vegas festival shooting. Brian "wears many volunteer hats in his local emergency management community," the association wrote in a press release announcing the award. Acting as an emergency manager for the Church of Latter-Day Saints, he "has been active in emergency management training for years and graduated in 2018 from the



FEMA National Emergency Management Advanced Academy and has been accepted into the Executive Academy beginning in 2019. [Brian] was asked to serve on the Incident Command Team the morning of Oct. 2, 2017, to oversee spiritual care for victims and families impacted by the Oct. 1 festival shooting. In addition, he directed donation logistics and volunteer management from the first three weeks at the Las Vegas Convention Center through the transition to the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center."



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## Class of 2015

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**Kelly Rose Travers** graduated from the Rhode Island Police Academy on December 20 and is now serving as a patrol officer for the Town of Bristol, Rhode Island Police Department.

**Josh Van Laar**, son of **Dave Van Laar M'09**, is serving in Afghanistan as a Mortar Platoon Leader 2-87 Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. Josh and fellow Norwich alumni **Phillip Rainone '16** and **Kurt Fedoush '17** shared a photo of themselves displaying the Norwich flag at Camp Dwyer in Helmand Province. *Photo 10.*



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## Class of 2016

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USMC 1st. Lt. **Kyler Fricke** received his Naval aviator gold wings at NAS Whiting Field in Pensacola, Fla., in February. Next up: six months of advanced instruction at Camp Pendleton in California. Fricke is assigned to a fleet squadron at Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, N.C. As a Marine pilot, he will fly the UH-1Y Venom (Huey) helicopter. *Photo 11.* ■



Left to right: Kurt Fedoush '17, Josh Van Laar '15, Phillip Rainone '16 at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan.





# Roll of Honor

The following list reflects notifications of deceased Norwich family members received by the university from January 18, 2019 through April 15, 2019. Full obituaries, when available, can be viewed online at [alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries](http://alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries). To inform the university of the passing of a member of the Norwich family, please contact the Alumni Office at (802) 485-2100 or [inmemoriam@norwich.edu](mailto:inmemoriam@norwich.edu).

1946 Hugh E. Cairns, 94, 3/27/2019  
 1950 Arnold L. Fishbein, 90, 2/4/2019  
 1951 Thelma I. Beyerl, 87, 3/18/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1952 Donald H. Melloon, 89, 4/6/2019  
 1953 Salvatore J. Carrubba, 87, 3/1/2019  
 1955 Peter J. Malnati, 86, 2/6/2019  
 1955 Nicholas H. Collins, 87, 2/14/2019  
 1956 Thomas S. Eley, 85, 2/10/2019  
 1957 Bruce J. Gillies, 85, 1/20/2019  
 1959 Ronald E. Provencher, 82, 4/1/2019  
 1960 W. Paul Deschene, 80, 2/18/2019  
 1960 Edward C. Langley, 82, 3/6/2019  
 1961 Edward S. Foster, 80, 1/28/2019  
 1961 Frederick H. Renigar, 81, 2/24/2019  
 1961 Richard Calhoun, 79, 1/23/2019  
 1962 Joseph P. Posk, 78, 1/15/2019  
 1962 Roger V. Howard, 78, 1/31/2019  
 1964 Douglas W. Armstrong, 78,  
 3/28/2019  
 1964 Donna K. Courtney, 75, 2/22/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1967 Jon B. Haynes, 74, 3/6/2019  
 1968 Nancy Sheehy, 71, 2/27/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1969 William C. Saunders, 71, 1/23/2019  
 1970 Martha H. Vaughan, 68, 2/9/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1974 Kirk L. Menard, 66, 3/22/2019  
 1976 Ann DeMond, 63, 3/4/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1976 Salvatore P. Pizzimenti, 66,  
 3/16/2019

1978 Kerry D. Quinn, 63, 3/22/2019  
 1980 Karen L. Killough, 58, 3/2/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1980 Frederick I. Robinson, 61, 2/4/2019  
 1981 John W. Lord, 74, 1/24/2019  
 1986 Theresa C. Sprague, 77, 3/12/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 1998 C. Bradford Irvine, 64, 2/5/2019  
 1998 Michele G. Aylward, 52, 3/11/2019  
 1999 Gladys Goldberg-Daly, 83, 2/9/2019,  
*Vermont College*  
 2011 John B. Schreiber, 65, 1/30/2019,  
*CGCS*  
 2013 Philip L. Bolte, 91, 3/23/2019, *CGCS*  
 2017 Gerald E. Craker, 50, 2/19/2019,  
*CGCS*  
 Joanne L. Carrara, 78, 1/23/2019, *Spouse*  
*of Paul Carrara '59*  
 Charles Chevalier, 88, 2/20/2019, *Retired*  
*Professor Emeritus*  
 Gerald Greenan, 84, 3/1/2019, *Parent '83,*  
*'79/ M'82, and '81; & Spouse of Carol*  
*(Higgins) Greenan '76*  
 Richard C. Lawton, 77, 1/11/2019,  
*Retired Staff*  
 Carole A. McCarthy, 75, 3/6/19, *Spouse*  
*of Philip K. McCarthy '61*  
 Oscar Raimondo, 85, 4/6/2019, *Parent*  
*'88 & '89*  
 Jane Tait, 70, 3/25/19, *Spouse of William*  
*"Jim" Tait '71*

**CORRECTION:** Due to an editing error, we misstated the class years of some alumni in the Spring 2019 issue *Roll of Honor*. Corrected listings follow.

1956 Harlan I. Fuller, 85, 12/11/ 2018  
 1957 Robert P. Ulm, 84, 11/19/2018  
 1958 Patricia P. Williams, 82, 12/9/2018,  
*Vermont College*  
 1960 Doris E. Stewart, 79, 11/17/2018,  
*Vermont College*  
 1962 Alexander P. Hurt, 78, 12/23/2018  
 1964 Richard D. Coburn, 76, 12/8/2018  
 1965 Kenneth P. Troisi, 75, 1/3/2019  
 1966 Donald C. Heath, 76, 1/9/2019  
 1970 John F. Bloodsworth, 71,  
 11/23/2018  
 1972 Walter P. Masgul, 68, 11/26/2018  
 1975 Lester H. Groat, 65, 12/1/2018  
 1979 William D. Hoyt, 61, 11/21/2018  
 1982 Patrick A. Beck, 58, 11/3/2018  
 1985 Diane M. Shadroui, 63, 12/2/2018  
 1992 Thomas W. Brunk, 69, 11/15/2019  
 Michael A. Wadkyo, 70, 12/24/2018,  
*Faculty*





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are also highly trained and proactive when it comes to policing drug activity in Andover.

But that is not enough, Keefe says. He shares that his thinking about the opioid epidemic has changed, rather dramatically, in the past five to six years. “As a police force, we thought we had it taken care of when we started carrying Narcan,” Keefe said. “[But] that was not fixing it.” Keefe said Andover was fortunate that in 2015, just when the opioid crisis was hitting his community in full force, the U.S. Department of Justice released the final report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The blue-chip Obama presidential panel examined, among other things, future needs and best practices for policing.

Among its recommendations, the panel advocated a philosophical shift in how police forces framed and approached their work. In a word, it shifted the mission of policing from one of enforcement to one of guardianship. Police forces were challenged not to simply to prevent crime and catch criminals, but also to take care of its citizens—whatever their need. “They knew [the opioid crisis] was coming,” Keefe said earlier.

Keefe’s view of the opioid crisis shifted even more, thanks to the person sitting next to him that day, licensed community social worker



Sobhan Namvar. Namvar, who goes by the nickname Soap, is a former two-time All American wrestler and national champion who has gone to the Olympic trials twice—once for the U.S. and once for Iran, where he grew up.

Namvar and his wife live on a 13-acre farm, where they raise chickens, goats, and sheep and plan to grow micro greens in their barn. Namvar was raised in the projects of south Tehran, the son of an Iranian father and a Sicilian mother. Like the arrondissements of Paris, the neighborhood divisions of Tehran are numbered. There are 21 in all and their order reflects their affluence. The city’s first district is its most exclusive neighborhood. The last, its

poorest. Namvar grew up in the 19th.

The first time someone helped him was when he was a young kid. That person happened to be a wrestling coach. “He was brave enough to come into my neighborhood and take me to wrestling practice and slowly show me what life was all about,” Namvar said. Soap came to Andover to coach high school wrestling, where so much about building the team, he said, was about what happened off the mat. Growing up, Namvar saw the impact of substance abuse and mental illness first hand. His father was a war veteran with mental illness and drug

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# Partridge Society

The mission of the Partridge Society is to encourage alumni, parents, and friends of Norwich University to help the university achieve its financial goals and to formally recognize those who do so.

The Partridge Society Board of Directors welcomes the following new and promoted Lifetime and 1819 Circle Members and acknowledges new levels achieved between February 1, 2019 and March 31, 2019.

## CHAIRMAN'S THREE DIAMOND CLUB MEMBERS

(\$4,000,000–\$5,999,999)

Lawrence '80 & Nanine Costa

## FOUR-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS

(\$500,000–\$749,999)

William M. Lasky '69

John W. Luce '50

## TWO-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS

(\$100,000–\$249,999)

Drs. Gary J. '63 & Sharon J. Confessore

## ONE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS

(\$50,000–\$99,999)

David '59 & Helen Barrington P'98

Lynn H. Brooks '57

George '67 & Susan Condon

Col. & Mrs. Charles J. O'Connor, III,  
USAF (Ret.) '77

Mr. & Mrs. Eric W. Schmidt '55

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

(\$20,000–\$49,999)

Keith '84 & Lori Gelinias

Amy Beth Moore W'80

## 1819 CIRCLE MEMBERS

Lowell Brooks, Jr. '57

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addiction, who terrorized his wife and children. Namvar knew how a single mentor helped change his own life. So when he learned that social work could be a career, he pursued it with a passion. As a licensed counselor, he worked in middle school, hospital, community, and substance-abuse settings.

About two years ago, Keefe hired Soap to help Andover deal with the city's opioid crisis. Today, the police chief says he doesn't know how a police force survives without one. Namvar responds to every overdose call that comes in. He goes out with officers to talk with the addict or their family at the scene or follows up alone shortly afterward. His goal is to connect them to resources to help them navigate the path forward—from detox facilities to family interventions to clinical support services and beyond.

Opioid addiction isn't his only source of work. The day we spoke, Namvar was also working to help two families, one of which had small children, deal with imminent evictions that would likely make them homeless.

As for opioids, the social worker says the more progressive thinking around opioid addiction is that it is a family disease. Working in Andover, Namvar found that most opioid addicts had also been diagnosed with a mental health disorder. Keefe says Soap opened his eyes to the fact that "God, yeah, we've got an opioid epidemic, but we've got a mental illness epidemic as well."

One of their goals in Andover is to remove the stigma associated with addiction and mental illness so that people who need help, either for themselves or someone in their family, feel comfortable asking for it. To that end, Namvar and Keefe had the idea of

opening a drop-in center for people struggling with opioid addiction. They knew, however, that placing one at the police department would only discourage people from using it. So instead they opened it downtown in the city's former town hall—a historic, three-story brick edifice that also houses the city's post office.

The busy setting allows clients to visit the center to seek help in relative anonymity. Keefe says that for Andover, Soap's hire was the right solution for the community.

The admiration seems mutual. "I've seen more police officers here do more social work type things, mental health support type things, than any kind of organization that I've worked for," Namvar said. "These are our communities. These are our families. We need to help each other, and if we can extend a hand to help, then we will."



Back in Concord last summer, I continued my ride-along with Dexter. Earlier in the day, the master police officer followed a school bus through a neighborhood of low-income apartments as it picked up kids for summer day camp. It's something he and his fellow officers do during the regular school year to make sure drivers obey speed limits and traffic signs. They might also stop kids riding their bikes to talk about bike safety, handing out department vouchers for free pizza to the kids wearing helmets.

For Dexter, the Mayberry-style policing never lasts long. Around midday, he was called to a big-box discount retail store, where a woman had been accused of shoplifting and was highly agitated. Dexter escorted her to the parking lot, where she continued her erratic behavior and screaming. Staying calm, Dexter explained that he was arresting her, did so, and turned her over to fellow officers at the scene. (At the police station, an Easter-egg-size rock of crystal meth was found hidden in her purse.)

Near the end of Dexter's shift that day, smoke detectors tripped at an area dry-cleaning business. Lights flashing, Dexter rushed to the scene, where he set up traffic cones and began directing the early rush-hour traffic to clear a lane for city firefighting and paramedic vehicles. It was hot, monotonous work, and heat from the road's sweltering asphalt soon worked its way through my thin-soled shoes.

There didn't appear to be a fire. Dexter found time to introduce me to Michael Pepin, a fire department paramedic, who told me that, as far as opioids were concerned, it had been fairly quiet the past few weeks. But Pepin said that it was easy enough

to tell when a new shipment of heroin or fentanyl arrived in the city. Then, he said, it was "overdose after overdose after overdose."

A few years ago, something unexpected happened to Dexter. The opioid crisis got personal. One of his friends, someone he and other friends met once a week for dinner, revealed that she was a heroin addict. Dexter says he missed all the signs, writing off her mood swings as part of her personality. Alex (not her real name) grew more extreme in her behavior.

After three tries at rehab, Alex is finally in recovery, Dexter told me. She's spent the past three years sober and has a well-paying job in which she travels around North America. But the threat of relapse is ever present. "I worry that she slips up. That something happens and then she has a weak moment," Dexter says. "I worry about her, because I don't want to see her, I don't want to see her family go through some of the stuff that I've seen ... She'll never be better, you know? She's always going to have that addiction."

"Do I worry about her?" Dexter asks. "Every day." It's his personal story about the opioid crisis, he says, one that he's shared before. For now, it has if not a happy ending, at least a hopeful next chapter. Alex is currently winning her battle with opioids. As for Dexter, Tully, Romei, Keefe, and Soap, and others like them—people called to serve and protect their communities and the country from its ills—their victory over the opioid epidemic still seems a long way off, if it ever comes at all. ■

## NU Presidential Search

**Norwich invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of President.**

**Required:** demonstrated success in senior-level leadership that includes management of a substantial and complex organization; deep understanding of and respect for military culture; and interest in academic leadership in a military environment.

**Desired:** prior military service; an earned terminal degree; insight into the issues facing higher education institutions today; and the ability to build successful connections with external constituencies and partners, as well as donor relations and fundraising.

Nominators and prospective candidates may arrange a confidential discussion about this opportunity with senior consultants Andrea Warren Hamos ([awh@academic-search.com](mailto:awh@academic-search.com)) or Maya Ranchod Kirkhope ([mrk@academic-search.com](mailto:mrk@academic-search.com)) of the consulting firm Academic Search.

For a complete profile of this opportunity, including procedures for application, visit [www.norwich.edu/about/199-presidential-search](http://www.norwich.edu/about/199-presidential-search).  
**Deadline for applications: 9/12/19.**



NEXT



## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, WASHINGTON-STYLE

U.S. Security Policy classmates take selfies outside the White House. In our next issue, Pulitzer-nominated documentary photographer Karen Kasmauski joins students during their week-long trip to D.C., where they met with top national security leaders and their staff—many of them Norwich alumni.



# Double Duty



Lowell "Bud" Brooks '57 (left) and brother Lynn Brooks '57 (right) both have a Charitable Gift Annuity with Norwich University. In exchange for their gift, they receive fixed quarterly payments for life.

*"To us, Norwich is much more than a school. Above and beyond the education we received to succeed in the business world, and the military education which provided the critical skills to defend our freedom, we gained valuable friendships that have stood the test of time. We are proud to have the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of Norwich University. Norwich Forever!"*

– Lowell "Bud" Brooks '57 and brother Lynn Brooks '57



To learn more about how you can support Norwich, please contact Megann O'Malley, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at (802) 485-2282 or [momalley@norwich.edu](mailto:momalley@norwich.edu)





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Midfielder William Conroy '19 of the 2019 Norwich men's lacrosse team. Winners of this year's GNAC conference championship, the team was among the most successful in program history.

Photograph by Mark Collier