

NORWICH RECORD

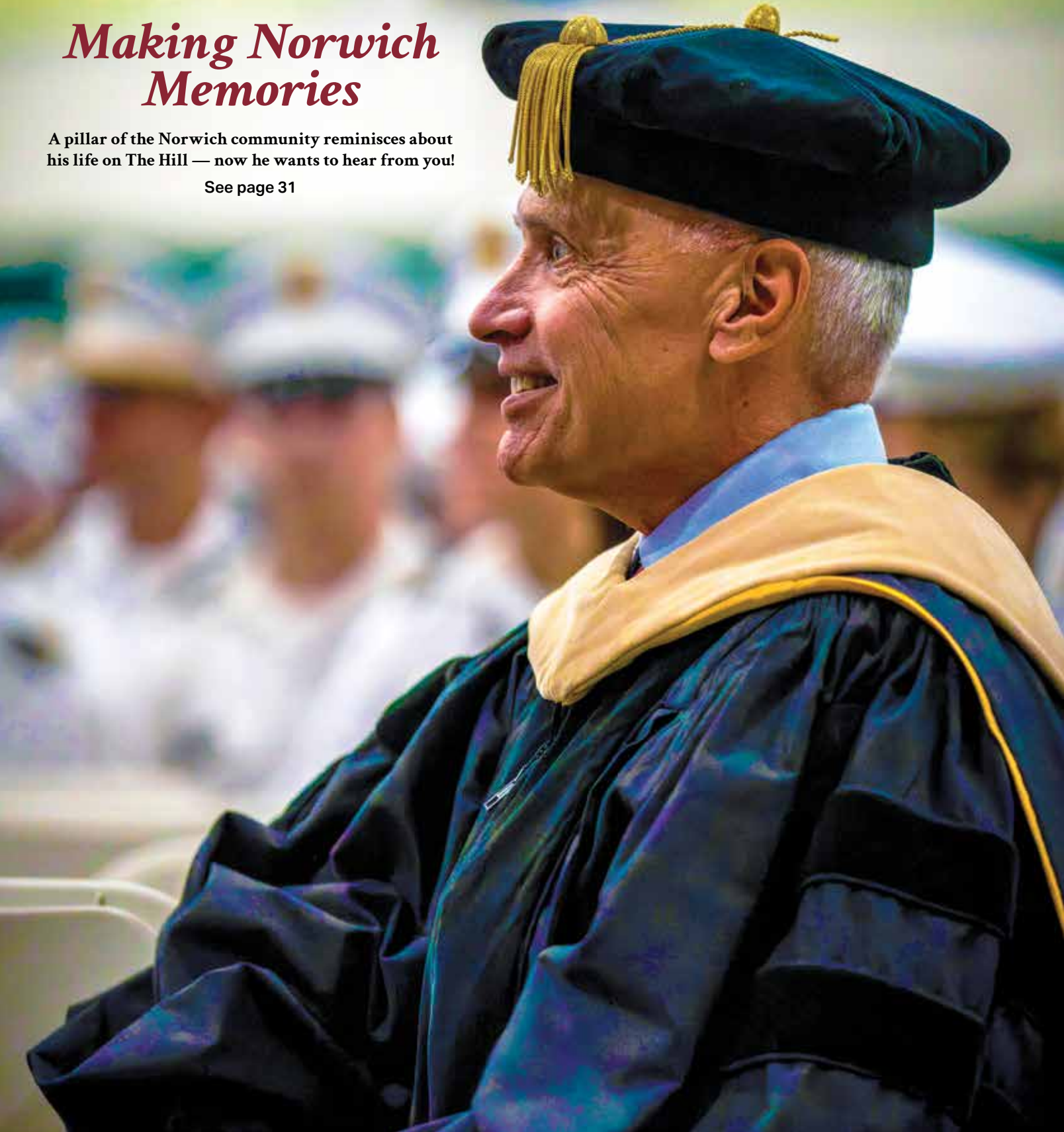
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

FALL 2025

Making Norwich Memories

A pillar of the Norwich community reminisces about
his life on The Hill — now he wants to hear from you!

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Ranger Company Rooks participate in PT during MilLab training in preparation of joining a specialty unit.

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Flying Blind:

Lt Col Brian O'Connell '76, USAF (Ret), learns to live through the loss of his vision while molding the next generation of servicemembers as a JROTC instructor.



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Making Norwich Memories:

Dr. Frank Vanecek H'10 takes a trip down memory lane, reflecting on his experiences and bonds formed throughout his half-century on The Hill.



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One Last Drive Past Exit Five:

A pair of Norwich greets the Class of 2025 across the threshold from student to alumni during Commencement and Commissioning.

Cover photo: Dr. Frank Vanecek H'10, in his academic regalia, sits in front of the Shapiro Field House stage as he shepherds more students towards their future.

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THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW



The first year of my tenure as president has provided me a refreshed outlook on both life and service. Surrounding myself with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters of this institution provides a constant reminder of Captain Alden Partridge's vision for Norwich — a vision that I see come to life daily. I am proud to say that our administration is working diligently to continue fulfilling our mission while utilizing what we have learned over the past year.

Being inaugurated as this historic University's 25th president was the honor of a lifetime. My wife, Karen, Class of 1983, and brother, Paul, were able to attend in person and stand by my side on stage. While my son, Maj Benjamin Broadmeadow, USMC, and his family were unable to join us in person as he is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, I was honored that he penned an introductory letter for the ceremony, which was delivered by Paul.

Though my entire family could not be here, I was warmly embraced by you, my Norwich family. The amount of support I have received is humbling and deeply appreciated.

I accepted the honor of this presidency because I wholeheartedly believe in this community that brings our mission and Guiding Values to life every single day. We are tasked with providing our students a personal foundation that allows them to grow into the responsible citizens who are the backbone of our society. Throughout my first year — of which much was spent listening and learning — I've learned even more about what I already knew: We have tremendous people fulfilling our mission.

Our students, faculty, staff, and community truly do have something special about them.

One of the most crucial people working towards seeing our mission to fruition is the chair of our Board of Trustees. As you know, Alan DeForest '75, our chair of the past nine years, passed the mantle to Al Gobeille '86 at the end of April. Alan's engagement and passion for our school during his tenure — and lifetime — have been plainly evident. His dedication to our mission and students made him a pillar of our community for the past 25 years, and he has been a terrific counselor and mentor to me throughout my time on the board and now as president.

Throughout Al's first several months in his new role, he has proven himself to be a valuable teammate and advocate of our University and community. I encourage you to get to know him. His experiences as a student, cadet, and citizen-soldier will continue to prove indispensable through the work we do on behalf of our students and community.

Moments like commencement consistently reinforce our belief in the work that our faculty, staff, and board do within our University. I have sat upon the dais as the commissioning officer and as a member of the Board of Trustees, but sitting there in the president's robe put it in a completely different context. The Class of 2025 holds a special place in my heart as the first graduating class of my presidency.

To the Norwich University Class of 2025: Congratulations, and welcome to the hallowed ranks of the Norwich alumni community! I am excited to welcome you as peers. As you will learn, your involvement with our alumni community will continue advancing your personal development much like when you were on campus.

I very keenly feel an intense personal pride about the quality of our new graduates. Each of them has experienced personal growth and found significant personal achievement throughout their time on The Hill. Looking each graduate in their eyes and shaking their hands as they crossed a personal threshold into a world of possibilities is an especially important milestone in my own Norwich story.

As we move forward together, our collective journey will continue to be highlighted by our community's commitment to being the school that Captain Partridge envisioned more than two centuries ago. When I first came into this role, I was not prepared to create a long-term strategic plan — doing so while transitioning the offices of University president and Board of Trustees chair would not have been appropriate.

The recently published Norwich University Strategic Plan spans three years and codifies many of the things that are already underway. Most importantly, we are stepping into a deeper, more reflective strategic planning effort moving forward. As our administration and Board of Trustees develops this effort, I am grateful that we have our community to lean on — growth and evolving with the times are no strangers to Norwich and its graduates.

This edition of the Norwich Record highlights many of those same sentiments. You will read about how the beloved Dr. Frank Vanecek H'10 — the steward of growth for an immeasurable amount of our students — has taken it upon himself to collect Norwich stories and memories; commencement, a special day that we have all shared; and how Lt Col Brian O'Connell '76, USAF (Ret), saved a small rural high school's JROTC program after going blind, among a variety of additional stories.

It is our mission and responsibility to prepare our students to be productive and responsible citizens of our free republic. Now in my second year, I have very much enjoyed engaging with our alumni on The Hill and abroad — interacting with all of you provides continuous motivation to preserve and fulfill our mission. Your commitment to the Norwich way of life inspires me, and I am dedicated to ensuring that future generations of graduates benefit from this institution like we have.

Norwich Forever!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John J. Broadmeadow". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

John J. Broadmeadow NU'83
LtGen, USMC (Ret)
President



NEWS FROM THE HILL

Norwich athletics continue making history

A stable of successful NCAA Division III athletic programs has long been a calling card of Norwich University. Competitive athletics fit perfectly into Captain Alden Partridge's vision of a physically fit student body, and today's programs have continued to honor the Cadets' successful athletic tradition by leaving their own marks in the history books. From award-winning coaches and players to broken records, the second semester of the 2024-25 academic year was packed with highlights.

ATHLETICS IN THE NEWS

It began with the celebration of a past Cadet hockey star when Lou DiMasi III '04 was named to the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame, his name forever etched alongside the state's finest athletes. Meanwhile, the 2025 Norwich Athletic Hall of Fame class of 12 individuals and one team was set to be enshrined.

Dominick Dawes '04 — a national champion as both a player and coach — returned to Kreitzberg Arena as the 12th head coach in the 116-year history of Norwich men's ice hockey. On the women's side, Justin Simpson arrived from Brown University prepared to lead the gritty women's hockey program into a new era.

The 21st Annual Senior Athlete Luncheon shined a spotlight on this year's standouts. Haley Brewster '25 (women's basketball) and Owen Liss '25 (men's basketball) earned prestigious Coach Mariano Outstanding Athlete of the Year honors. Scholar-Athlete of the Year went to Clark Kerner '25 (men's golf and hockey) and Rebecca Klements '25 (women's rugby), while Thoren Berg '25 (men's wrestling) and Lindsey Duggan '25 (women's soccer) claimed the Garrity Award and Looke Achievement Award respectively. Alex Lewis '25 (men's golf and hockey) earned the Crosby Courage Award, a testament to resilience.



WOMEN'S LACROSSE DOMINATES

Perhaps no team wrote a more thrilling chapter than women's lacrosse. The Cadets set a program record with 15 wins and advanced to the Great Northeast Atlantic Conference (GNAC) Semifinals for the first time since 2014. Head Coach Ian Thomas earned GNAC Coach of the Year honors, and under his guidance, the team led all NCAA Division III programs in caused turnovers per game (19.67). Ellie Moriarty '25 — now the program's all-time assist leader — and Caitlyn Fielder '27 led a group of nine All-Conference honorees.



SWIMMING SUCCESS CONTINUES

In the pool, both the men's and women's swimming and diving programs claimed their third straight GNAC Championships. Kristian Adlianitski '27 and Drew Bylow '28 captured Swimmer of the Year and Rookie of the Year honors on the men's side, respectively, while Reilly Laitala '26 was named Diver of the Year for the women. Together, the teams shattered seven program records. Will Thompson '25 earned the 2024-25 GNAC Athlete of the Year for Men's Sports, becoming the second men's swimming and diving team member to claim the award in consecutive years.



WRESTLING EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Wrestler Thoren Berg was selected by the Association of Military Colleges & Schools of the United States for the Leadership Award. Tyler Russ '28 was named a Scholar All-American as the Cadets earned Team Scholar Champion status.



HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS

Men's ice hockey reached the NEHC Championship in its final conference season. Clark Kerner, Cooper Bertrand '27, and goalie Sami Molu '27 were named Division II/III New England All-Stars, with Kerner and Bertrand earning First Team All-Conference honors.

The women also reached the NEHC Championship. Livia Brooks '27 earned her second All-American nod, All-Conference honors, and NEHC First Team selection. Anna Lisac '28 was named NEHC Rookie of the Year. A season highlight: a 3-2 triple overtime semifinal win over William Smith — the longest game in Kreitzberg Arena history and sixth longest in NCAA DIII women's hockey.



BASKETBALL MILESTONES

Owen Liss closed out a remarkable basketball career, picking up his second consecutive GNAC All-Conference First Team nod alongside All-District and All-Region honors. Head Coach Paul Booth secured his 400th career win and became one of only 33 active NCAA Division III coaches to cross that threshold.

Women's basketball saw history made when Maren McGinn '25 eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in early January, becoming the 20th player in program history to do so. Additionally, she earned GNAC All-Conference Third Team honors.



TENNIS FINISHES HISTORIC SEASON

The men's tennis team posted a program-record 10 wins and hosted its first home playoff match since 2015, defeating SUNY Delhi for their first tournament win in a decade. Keagan Bakke '25, Terrance Bayly-Henshaw '27, and Jaxson Redmond '28 earned Empire 8 All-Conference honors in Norwich's debut season as a conference affiliate.



RUGBY TRAVELS ABROAD, WINS AT HOME

Both men's and women's rugby teams embarked on a historic international tour of Ireland during spring break. Domestically, both squads qualified for the Collegiate Rugby Championship National Tournament. The men finished sixth nationally after winning their conference championship; the women earned an at-large bid and won their first national tournament game since 2015.



COED RIFLE TEAM SUCCESS AND HONORS

The rifle team topped MIT at the NCAA Championship Qualifiers and placed second overall. Sophia Ashford '28 earned All-MAC First Team in smallbore and Second Team in air rifle, with eight Cadets earning Academic Team recognition and five achieving Scholastic Excellence.



SOFTBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED

Madison DeCota '27 and Maren McGinn were named GNAC All-Conference First Team — the program's first such selections in eight years. McGinn's selection makes her one of only two cadets this season to earn All-Conference honors in two different sports.

LtGen John J. Broadmeadow, USMC (Ret), supported by his wife, Karen (Rowe) Broadmeadow, thanks the crowd in attendance during his inauguration.



Norwich inaugurates LtGen John J. Broadmeadow, USMC (Ret)

The Presidential Medallion was bestowed upon Norwich University's 25th president in a formal inauguration ceremony that took place on April 24. LtGen John J. Broadmeadow, USMC (Ret), Class of 1983, began his presidency in May 2024. He brings to the position a deep personal connection to the University based on his experience as a student and former member of the Board of Trustees prior to his presidency.

LtGen Broadmeadow, the highest-ranking Marine to graduate from Norwich, is also the first Marine to take the mantle of president. It has been more than three decades since an alumnus served at the helm. He led a distinguished 36-year career in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in which he held various staff and command positions, including service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The inauguration began with a procession led by longtime professor and pillar of the Norwich community, Dr. Frank Vanecek H'10. LtGen Broadmeadow joined

Vanecek on stage alongside a host of faculty and Corps of Cadets leaders, his wife, Karen Rowe Broadmeadow '83, and brother, Paul Broadmeadow.

Paul was the first individual invited to the podium. He read a letter written by LtGen Broadmeadow's son, USMC Maj Benjamin Broadmeadow, who was unable to attend while stationed in Stuttgart, Germany.

"My nephew Benjamin asked me to read an introductory letter for him, which surprised me because I am not a professional speaker," said Paul. "I would beg your indulgence if emotion creeps into my voice."

Benjamin assured his parents that he would be watching from Germany and highlighted their bond as family and servicemen. "Besides my mom, I think I may know John Broadmeadow the best, having known him all my life. I share a kinship with him not just as a son, but also as a United States Marine," he wrote. "It's a heartfelt honor and a privilege to have this opportunity

to provide these introductory remarks and share with all of you a more personal perspective on my father."

"While my father had the aptitude, the expertise, and a good heap of luck and fortune to advance to and attain the rank of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps, he will be the first to say that the root of his military career began at Norwich University."

Benjamin reminisced about his parents' story, highlighting his father's lifelong commitment to Norwich. "Today, Norwich University inaugurates as its president a man dedicated to this institution," he wrote. "My dad understands and loves Norwich for its history and mission, in part because of how intertwined Norwich University was — and remains — an integral part of his own history as husband, father, grandfather, Marine officer, and leader."

"Take it from someone who benefited from John Broadmeadow's lifelong mentorship and dedication: He is a man always faithful to his family, to his country, and to Norwich University," wrote Benjamin. "I am confident that he will continue to serve Norwich University with the greatest capacity he can muster, and he'll do it with a proud smile. Congratulations, father, and Semper Fi."

The now-former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Alan DeForest '75, followed Benjamin's remarks. "We're gathered today in this historic place in the shadow of Paine Mountain, with the spirit of Captain Alden Partridge guiding us, to witness a proud and solemn tradition: the formal installation of a new president."

"This moment is not only ceremonial, it is a declaration of confidence and leadership, a commitment to duty, a renewal of our sacred mission to educate citizen-soldiers prepared to serve and lead with integrity, honor, and perseverance," said DeForest, who then invited LtGen and Mrs. Broadmeadow to join him at the podium.

LtGen Broadmeadow, holding his wife's hand, then swore to the pledges read aloud by DeForest.

"Today we gather to celebrate a new chapter in Norwich University's storied history, but also to uphold a time-honored tradition that symbolizes the responsibility and trust, and enduring legacy of leadership, at this institution," said DeForest. "The presentation of the Norwich University Presidential Medallion is a solemn and significant moment in the inauguration ceremony. The medallion represents the authority of the Office of the President and the continuity of Norwich's mission."

Faculty Marshall David Blythe presented the Presidential Medallion to DeForest, who bestowed it upon LtGen Broadmeadow. "This is a symbol of your office and our trust, and may it serve as a constant reminder of the charge you now bear: to lead with strength, serve with humility, and inspire with purpose," said DeForest.

LtGen Broadmeadow took to the podium and offered thanks to his support system. "To the Board of Trustees — especially our chair, Mr. Alan DeForest — thank you for the trust that you have placed in me. I promise to steward our University in a way that is befitting your dedication," he said, continuing with a special thanks to President Emeritus Richard Schneider. "Since our first meeting in California during the early years of your tenure, you've been a friend to Karen and me. Now, you are one of my most trusted advisors. I can think of nobody better to learn from."

A sense of community and commitment to the Guiding Values were key concepts throughout his remarks. "As has been stated many times today, Karen and I both benefited from a Norwich education," he said. "Most importantly, we can both say that Norwich's Guiding Values, those that we learned here at Norwich, shaped both our personal and professional lives."

"It is now my job to understand that we must continue to accomplish our mission. I understand and I accept that profound responsibility you have now entrusted in me as the president of Norwich University," LtGen Broadmeadow said. "I Will Try," to ensure that we remain Norwich forever."



President Emeritus Richard Schneider, LtGen John Broadmeadow, and First Lady Karen Broadmeadow celebrate the inauguration.

Board of Trustees names new chairman



A true citizen-soldier, Gobeille has found successes in the military, as a civilian, and as a community leader.

The Norwich University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Alfred J. “Al” Gobeille ’86 as its chair during its winter board meeting in February. Gobeille succeeds Alan DeForest ’75 following nine years of strong leadership.

“It is an incredible honor to be entrusted with this role at my alma mater, which has been a cornerstone of leadership and service for over two centuries,” said Gobeille. “Norwich gave me the foundation to serve others and embrace challenges. I look forward to working with the board, President Broadmeadow, and the entire Norwich community to ensure its enduring legacy.”

Gobeille is a distinguished alumnus of Norwich University and parent of a Class of 2018 graduate. His decades-long professional career includes both public and private sector work. In the public sphere, he has spent time serving as Vermont’s secretary of human services, chair of the Green Mountain Care Board, and chief operating officer of the University of Vermont Health Network. Gobeille has held various civic leadership roles with the Shelburne Selectboard, the Visiting Nurses Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, and the Champlain Valley Exposition. Additionally, he has found success through personal ventures as a restaurateur and entrepreneur.

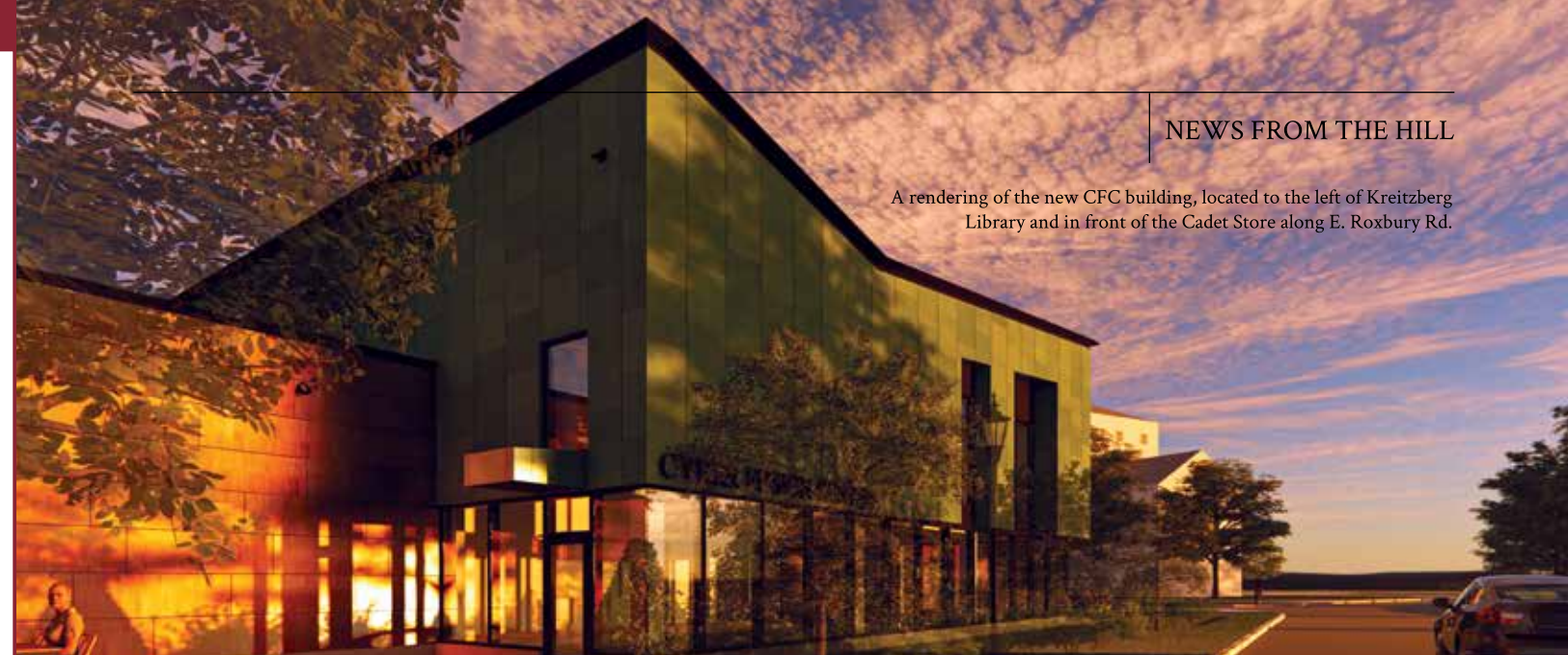
Reflecting on his time at Norwich, Gobeille credits the University with shaping his career and values. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets, played both football and rugby, and served in the Military Police Unit. Upon graduation he commissioned as a U.S. Army officer and continued Norwich’s legacy of producing leaders dedicated to service.

The new chairman spoke to the Norwich community directly when he joined Norwich’s president, LtGen John J. Broadmeadow ’83 USMC (Ret), and Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, LTC Brian J. Doyle ’94, USA (Ret) for his first community town hall in early June.

Gobeille assured the students that the work he and the Board of Trustees does will always focus on their experience at Norwich. “You’re why I chose to get on the board, you’re why I chose to serve as chair, and you’re why the trustees work so hard,” he said before moving his focus to the alumni. “You are our legacy, and I really appreciate all the support I’ve received from all of you.”

He aims to build upon the tradition of success that DeForest built during his nearly decade-long tenure and looks forward to working alongside LtGen Broadmeadow on behalf of the University. “I think John and the team have done a great job putting together a three-year strategic plan that lays out six domains for us to do the work that we know we have to do,” says Gobeille. “What I’m really excited about is getting that work done.”

A rendering of the new CFC building, located to the left of Kreitzberg Library and in front of the Cadet Store along E. Roxbury Rd.



Cyber Fusion Research and Development Center breaks ground

Norwich University broke ground on the construction of its new Cyber Fusion Research and Development Center (CFC) on April 25. The 13,000-square-foot facility will provide a multidisciplinary hub for students, faculty, and industry partners to collaborate in this emergent field.

During his 48-year tenure representing Vermont in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Patrick Leahy consistently advocated for a cyber corridor spanning Central Vermont to Burlington. One of his final actions as the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee was to direct the allocation of \$16.4 million in congressional spending for the center. The CFC will address emerging issues in the cyber landscape through an integrated multidisciplinary approach including AI and machine learning.

Norwich University President LtGen John Broadmeadow ’83, USMC (Ret), extended his thanks to Leahy. “His robust commitment to cyber education in Vermont echoes his vision and endorsement for this pivotal sector,” he said. “His astute leadership has been instrumental at every stage, from the inception of cybersecurity education at Norwich, to the establishment of the Norwich University Applied Research Institutes, to present day.”

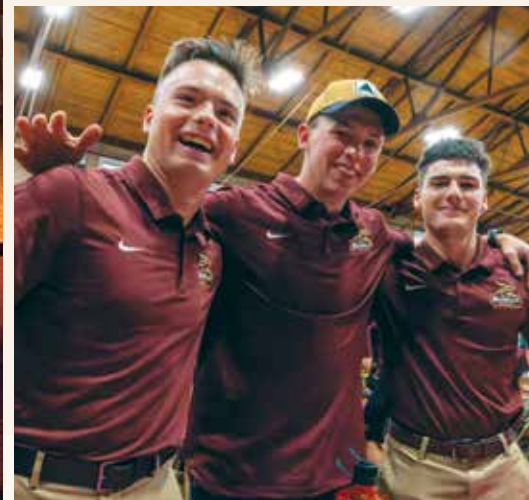
Former president of the Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI), Phil Susmann ’81, spearheaded the project for years and worked directly with Leahy to see it come to fruition. “The Cyber Fusion Center is the culmination of years of collaboration, driven by the vision of Vermont’s ‘Cyber Senator,’ Patrick Leahy,” he said. “He aimed to unite Norwich and NUARI with business and government to address complex challenges through a multidisciplinary approach. The center builds on Norwich’s traditions of experiential learning, service before self, and entrepreneurial risk-taking.”

“The CFC is a natural part of our history that values experiential learning,” said Dr. Michael Battig, director of Norwich’s Senator Patrick Leahy School of Cybersecurity and Advanced Computing. “In other words, Norwich — since its founding — has believed that learning happens best when it’s a combination of classroom and extracurricular activities such as internships and competitions. This edifice will be a place for interdisciplinary activities where students meet government and industrial career opportunities.”

The CFC was designed by the Miami-based Jones Architecture firm, which previously collaborated with Norwich on Mack Hall and the Kreitzberg Library. The new space will accommodate both Norwich and NUARI programs, with a collaborative work environment, multipurpose meeting and event spaces, classrooms, and labs. Large, open spaces will include cutting-edge audio and visual conferencing capabilities, complemented by smaller spaces suited for individualized needs.

“I see the CFC as a catalyst, transforming how we prepare students to become creators and defenders of our digital landscape,” said Dr. Tara Kulkarni, associate provost for research and chief research officer. “It will springboard our research and innovation — in fact, even the process of designing and building the CFC exemplifies its very mission, including visionary thinking, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the concerted effort of countless dedicated professionals.”

LtGen Broadmeadow says the CFC will be a world-class facility that enhances students’ experience. This multidisciplinary space promises to yield substantial benefits for Norwich students, the state of Vermont, and citizens globally through the accomplishments of Norwich alumni.



THE NORWICH REVEILLE: OUR STORIES, OUR VOICE

We hear it again and again from the Norwich family — a call as clear as reveille itself: We want more. More news from The Hill. More ways to connect. More opportunities to celebrate the milestones, achievements, and moments that make Norwich extraordinary.

Story by Sarah Stefaniuk, *Vice President Brand Marketing & Communications, Norwich University*

That call has been answered with the **Norwich Reveille** — a reimagined digital platform, standing at the intersection of social media, the Record, and our historic campus newspaper, the Reveille. It is a space where tradition meets technology, where the Norwich story is told in real time by the very people living it.

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

The name Reveille is no accident. It reaches back to the pages of the original campus newspaper, which once chronicled life on The Hill in ink and newsprint. Today's Reveille inherits that proud legacy, transforming it into a dynamic, interactive space where the voices of our community come alive.

Every article, photograph, and reflection becomes part of our living history — capturing moments of pride, challenge, and service that define who we are. From the bold Rooks and freshmen students beginning their Norwich journey to seasoned alumni leading in boardrooms, classrooms, and on battlefields, the Reveille ensures that the stories of bold students and seasoned alumni alike are honored and remembered, whether in the classroom, the boardroom, or on the battlefield.

A MISSION UNCHANGED

From its roots in the original Reveille to today's digital platform, the mission is the same, connect the Norwich family with Norwich stories. Visitors can explore the latest updates, submit their own, and celebrate the people and events that define this institution.

The *Reveille* is available anytime at norwich.edu/news — ready whenever you are.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This is not just a news platform; it is our shared voice. Built by the Norwich community, for the Norwich community, the Reveille depends on your stories to thrive. We are calling on alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends to keep this tradition strong. Share your moments of triumph, service, and discovery. Submit your ideas, photographs, or completed stories to record@norwich.edu. Our communications team will help bring them to life, making them part of the shared story that connects the Norwich community.

HEAR THE CALL

The Reveille is more than a publication — it is the bugle that calls us together, no matter where we are in the world. It reminds us that Norwich is not defined by geography, but by the people who live its values every day. **Experience Norwich like never before — through the stories we tell each other, and the history we are writing together. Stay informed, inspired, and connected.**

DISCOVER REVEILLE!

Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to open the Norwich Reveille instantly — no typing required. Just point, tap, and start reading. Or visit norwich.edu/news anytime. Hear the call. Share the stories. Learn from each other.



Breaking Barriers & Building a Legacy: Ilona Letran’s Global Mission

Never satisfied, the pursuit of an advanced degree propels this veteran and alumna to new heights.

STORY BY JOSHUA LEONARD



Letran’s Norwich experience brought The Hill to her through online learning, fostering her ambitions.

Ilona Letran M’25 is not one to back down from a challenge. A Ukrainian immigrant, a U.S. Army veteran, a proud rescue pet parent, and now a graduate of Norwich University’s Master of Arts in Global Affairs program with a focus on Eurasia, Ilona is the embodiment of resilience, ambition, and purpose.

Her journey to Norwich was driven by a dream that never faded. “I never lost my American dream of a higher education,” she says. “My goals were met thanks to my husband’s unwavering support and my family’s encouragement.”

After more than a decade in uniform, she transitioned from active duty to the U.S. Army Reserve to make room for graduate study and more time with loved ones. “Time with family is precious,” she says. “I wanted to continue serving but also prioritize the next phase of my academic journey.”

Letran currently works as a social media threat analyst for a major corporation where she applies both her military experience and newly honed global affairs expertise. “I am one of the main writers for my team as far as long-term analysis goes, so having this degree has broadened my analytical perspective to a whole new level.”

While she may have shifted from active duty to the Army Reserve, her desire to serve remains strong. Her experiences and military background including linguistics, the New START Treaty, and all-source intelligence analysis provide a strong foundation for both her current role and her aspirations to commission as a U.S. Army officer.

“My master’s degree from Norwich aligned perfectly with the requirements for the military government officer role in the Army Reserve,” she says. “The coursework wasn’t just relevant, it felt like it was made for me.”

Letran is already preparing to submit her direct commission selection package, aiming to bring her global perspective, analytical acumen, and leadership experience to the officer corps. “My military background combined with my degree in global affairs makes me the ideal candidate,” she says. “As an analyst, my degree broadened my scope from tactical and operational to strategic and global.”

“What I want to do as an officer is lead people on a larger scale and improve poor environments. I want my subordinates to grow professionally and personally,” says Letran. “Ultimately, I joined the military to help people and serving as an officer will allow me to do that more effectively.”

Letran is driven by both personal interest and academic rigor. Outside her professional duties, she is deeply engaged in side projects that reflect her passions, including a Department of Defense initiative focused on recruiting strategies and public affairs collaboration with local Army units. She’s also strategizing a potential doctorate degree, ideally in global affairs, and possibly at a university in Iceland.

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Education has always been a cornerstone of Letran’s vision. Despite challenges with ADHD, she excelled in the online environment by developing structured routines, building quiet workspaces, and channeling hyperfocus as a superpower. “I took my brain to the gym,” she says. “I found the aspects I was passionate about and ran with them.”

Her advice to other service members considering graduate education is simple: use your benefits. “So many people don’t, and it frustrates me,” she said. “Norwich gave me a generous discount, and I still have GI Bill funds to apply to my Ph.D.”

“When you leave active duty, a master’s means money. It sets you apart, especially in government service,” she says. “Earning my degree opened my worldview and improved my self-worth.”

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

One key influence in her decision to attend Norwich was the example set by U.S. Army SGM Michael R. Weimer ’15, a Norwich alumnus and respected leader in the special operations community. “He’s a role model,” she says. “Learning that he graduated from Norwich made the choice easy. I wanted to be a part of that legacy.”

Letran praises the Norwich faculty and staff for their support, particularly her success coach, Bethany Reynolds. “She kept me on track and kept me going,” says Letran. “She made all the difference during those challenging moments.”

Her most difficult course, foundational political science, soon became one of her favorites. “I don’t have a political science background, but I loved the challenge. It made me want to learn more.”

Two subjects in particular sparked her intellectual passion: feminism and nuclear nonproliferation. “Feminism is often misunderstood, but the discussions in class opened minds, including mine,” says Letran. “And nuclear nonproliferation raises so many important questions about peace, power, and deterrence. I plan to explore feminism in depth in my dissertation.”

A MODEL OF PERSEVERANCE

For Letran, earning her master’s degree is a message to others. “As an Eastern European woman raised to be a housewife, I wanted to make my own path,” she said. “I want others to know they can do the same. ADHD, gender, or background shouldn’t be a barrier. You can do this.”

Looking ahead, she envisions herself continuing to write, lead, serve, and break down barriers. She carries the lessons and legacy of Norwich with her.

When asked if she would do it all again, her answer comes easily: “Oh my God, yes,” she says. “But next time, I might minor in the Middle East or Southeast Asia. There’s always more to learn.” **N**

ESSAYONS IN ACTION

Though she couldn't swim or play a musical instrument, Ava LePage '27 embraced Norwich's "I Will Try" motto when she joined the dive team and regimental band.

STORY BY MICHELLE A.L. SINGER

You have to wonder if Norwich was made for students like Ava LePage '27 or if she is a student made for Norwich. As a nursing major, staff sergeant of Hotel Company, student-athlete on the diving team, and member of the regimental band, LePage has taken Norwich's motto, "I Will Try," to her own unique level.

"I was not going to attend Norwich," she says. "I saw my brother go through it and every time I visited him when he was a Rook, he looked miserable."

However, LePage comes from a family of nurses and was interested in pursuing that at Norwich. When she joined ROTC, it set her on a path. "At first, I didn't know I wanted to join the military. I knew I needed it for the ring, and then I enlisted. It means something to me because both my dad and my brother are alumni."

Clearly, "essayons," the French term for "let us try," resonates with LePage. "That's my mentality with things — try it and see how it goes," she says. Case in point: LePage joined Norwich's diving team before learning how to swim.

Head Coach Jennifer Cournoyer of Norwich's men's and women's swimming and diving team confirms her mettle. "Ava is a true embodiment of perseverance. Her journey in diving is a remarkable testament to her hard work and tenacity, especially considering that she started without any prior experience in the water."

"I used to be a gymnast, so it was my experience doing twists and turns that made me interested in the dive program," says LePage. "One of my best friends kept

nagging me, 'Please, please, join the dive team,' and I told her the most swimming I could do was to doggie paddle. I couldn't go under water without inhaling half the pool!"

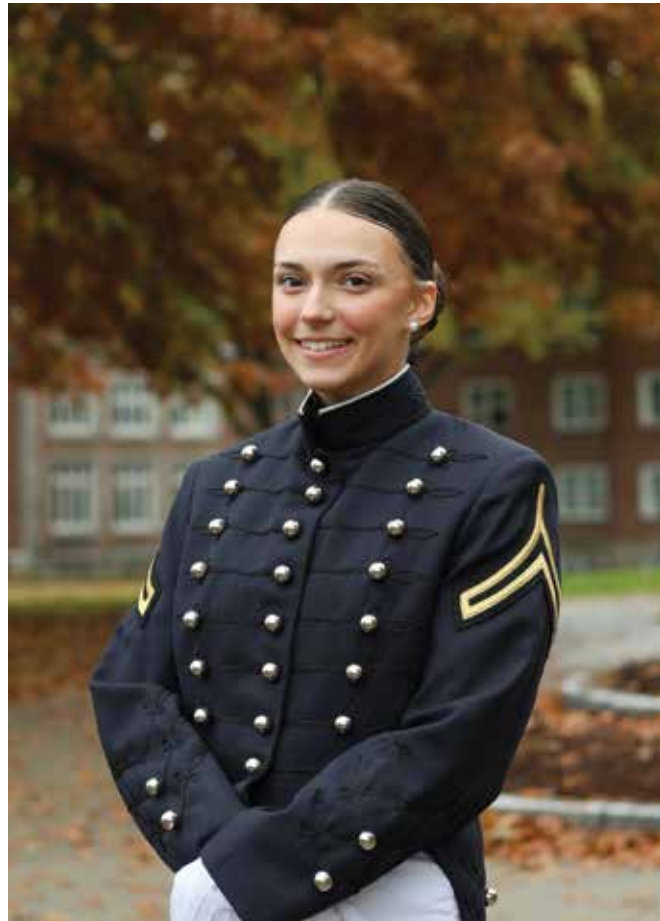
Her friend, classmate Megan Sweeney '27, is also a former gymnast and did not give up on persuading LePage. They exchanged letters while LePage was at basic training last summer and Sweeney would close every one with "P.S. You're joining the dive team."

"Ava is a true embodiment of perseverance. Her journey in diving is a remarkable testament to her hard work and tenacity..."

Having Sweeney for a friend and her experience as a gymnast gave LePage the courage to jump into the deep end. It helps that the program welcomes athletes from diverse backgrounds including those who may not have diving experience but possess skills in gymnastics or competitive trampolines.



LePage prepares to dive during an away meet against Keene State College of New Hampshire.



After years of telling herself the Corps wasn't for her, LePage managed to end up in uniform on The Hill.

“The community builds you up and makes you believe you can do anything. I think that’s really important, especially as future leaders.”

LePage started with the basics. “When I first met the coach, she let me try it,” she says. “I started by jumping in on the side and that was very scary at first.”

“We began by trying to get her comfortable having her head underwater,” says Coach Cournoyer. “Ava’s teammates have played a crucial role in her development, generously sharing their knowledge and skills to help her improve as both a diver and to resurface to swim to the edge of the pool.”

“I really love the team,” says LePage. “They are so supportive of me. They were like, ‘You can do this! You’ve got this!’”

It took LePage just one season to begin to dive competitively, but not without challenges. “A lot of the dives are scary,” she explains. “You have to enter them at different heights or momentum. With some you have to flip and dive the opposite way. My team captain helped me figure out the diving entries and how to get into that side of it. She was integral in my learning how to do literally anything off the board.”

“One of the dives we struggle with is called the reverse dive. You take off and flip the opposite way and open backwards. I had some pretty bad smacks and bruises all over from how I hit the water. But my team picked me back up and encouraged me every step of the way.”

LePage and three other teammates competed at the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championships last year, a NCAA Division III event, against other schools like Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Regis, and Albertus Magnus.

“Diving at the championship level is intense,” says Coach Cournoyer. “Our divers have consistently performed outstandingly at these championships, showcasing not only their talent but also the dedication that has been cultivated within the program. It’s clear that the secret to their success lies in their shared culture of trying hard and supporting one another, and Ava has been a shining star within this dynamic.”

At the GNAC Championships, divers compete with 12 unique dives. LePage remembers, “I had all my dives except one, the reverse one. But at the competition I said to myself that I’m just going to go for it because it was the only one I’ve never done before. I did it, and I actually got a good score.”

Her risk paid off. She was part of creating a championship season. “Norwich has always possessed a strong swimming and diving team,” says Coach Cournoyer. “But over the past three seasons, our women’s diving team has excelled, capturing the GNAC championship title each year.”

Diving was not the only thing LePage jumped into last year. “I joined Band Company though I didn’t know how to play an instrument,” she says. Characteristically, that did not slow her down. She now plays percussion including the cymbal in Norwich’s regimental band, and the timpani, bass drum, and snare drum in the concert auxiliary. “We put a lot of work in,” she says. “We’re the first ones on campus, and the last ones to leave.”



The Norwich University Regimental Band was founded in 1820, making it the nation’s oldest collegiate band.

LePage has a full plate, but says she is not doing it alone. Along with her swim teammates and fellow band members, she leans on her cadre. “Last year, my nursing classes were very strenuous. My cadre were dedicated to teaching us time management.” With two to three exams a week, practice, and meets, this skill has proved invaluable.

Now as cadre, she is paying forward the opportunities that she received and being a good role model to Rooks. Looking ahead to her senior year, LePage plans to put in extra hours of community service and pass her certified nursing assistant exam before going into the Army, where she is pre-branched for nursing.

“I feel like the opportunities at Norwich are endless,” she says. “I couldn’t swim but I decided to just go and try it. I joined the band and learned how to play. The community builds you up and makes you believe you can do anything. I think that’s really important, especially as future leaders.”

So, did LePage ever learn how to swim? “Yes,” she says, “I ended up passing the Army Combat Water Survival Test.” **N**

SERVING THE UNKNOWN

A Norwich football player's willingness to sign up for a bone marrow registry saves a life.

Story by Zack Bennett

Gabe Lamson '25 was nearing the completion of his junior year when the Norwich football and volleyball teams joined forces with the School of Nursing to host the first ever on-campus bone marrow registration event. Considering his family's history with cancer, he felt compelled to sign up just in case.

"We were outside the Wise Campus Center asking people to sign up to the registry for donating bone marrow," says Lamson. "I signed up not knowing if I'd get picked or not."

Some time passed, but eventually his phone rang with what he thought was a spam call. Turns out, it was a call from the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) who had teamed up with Get in the Game for the registry event. "It was just a random number, so I let it go to voicemail," he says. "I read it later and was surprised that I got the call because there's so many people already in the registry."

Football's Assistant Head Coach for Offense Bobby Johnson III helped bring the event to campus, and was excited to hear that Lamson accepted their invitation. "This is an amazing event and a chance to save someone's life," he said. "Gabe Lamson is the ultimate teammate, so it doesn't

surprise me he was willing to donate when called upon to do so."

Lamson prepared for the donation procedure over the next several months. Throughout the process, he learned that 70% of people in need of a donor are not a match to any of their family members; as someone whose family has been afflicted by cancer, this statistic only reinforced in his mind that he had made the right decision even though he may never know who he helped.

"It's an anonymous thing, depending on the country they're from and their privacy laws," he says. "As of right now, I don't really know much about them."

He took a short flight to Washington for the days-long procedure in mid-March. "They set up everything, like flying to D.C. for the donation and booking the hotel," says Lamson. "They pay for your meals, pay for your rides, so that was all good."

The next few days went quickly once he touched down in the nation's capital. Luckily, the donation process is not as intimidating as it once was. "There's two types of procedures," he says. "The most common one is what's called blood stem cell donation.

The not as common way, nowadays, is where they'll actually sedate you and stick a pretty big needle in your hip bone for the bone marrow."

While he didn't have to face an oversized needle, he was confined to a chair for around six hours per day. "You can't really move at all; one whole side of your body can't move, and you can't get up at all."

"I'd say the hardest part about it was probably the injections themselves," says Lamson. "I was able to inject myself each day, so it wasn't inconvenient or anything, but they make you feel really achy and uncomfortable, almost like you have a fever or cold the whole time."

At the end of it all, Lamson is glad he took a leap of faith and signed up as a donor. He encourages anyone who might have the chance to sign up and join him as a donor. "I think that for such a little thing — it really just took three days of my life — I saved a person's life," he says. "If people are curious about it, they should look up the NMDP and they're sure to find it. They should really consider it." **N**



Lamson could hardly move for days during his stay in Washington due to long donation sessions.

THE NORWICH STANDARD

The Corps of Cadets transitions regimental commanders, ushering in a new era of peer leadership.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Norwich University has a wealth of time-honored traditions: Recognition, ring ceremonies, and oath ceremonies, to name a few. While all of these offer their own intrinsic values, the regimental commander may play the biggest role in the cadets' day-to-day lives. The transition of leaders in this position marks both the end and beginning of an era each year.

Former regimental commander, 2LT Sophia Righthouse '25, recently graduated after leading the Corps throughout the 2024-25 academic year. She says that she saw personal growth throughout her Norwich journey, though the last year as regimental commander paired with the president's return to his alma mater has proven especially transformative. "The momentum of Norwich is smoother and faster than I have ever seen it, and I am truly excited for what lies ahead," she says. "I was very pleased to spend my last year under his directive."

She also credits the Commandant's Office with providing a huge boon to the Corps behind the scenes. Righthouse remembers being told that cadets will always remember their commandant, and BG Bill McCollough '91, VSM, has already occupied a special place in her mind. She implores cadets to "seek out his wisdom, knowledge, and of course, library of books outside his office — once an English major, always an English major."

During Righthouse's tenure, she gained a backstage view of that staff's inner workings. She credits both COL Bill Passalacqua '88, VSM, and LTC Neil Julian '99, VSM, for setting a daily example of leadership that both she and the greater Corps can learn from.

"I've witnessed COL Passalacqua's sharp decision-making and thoughtful leadership up close," says Righthouse. "He consistently sets the standard for excellence on this campus. Whether it's his dedication to fitness or constant support of cadets, his presence and example never goes unnoticed."

She says that she gained a "deep appreciation" for the complexity and dedication behind planning and operations through LTC Julian — a skillset she will undoubtedly put to use throughout her Army career in various capacities. "The time and precision that goes into each event are beyond what most people realize," says Righthouse. "His commitment behind the scenes makes a visible difference and impacts the experience that every single cadet has on campus."

While she has learned a great deal from officials like these, Righthouse values her experiences on regimental staff and encourages cadets to consider serving their peers. "For underclassmen looking to challenge themselves and strive for excellence their senior year, look no further than regimental staff," she says. "These cadets quite literally work 24/7 to keep everything running smoothly. Like we always say, the Corps is truly run by the Corps. These individuals become experts in their fields, drafting plans, running weekly briefs, and managing operations to make the Corps what it is today."

"Our responsibilities don't stop when we graduate," says Righthouse. "We are dedicated to building the leaders of tomorrow, sharpening our own values, and trying our best to become the leaders we looked up to as freshmen."

Righthouse was the seventh woman to lead the Corps in its history.



2LT Righthouse's (left) dedication to the Norwich way of life propelled her to successes throughout her time as a student.

She remembers when she became regimental commander in her own transformational journey. “I had never felt more pride than when wearing the uniform of our Corps of Cadets,” she says. “While that still remains true, this past year reminded me that it isn’t the uniform itself that fills me with pride — it’s every single one of our cadets.”

“It’s the cadets who crush the PT test and lead several specialty units, but it’s also our quiet professionals, the NCAA athletes balancing early practices and Corps commitments, those juggling multiple jobs, or conducting academic research, and yet, they still find time to show up for the Corps,” says Righthouse. “It’s the ones who don’t hold a flashy rank or position, but show up, care about their fellow cadets, and give it their all no matter their circumstance. That’s what makes me proud.”

Righthouse values the connections she has made here because of the incredibly close bonds formed through accomplishing difficult things together. “I’ve never seen a Norwich cadet quit — not really,” she says. “Those words we learn as a freshman — ‘I Will Try’ — aren’t just words

we memorize, and I think we all know it’s more than just a saying; it’s something we live.”

“I’ve found some of my closest friends here, the kind of friends you know will always have a place in your heart,” says Righthouse. “I’ve developed a deeper compassion for others; through community service and embracing the values of a citizen-soldier, I’ve come to understand just how many people are in different parts of their lives and how important it is to support them all.”

“Most importantly, through meeting cadets, hearing their stories, and getting to know their personalities, I’ve truly come to understand what it means to walk in someone else’s shoes,” she says.

Though Righthouse has moved on to the next chapter of her life, C/COL Matthew Ober ’26 has just begun his chapter as regimental commander and extends his gratitude to Righthouse for her efforts in the role. “I thank her for her wisdom as a positive role model, and for leaving the Corps in better shape than it was,” says Ober. “She has transferred the colors, entrusting me and my commanders and staff to lead America’s premier military

college. I am both humbled by this charge and inspired by the opportunity to serve our distinguished institution and its 205 years of proud tradition.”

“At Norwich, leadership is not just a duty, it is a lifelong commitment. A commitment to our Guiding Values and to our cardinal virtues of courage, honesty, temperance, and wisdom. A commitment to each other as the Norwich family.”

As he steps into his new role, Ober recognizes that the Norwich family is a crucial component of the community

“I’ve learned that leaders should lead with empathy, humility, a willingness to listen, and, of course, a little humor, because that’s what makes a difference.”

he now leads. “This family comes from different walks of life — some from New England, others from the vast landscape we call America, and still others from across the globe,” he says. “We may pursue different degrees, serve in different ROTC programs, and engage in various sports or extracurricular activities, yet we are united in purpose: to better our nation and uphold the ideals upon which it stands.”

“Each of us has been called to serve. Some will lead soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, or guardians into battle; others will lead in business, boardrooms, classrooms, laboratories, or in sanctuaries of worship,” says Ober. “Regardless of where life calls us, the experiences and challenges we face here on this Hill shape the leaders we become.”

Ober challenges younger cadets to explore the reasons they chose Norwich and take the next step forward in their personal growth. “Ask yourself why you chose to wear the uniform of a Norwich cadet,” he says. “Be the mentor of a struggling peer, an underclassman, or new recruit. Show them what makes Norwich special and teach them that the

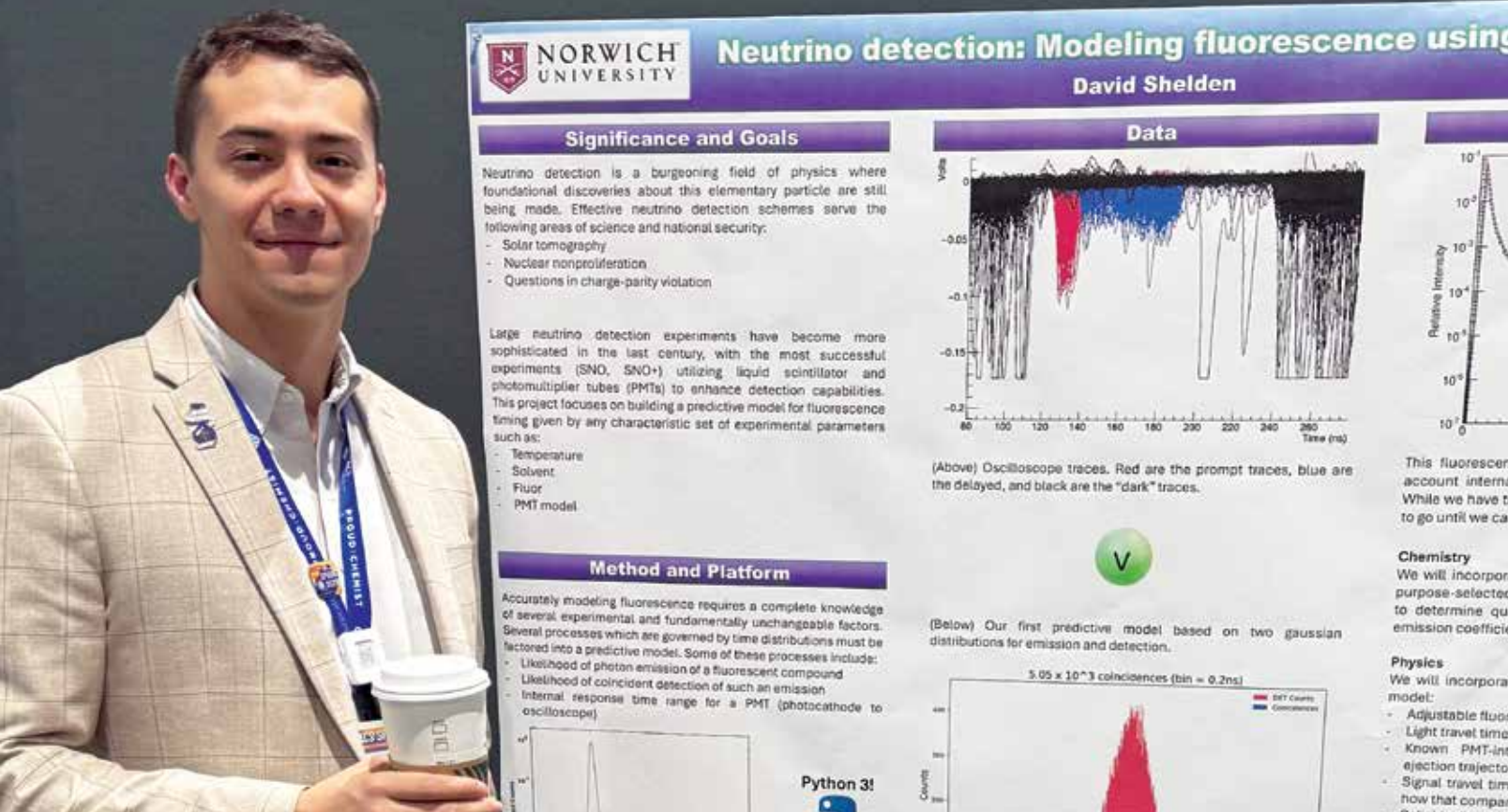
motto of ‘I Will Try’ is more than just a motto — it is a mindset that will guide them for a lifetime.”

As he begins his year as the Corps’ highest-ranking cadet, Ober commits himself to his peers. “I pledge to dedicate myself fully to the betterment of the Corps and to each and every Norwich cadet. I strive to cultivate within each of us the well-rounded citizen-soldier envisioned by CAPT Alden Partridge over two centuries ago,” he says. “Every cadet plays a vital role in shaping the culture, strength, and future of this great organization.”

“As your regimental commander, my mission is simple: to serve you faithfully, to shape you into great leaders, and to uphold us all to the highest standard that is the Norwich cadet.” **N**



C/COL Ober takes full advantage of Norwich's commitment to experiential learning.



Chemistry has remained an interest for Shelden, who is now pursuing an advanced degree at Texas A&M.

CITIZEN-SOLDIERY

An unconventional path through young adulthood yields results in academia and service.

Story by Zack Bennett

“I didn’t really understand the concept of citizen-soldiery until my first year at Norwich. Learning about Captain Alden Partridge’s philosophies and having the Guiding Values nailed it into my brain,” says SSG David Shelden ’25. “That’s when I learned we need to develop the whole person and that’s become important to me.”

Shelden’s dedication to holistic development rewarded him early in his career, preparing him for the Vermont Army National Guard’s

2025 Best Warrior Competition and earning the title of 2025 NCO of the Year. “There was an Army combat fitness test, land navigation, a written exam, and M4 technique and skills — five or six different events,” he says. “It’s the sort of event where they rack us and stack us after every event and tell us where we are.”

He credits his Norwich foundation for preparing him to find success, though he had an unconventional path through college. “I was in the Corps for four years, though not

consecutively. I did two years in 2016 and 2017, left, and returned in the fall of 2022 for two more years in the Corps. I was a civilian student for my fifth year,” says Shelden, who has also been committed to the National Guard for the past several years.

“I wasn’t planning to become a civilian my last year and had gotten accustomed to the Corps life and routine,” he says. “However, during my fourth year, my father passed away, so I had to re-think my priorities and what I was aiming to do after college. I was 25

when I started my fifth year. I used every bit of the free time I had not doing Corps activities to really buckle down on the things I needed to do to secure my immediate future, like writing grant applications, job applications, school applications, all that kind of stuff,” he says. “I was able to use that extra time in a constructive way.”

Now a guardsman and graduate research student in Texas A&M’s chemistry program, Shelden sees varied options in his personal future. “Typically, people either go into academia or industry. I think I could do well in either.”

While still deciding which path to pursue, one thing remains certain: Shelden’s commitment to the Guard. “I’m going to stay in the Guard as long as they let me, as long as I’m able-bodied,” he says. “In five or six years, I see myself as a company commander for an infantry company somewhere,” he says. “If I earn this degree and I

go to work in another state, I’ll transfer Guard units. I see myself maintaining this lifestyle as a part-time soldier.” The foundation for success that Norwich laid out for him is not something Shelden takes for granted. “What Partridge had to say about citizen-soldiery in particular meshed well with my upbringing,” he says. “Making sure we have a population with character and integrity and moral uprightness is something we want to impress upon ourselves.”

“It’s incredibly important to me, especially now, and I continue to wonder if I am improving myself mentally and physically, or in my career, or in some other way I’d like to progress,” says Shelden. “If I only did one thing, I wouldn’t be able to connect in any way with the people who do all the hard work. I’ve come to find out that it’s really important to be able to connect with people when you want to be a leader of anything.” **N**

Shelden enjoys his time in the National Guard and plans to serve as long as he can.





Alex Huffman '28 (left) is one of the students who has followed O'Connell's footsteps to Norwich.

Flying BLIND: FROM B-52S TO THE CLASSROOM

An aviator and educator navigates life after service as his eyesight deteriorates, paying it forward through his work with the next generation.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"I was commissioned into the Air Force, and having gone through Air Force ROTC at Norwich, I learned my eyes were not good enough to be a pilot," says Lt Col Brian O'Connell '76, USAF (Ret). "Back in those days you had to have 20/20 uncorrected vision to go to undergraduate pilot training. So, I became a navigator and went and flew as a B-52 Stratofortress crew member and electronic warfare officer."

O'Connell would spend the next 26 years manning a variety of roles. "I was an academic instructor, flight instructor, had staff tours, and was squadron commander at one point," he says. "It was a varied career that required a lot of travel. We lived in a lot of places."

He credits his wife, Sue, Class of 1977, for putting up with the job requirements. "I dragged my wonderful wife around with me to these places, and she was a trooper the whole time. I think she enjoyed the travel as much as I did back in those days."

After a long, busy career, O'Connell decided to retire from the Air Force in 1998. "You're encouraged to have a retirement physical so that if anything pops up you can get into the VA system," he says. "During mine, I was diagnosed with glaucoma."

While he knew his vision had never been perfect, learning he had glaucoma was a shock; though, he quickly learned that the disease would not immediately impact his day-to-day life. "It didn't affect me in a meaningful or practical way at that point," he says. "It wasn't too visible, so to speak."

O'Connell's life continued — more or less — as normal, working in the defense industry as a civilian. "It didn't bother me on an emotional level. I had some medications and eye drops, so it didn't really affect me. It was just in my subconscious."

His sense of normalcy was shattered just a few years later in 2001 during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "The Air Force asked aviators to come back. I was recalled — voluntarily — and came back in," he says. "The glaucoma still wasn't an issue then. It was



The B-52 Stratofortress has been a mainstay of the United States Air Force since its inception in the 1950s.

a long time of progressive decrease in my eyesight from when I was diagnosed.”

O’Connell served until 2006 when he decided it was time to retire again. “I did some defense work again down in Florida until we lost our contract with the Air Force.”

This turn of events prompted O’Connell to begin a new adventure. “I thought about finding something more stable and enjoyable and decided I would like to teach.” Though, he had no idea what that might look like until JROTC floated to mind. “My high school didn’t have it, and none of my contemporaries did it,” he says. “I was only aware it existed.”

He visited the Air Force JROTC website to learn the requirements and where there might be openings. “I found that there are openings in positions around the country. Sue and I began talking about where to go, and I called a local high school near Elgin Air Force Base because all the high schools around there have Air Force JROTC programs.” Upon receiving positive feedback, O’Connell began seeking positions in North Carolina.

“I applied to three schools and was planning interviews,” says O’Connell. “The first I visited was in little Dobson, North Carolina, and they pretty much hired me that day. I talked to the NCO who I eventually ended up working with, and we hit it off. I started right there. It was almost by accident but worked out really well.”

Eight years at Surry Central High School flew by until O’Connell decided to retire for a third time in 2016. His eyesight had begun to deteriorate rapidly. “I got to the point where I thought I wouldn’t be able to continue anymore, so I finished at the same school, in the same program, in the same classroom, with the same NCO.”

O’Connell knew things would change. “Giving up your driver’s license, for instance, is a huge

move. We think of older people doing that, like a grandad had to give up his driver’s license at 83. That happened to me in my early sixties and was not in my game plan.”

“I had to wrap my head around that,” he says. “After I retired from teaching, I was in a place where I was coming to grips with this. That’s a challenge for those of us who have never had

“I didn’t know anybody who was visually impaired, or even legally blind. I had no one I could connect with or talk to and get advice from.”

to deal with a disability. I didn’t know anybody who was visually impaired, or even legally blind. I had no one I could connect with or talk to and get advice from.”

Sue would soon find out about the blind rehabilitation services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Blind Veterans Association. With these resources, O’Connell was able to find the connections he sought. “I realized that I’m not the only guy out there — there’s a bunch of us,” he says. “Making those connections was huge, and that’s what started me on the process of figuring out what is possible now, what makes sense, and getting out of my funk to move forward.”

One of the most impactful programs he participated in involved temporarily residing in Biloxi, Mississippi. O’Connell was able to work with “incredibly well-qualified” professionals, which were vital considering his vision’s deterioration.



Adaptive sports have allowed O’Connell (right) to continue enjoying some of his favorite activities.

“I got connected with other veterans who have done incredibly impressive things,” says O’Connell. “These guys invited me into adaptive sports programs, which, again, I had no idea even existed.”

“Hiking, climbing, and doing things that I’ve always loved was something that I figured wouldn’t be in my future,” he says. “Meeting these guys and seeing people doing incredible things while I still have some limited eyesight put me back on my feet.”

As O’Connell was settling in to his new reality, the JROTC program at Surry Central was facing a bleak future. The officer who replaced O’Connell following his retirement was leaving the school and they were having trouble finding a replacement. “The Air Force required two instructors to keep the program running at a school. It’s not the active-duty military where you’re given orders to go to a duty station,” he says. “They’re retired individuals who want to be instructors. There was no one applying to come to this little town in rural northwestern North Carolina to take over the position.”

Throughout 2022, O'Connell helped when he could, stopping in as a volunteer when he and Sue were in the area to visit family. However, the program continued to face the reality it may cease to exist.

"The NCO and I kept in contact as friends, and he let me know that the Air Force pulled him aside and told the school unless a senior instructor came in, the program was going to be shut down," he says. "There were two negatives: one, he would lose his job, but also the program would shut down. I'm biased, but there's a lot of value to that program."

"I've taught aerodynamics, aviation history, astronomy, and those kinds of things, but there's so much more that is life-skill focused and mentorship opportunities that would be a huge loss if the program goes down."

"Long story short, I talked to my wife about returning to the program though I knew it would be hugely different for me if I went back and taught again. I reached out to the school and Air Force and said, 'Hey, if you don't mind a blind guy coming back in, I'll give it a shot.' That worked out perfectly."

An added difficulty on top of his visual impairment was the commute. During the time since his third retirement, he and Sue first moved to Florida, and then to Greenville, South Carolina. Luckily, his daughter and her family's old house was available for purchase.

"Before they moved, we bought their old house," says O'Connell. "It worked out logistically because it was a place for me to live during the school year, and my daughter and grandson are still around so there are those connections."

By January of 2023, O'Connell was back in North Carolina and teaching again. Ensuring the program remained alive brought him a great sense of satisfaction. Not only would high schoolers still have the opportunity to participate in JROTC, but his longtime friend and NCO would be able to keep his job. "He really kept the program going and did a great job," says O'Connell. "The program was on very strong footing."

While there was a strong sense of familiarity in returning to Surry Central High School, there was also a newfound sense of the unknown. "I had to adjust and adapt to not seeing, and the coolest part about that was the technology — anybody can learn technology, which I have," he says. "I could work with computers and different tools to allow myself to know and teach the curriculum, that kind of thing. But I don't see faces and I don't see a lot of things you'd see in a normal classroom environment."

"Imagine my slight level of concern walking into a classroom and the kids know that I can't see their faces and I'm not able to see what they're doing," he says. "But the cool thing was that the kids were great, they would help me get everything set up since I use Apple products for their accessibility — because kids are pretty good with computers."

"They were great. They were helpful and there were blind jokes every day; I'll tell you, if you don't want to hear honest feedback, don't teach in high school. They're going to tell it exactly like it is. They were great kids, and the overall experience was really good."

Throughout his return to Surry Central, O'Connell found motivation in his students. "Many kids are certain from the beginning that there's no way they were going to college because there was no tradition of it in their family or the thought that it would be too expensive," he says. "I'm aware of ROTC scholarships since I was on one, and I started encouraging them to expand their horizon and become aware of opportunities."

He created an honors program for the students that exposed them to collegiate themes and began encouraging them to think ahead. "I'd tell them more about ROTC programs and opportunities in schools like Norwich," he says. "There are kids that jumped at that once they realized it was a possible."

"I'm proud of my Norwich connections and I'm proud of the opportunity I had to help guide students," he says. "I never pushed a kid toward Norwich because that wouldn't help. But to guide and open up opportunity for students to know about the Norwich experience, I'm delighted, because none of them knew about Norwich before they came to my class."

"Imagine my slight level of concern walking into a classroom and the kids know that I can't see their faces and I'm not able to see what they're doing."

O'Connell retired a fourth time in June — his second from Surry Central to match his two from the Air Force. Fortunately, the school has new instructors in the classroom and the program's existence is safe. "I'm not going to be there anymore, but those kids, I hope they maintain those connections," he says. "I hope that continues and that Norwich is able to pick up some of these really good and talented kids coming out of this little town in northwestern North Carolina." **N**



O'Connell (center) is joined by Norwich grads (left to right) Don Loomis '85, Fred Tomaselli '86, Glenn Carlson '84, and Bob Fotino '85 as they cheer on the Norwich football team against the Coast Guard Academy. They would soon deploy to Diego Garcia from Loring Air Force Base in Maine.

Life is Good

First Lady Karen (Rowe) Broadmeadow '83 reflects on her full-circle Norwich story that has brought her home to Northfield.

Story by Zack Bennett

Many alumni consider Norwich University their home away from home. For some, like First Lady Karen Broadmeadow '83, the hills of Norwich and Central Vermont truly are home.



Broadmeadow on The Hill after receiving her degree.

"I grew up in Montpelier and not very far from the Vermont College campus. I would often drive by or walk across the 'quad,' so I was very familiar with Vermont College," she says. "When I graduated from high school, I had visions of being an accountant and enrolled at another school."

Broadmeadow quickly realized that her new school was not a fit for her. "I looked into Vermont College, and it was a good fit for me — it was a great fit for me," she says. "Back then, commuter students were called 'day students.' I was a 'day student' for a short while and eventually moved on campus where I lived in Noble Hall and then in Dewey Hall. I initially received an associate degree from Vermont College in business management."

"It was a natural flow to continue my education at Norwich," she says. "I took the bus most days from the Vermont College campus in Montpelier to the Northfield campus. In 1983 I graduated with my bachelor's in business administration from Norwich."

Although she was a civilian student, she was drawn to the ethos of Norwich University. "When I was at Vermont College, we had a student judicial board, much like Norwich had the honor committee, and I was involved in that," says Broadmeadow. "There were similarities between the guiding principles on the Vermont College campus and the expectations on the Norwich campus."

Norwich is also where she met her future husband and Norwich's current president, LtGen John Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret). "I really enjoyed being in the mix with the cadets, and John and I took some of the same classes," she says. "We had a great group of friends and classmates, and we would study in the library together. If we weren't in the library — at least for civilian students — we would be at the snack bar in Harmon Hall because we needed a place to go between classes."

The intermingling between lifestyles created a unique environment that Broadmeadow came to appreciate. "I value the friendships that came about because of our time at Norwich," she says. "I value the Norwich community — the students, the administration, the professors — everyone. I love running into Frank Vanecek today knowing that he was a professor of mine."

She remembers a class revolving around personnel management as the course she credits with finding her future career field. "It was an elective, I think, and it was that course that ignited my

Karen and now-President LtGen John Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret), visit her parents in Montpelier in the early 1980s.



passion for working in human resource [HR] management," says Broadmeadow. "When John and I got married and we were moving every three years, I made a concerted effort to ensure that some element of each job, whether it was a paid or volunteer position, related in some way to human resource management."

Even on the other side of the world in Japan, she found a way to put her skills to use. "When we spent a year in Okinawa, I was the assistant program director for one of the USOs [United Service Organizations]. My responsibilities included writing newsletters and recruiting volunteers for USO-sponsored events," says Broadmeadow. "When we returned to the States, I was responsible for security for a small research and development company; then I was hired by the Travelers Insurance Company as a recruiter. I felt like my career took off at that point," she says.

Each subsequent position and its responsibilities laid the foundation for the next position, and she found her stride as her career developed. "I loved the human resource management profession and in 1997 was excited to be hired by MCI, a telecommunications company, and remain with them through a merger and an acquisition."

Broadmeadow held several positions while at MCI (MCIWorldCom/Verizon Business) including project manager, HR generalist, and HR manager. Following the discovery of the infamous WorldCom accounting fraud, she was one of three employees asked to join a team created to investigate employee relations complaints. "The requirements of this job were some of most challenging yet rewarding of my career," she says. "The ethics and ethos instilled at Norwich proved invaluable in this position which required the utmost integrity."

Of course, Broadmeadow continued to find ways to put her skillset to work in support of other efforts within the military community. "While my husband was active duty — in addition to guiding and mentoring military family members — I led two

large volunteer organizations," she says. "One was responsible for organizing a conference for military spouses; I had a talented committee of 25 or 30 people who spent a year planning a day-long event with guest speakers and over 50 breakout sessions. The conference was a remarkable success because of the team's commitment and efforts."

"I also chaired the Navy Marine Corps Ball Committee in Washington and had a wonderful group of Marine Corps and Navy spouses working together to support the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society," she says. "It was another year-long planning endeavor which culminated in a gala and a donation of nearly half-a-million dollars to the Society. These volunteer efforts tie — in my mind — to the service to others before self that is instilled in all of us as students at Norwich." In August



Broadmeadow (center), Beth (Kirley) Evans '85 (left), and Jane (Moriarty) McKenzie '84 (right), enjoy themselves at the Student Activities Council's Love Boat Party in Vermont College's gym.

2020, Broadmeadow was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of her exceptional service to, and in support of, military organizations.

"I had a great experience at Norwich, and my husband had a great experience at Norwich," she says. "It wasn't always easy. There were challenges and tough days, but it's the experiences, traditions, connections, sense of community, and the friendships that keeps us coming back."

She says that "life is good" since returning to The Hill and looks forward to what the future holds. "There's always some connection here for me, having grown up in Central Vermont," she says. "Seeing a classmate, someone who was in the classroom with my mother, or someone who walked into the neighborhood store that my mom and dad owned — these are all Norwich connections that make coming back so much more special." **N**

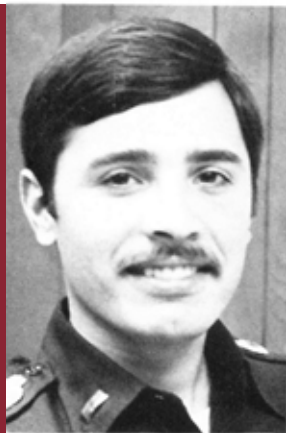
MAKING NORWICH *Memories*

A cherished professor celebrates his 50 years on The Hill by reminiscing with the community, collecting and preserving a half-century's worth of memories and stories as he authors his book.

STORY BY FRANK VANECEK H'10

"Hey Professor, do you remember when you ..."

If I had a dollar for every time I heard that phrase throughout my 50 years at Norwich, maybe I would be a rich man! Alumni weekends are simply nonstop with the alums recalling countless stories of the things I did for them, to them, and with them, throughout



their years at Norwich — and sometimes beyond! It has always amazed me how my former students have these stories solidly embedded in their memories. The purpose of creating this book is an attempt to record and retain some of those Norwich memories for future generations of Norwich historians!

One of my favorite memories about Norwich involves the most commonly asked question of me: "Professor, what brought you to Norwich University in the first place?" I have been asked this question by hundreds of Norwich students over the decades. The answer is simple — YOU, the Norwich student, brought me here!

A more detailed reply involves a story of me walking down the hallway of an academic building at Worcester Polytechnic University of Massachusetts in the spring of 1976 when I was finishing my master's degree in computer science. The department secretary

came out of her office and was posting a notice on the hallway bulletin board. Just being pleasant, I said hello and asked her what she was posting. She turned to me and said that it's a teaching job at a military school and that it might be something I want to think about.

I read the posting, which was about a military school called Norwich University (never heard of it) who wanted to hire their first computer science professor. I already had several job offers at the time from the National Security Agency (NSA) in Virginia, Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, and General Telephone & Electronics Corporation (GTE) in Boston. The average annual salary was about \$17,000. GTE wanted me to be the key computer guru on a team of 10 people with the task of developing the communication systems for the Navy's nuclear submarine force.

I took the posting to my academic advisor and asked him if he ever heard of this place called Norwich University. He immediately said that it was an excellent institution and that I should consider it even though I had absolutely no prior thoughts of ever teaching at the college level. My advisor said that he knew of a family in Worcester who had a cadet attending Norwich University and that he would set up a meeting for me since the cadet was home on spring break.

The next day, my wife, Diane (NU '79), and I went to meet this student. We pulled into the driveway five minutes ahead of time and the cadet was already standing on the porch waiting for us. He came



Vanecek (left), whose pioneering work in computer science helped establish the Norwich University program, speaks with Mishka Rizzo '82 (center) and Jamie Scotland '83 (seated).

immediately to the car door, opened it, stood very straight, looked me in the eyes, put out his hand, and welcomed me. My wife and I were shocked to see this exceptionally polite, well-groomed cadet greet us — please remember that this took place in 1976 when the hippy look and anti-military attitude was considered normal for college students. My wife and I were overwhelmed by the professionalism of this student, and I knew immediately that we had to visit Norwich University and apply for this position.

One week later we visited and met with many more great cadets and civilian students. I was immediately offered the position and quickly accepted it for the huge annual salary of \$10,500. Of course, my current students can't believe that I turned down those other high-paying jobs (especially at NSA) to teach at Norwich University. It was one of the best decisions that my wife and I made in our entire lives!

Some of my additional key Norwich memories over the last five decades involve every president with whom I have interacted over the years. Upon my arrival to Norwich in the summer of 1976, I was asked to come to Jackman Hall to meet President Loring Hart, who always liked to meet the new faculty.

I showed up at the appointed time and was waiting in his outer office. He came out of his office at the appointed time, ignored me, and asked his secretary why the new faculty member has not yet shown up? She then pointed to me. President Hart quickly apologized and indicated that he thought I was a student! Being 23 years old at that time, I certainly can now understand his confusion. Oh, how I long for those olden days of my youth!

At a football game later that fall, I heard that former president — and general — Ernie Harmon was going to be in attendance. I quickly headed to the bookstore to purchase a copy of his book titled "Combat Commander." During the game, I was standing patiently behind the main stands at Sabine Field when suddenly, General Harmon appeared. Of course, he gruffly grumbled something about my being too young to be a professor, and then graciously signed his book, which I still have on my office bookshelf.



Vanecek has led many processions while carrying the ceremonial mace.

“He came out of his office at the appointed time, ignored me, and asked his secretary why the new faculty member has not yet shown up? She then pointed to me.”

The 1980s at Norwich were a bit “different” with the arrival of President — and general — Russ Todd. In the late fall semester of 1982, I was asked (ordered?) to get to the president’s office immediately. I had not yet met President Todd at that point in time.

He sat me down and told me that he had been talking to many students during his first three months on campus, asking them who they thought were Norwich’s best — and worst — professors. Of course, I then thought that I was about to be fired. He then very gruffly indicated that I was at the top of the list for the best professors. He then finally grinned! From that point onward, Russ Todd and I were good friends ... Maybe I should re-think that statement, because it was President Todd who moved me out of the classroom and into my first administrative position in 1987 as program director of business and computing.

The “three golden decades” of Norwich then began with the arrival of President — and admiral-to-be — Richard Schneider in 1992. President Schneider and I had an excellent, ongoing relationship for his entire 28 years.

In the spring of 2008, President Schnieder and I were driving back to Norwich after attending a conference in Boston. About halfway home, he became a bit morose and told me that Norwich’s current vice president for academic affairs had just taken a presidency at another institution and that it was too late in the academic year to do a search for a replacement. He then asked me to take the position on an interim basis. I said, “absolutely not!”

He then said that I should think about the job as only a 10-month position because Norwich will be hiring someone ASAP. I reiterated, “absolutely not.” Unfortunately, we had two more hours on the road to get to Northfield and President Schneider wisely used that time to ultimately change my mind!

That 10-month job turned into a two-year nightmare once the USA’s economy tanked in the fall of 2008. An expensive VP search in a questionable financial market was just not going to happen. This then led me into a wide variety of vice-presidential positions at Norwich for the next 12 years. How I missed the classroom!

Finally, in the 2020/21 academic year, President Mark Anarumo asked me to take a walk with him around the Sabine Field track. This sounded suspicious!

During our pleasant, multi-mile walk, it became very clear to me that President Anarumo was nicely removing me from my current vice-presidential position (i.e., I was being fired). It turned out that this event was actually one of the best things that ever happened to me at Norwich University. It moved me back to full-time teaching and being with the students on a daily basis. Thank you, President Anarumo!

“Occasionally, a student asks me when I am going to retire. I reply with the same response that I have been using for decades: ‘Retire from what? You need to have a job in order to retire!’”

So now I spend my time interacting with the students in and out of the classroom, and hopefully, generating more great Norwich memories for them! Occasionally, a student asks me when I am going to retire. I reply with the same response that I have been using for decades: “Retire from what? You need to have a job in order to retire!”

Teaching at Norwich University has never been “a job” for me. Interacting with students on a daily basis is an outstanding opportunity to reach out and touch the lives of students in a positive way. Thus, retirement is out of the question. Just point me in the direction of the classroom because it’s time to make more Norwich memories! **N**

A Legacy in Letters

RADM Richard W. Schneider, USCGR (Ret.), Norwich University President Emeritus

One of the finest men I have ever known!!! He loves Norwich and would do anything to help our students succeed.

He stepped up when I asked him to lead the arrival of the civilian students to live on the Northfield campus; he stepped up when I asked him to serve as the VP for student affairs; he served on just about every Norwich committee and often chaired them; he was also one of our top faculty members and was always encouraging our students.

Who can say that they didn't appreciate and admire Frank Vanecek??? Not one person!!!

David Emery '78

In the spring of 1978, Professor Vanecek told me he got approval for Norwich to offer a computer science minor, consisting of five courses. At that point, I had taken four of those courses, with the fifth course to be offered in the fall of 1978 (after I graduated).

Knowing my deep interest in the topic, he gave me the three texts he was considering for that course and asked, "Which one should I use?" I read all three books, and came back with my suggestion. He agreed with my choice.

I figure I probably learned more by reading three books on operating systems than I would have from taking that course. For the next almost 40 years, I told him, "I should get constructive credit for operating systems, and be awarded the CS minor. That would make me Norwich's first CS graduate, right?"

I worked in software engineering for most of my career, both military and civilian, making use of not just the computer science courses, but also other courses such as a mathematics seminar on operations research.

On his 40th teaching celebration, Professor Vanecek called me up to the stage and handed me a copy of my Norwich transcript, with the annotation "CS Minor" added to it. That's displayed in my home office.

Steven P. Robinson '79 & '13

I love him as if he were another one of my uncles.

Back in his first couple of years, I was one of his computer tutors in the old Dewey Hall "bunker" on a work-study program, as well as being in his classes.

Professor Vanecek treated me as an intellectual equal.

I did not graduate after nine semesters. I was a good cadet, but a lousy student, especially in classes in which I was not really engaged.

When I inquired of him in 2012 if I could come back and complete, he assured me he would inquire. The next email, he had appended the academic petition and signed himself as my academic advisor and gave me a good "atta boy." He and Adm. Schneider went to the board on my behalf.

I was readmitted for summer 2012 and got a 4.0 in the class I took. Circumstances interfered, so my next class was summer 2013. It was another 4.0, which brought my GPA to 2.02. I qualified for a NU degree. Commencement 2014, my mom was able to see me walk across the stage...

Dr. Vanecek is ACES in my book.

Paula A. Gills, former director of learning support & assistant professor of English

One day in 1993, I was in the parking lot in back of Webb Hall with the hatch of my car open trying to figure out what I needed to take for my next meeting. Frank walked by, greeted me, and asked what I was doing. I told him that I was now, more or less, working out of my car, as my department had just moved to a new building, and the space was one office short.

He asked me why I just didn't take one of the offices, as I was the director, and I told him that it was more important for the rest of my staff who directly served student needs to all be in one place. I felt that this would keep students from getting confused about who was where, and I figured that eventually something would be found for me in that building or elsewhere on campus. Frank gave me an exasperated look and told me to come along with him.



He took me up to the third floor of Dewey Hall to a tiny office next to a tiny bathroom next to the conference room. He said that from time to time part-time faculty would use it, but it was empty at that time. I asked him what he was getting at, and he said, “It’s yours — we would love to have you here in Dewey.”

The irony was that my department had started out where his office space was on the first floor, so it was like coming home. I accepted his gracious offer and spent more than a decade there in my “suite.” I will be ever grateful to Frank for his generous spirit and creative problem-solving. Most people could not understand why I would like to be in such a cramped space, but it was Frank who gave it to me out of such kindness, and I would not have wanted to be anywhere else.

Col Jeff Barker '01, USAF

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to Norwich University and preserving its history. One memory that stands out is when you took a few moments to share your experiences in the Middle East with our class. You spoke about the culture, the personal relationships you established, and how the people’s loyalties often differed between their commitment to their culture and country and their personal connections. You discussed the risks you faced while there, leaving me with the impression that the risks were worth the rewards. Little did I know that during my military career, I would spend almost a year and a half in Iraq, with my most recent deployment from June 2023 to June 2024 at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

That was the best assignment of my career. I established incredible work and personal relationships during that time. I experienced firsthand what you shared with our class; however, I also noticed how things have changed and improved. I recall you emphasizing the importance of being genuine in relationships in the Middle East while stressing the need to remain aware of where loyalties lie. Your introduction to the Middle East in our class unexpectedly began my journey, allowing me to shape my perspective and actions and ultimately contribute to the collective progress made in Iraq.

Damon Alvarez '17

When one of my Rooks was experiencing a significant life event, there was nobody who could immediately help us. Myself and another cadre member admittedly walked right into Jackman and into VP Vanecek’s office to find a solution. Though not the most professional of me in that moment, we were in a seemingly dire situation. BG Vanecek was patient, professional, and resourceful. He helped us get the necessary help to ensure that individual’s safety and wellbeing in that moment. Norwich remains the premier institution for aspiring leaders to receive a foundation in concerned leadership. I believe it’s because of men like him that I can say that with confidence!

Fahad Almoraqi '22

The relationship between Dr. Frank Vanecek and me has grown into something profoundly meaningful, rooted in mutual respect, cultural exchange, and a shared passion for learning. As a Saudi student, I initially entered Dr. Vanecek’s classroom with the usual mix of curiosity and reserve, unsure of how our vastly different backgrounds would align. But from the very beginning, he showed nothing but hospitality and a warm sense of welcome at Norwich University, making me feel seen, valued, and at home despite being thousands of miles away from my own country. Through open dialogue, intellectual rigor, and his unwavering commitment to my development, our connection deepened beyond the classroom. His role extended far beyond that of a traditional educator — he became a mentor in the truest sense, guiding me through academic challenges, encouraging my personal growth, and empowering me to believe in the strength of my perspective and the worth of my contributions. Our conversations often transcended academics, venturing into discussions about culture, values, and life paths, allowing us to bridge the perceived gaps between East and West. Through his mentorship, I not only gained academic insight but also came to appreciate the richness of intercultural understanding. In turn, I shared with him perspectives and traditions from my Saudi heritage, fostering a genuine bond built on curiosity, humility, and trust. Together, we cultivated a space where learning was not just about textbooks, but about empathy, transformation, and human connection.



Please consider sharing your personal sentiments and “Norwich Memories” with Dr. Frank Vanecek H’10 to be included in the book he is currently putting together. Your “Norwich Memories” can be sent as an email or email attachment to alumni@norwich.edu with the subject line, “Vanecek Norwich Memories.” Professor Vanecek can also be contacted directly at vanecek@norwich.edu.

One Last Drive Past Exit Five

Two Norwich alumni reflect during their return to The Hill as they shepherd the next generation of leaders into society and the U.S. Armed Forces.

Story by Zack Bennett



BG Morgan considers returning to Norwich as commissioning's speaker "deeply humbling and incredibly rewarding."

"I can remember standing on The Hill over by Dewey — this was before Mack Hall, you know — and there was this slope down to where we were all lining up," says LtGen John Broadmeadow '83, USMC, (Ret), 25th President of Norwich University. "I can't remember why I was standing up there looking down towards what used to be Webb Hall at the time, but everyone was lining up and I was just thinking, 'I've known these people for the last four years and I'm not going to see some of them again.'"

The day of his Commencement and Commissioning was one that LtGen Broadmeadow had been excited for, but the reality of things snuck up on him quickly when it finally arrived. "Whether they were close friends or

classmates, these were the people I just spent four very significant years with," he says. "My thoughts were really about the people that I had spent time with."

Norwich's 2025 Joint Commissioning speaker, BG Shane P. Morgan '94, USA, felt similarly when he was preparing for graduation 11 years later. "The last few weeks were a blur of excitement, anticipation, pride, and reflection. The pace didn't slow down — we were still students and cadets with responsibilities — and our baseball season was in full swing," he says. "There was a growing awareness that we were standing at the edge of something big. Every formation, every meeting, every class felt a little more significant. We were trying to hold onto the moments, knowing life was about to change dramatically. We then received word that GEN Gordon Sullivan '59 was coming to Norwich as our commencement speaker — a big deal, and exciting times."

Throughout LtGen Broadmeadow's time back on The Hill as president, he has consistently encouraged students to take advantage of their moments together. "One of the things I've talked to a lot of the students about is how it was pretty typical in my day to come to school, and for the first three years, there was an excitement about getting away from the school and going home — or in my case, going to Marine Corps Officer Candidates School," he says. "That last year in particular, I came up to campus a little bit early. I was a little more reluctant to get away from the campus and go back home."

That connection to The Hill remains since returning as president, though LtGen Broadmeadow's thoughts were not on the past as he took his place on the commencement stage as president. "I would have expected a sense of nostalgia about what it was like when I crossed the stage,

but that's not what I felt," he says. "What I felt was a lot of pride and happiness for those students, realizing that they're about to go off to endless possibilities. They've got their whole lives in front of them, and they can go and do whatever they want in their life. It's pretty tremendous."

"It's one of those moments where you can look out and say, 'You know, the youth have an opportunity to do something and become someone.' It's a pivotal moment for them."

While every Norwich graduate shares commencement, only those who have dedicated themselves to service join together to be commissioned. "Going across that stage and getting your diploma is exciting — it's happy and fun," says LtGen Broadmeadow. "You're wearing your cadet uniform, but then you come back for commissioning, and all of a sudden you're in your Marine dress blues, Navy dress whites, Army dress uniform, or Air Force blues, not a cadet uniform."

"They're going from happy, carefree college graduates, to now, all of a sudden, sticking their hand in the air and taking an oath to serve our country," he says. "They're soon going to lead young men and women. There's a huge change that goes on."

BG Morgan remembers feeling the pride and anticipation as he awaited commissioning as a cadet. "Sitting in uniform surrounded by classmates who had become family, I remember the gravity of the moment," he says. "The oath, the salutes, the realization that I was stepping into something larger than myself. It was humbling and empowering all at once. GEN Sullivan's message to us was 'carpe diem, seize the day.' I'll never forget his speech."

It was a full-circle moment to return to The Hill as the keynote speaker for the commissioning ceremony. "It was deeply humbling and incredibly rewarding. Walking the same paths I did as a cadet, this time with my family, and standing before this new generation of

military leaders — there's no greater honor," says BG Morgan. "Returning as a speaker allowed me to reflect on incredible memories, share them with my family, and offered a small way to give back to the institution that laid the foundation for my career of selfless service."

He says he could see the "grit" in the newly minted young officers. "I saw young leaders who are tough, resilient, and grounded in values. Norwich produces officers who aren't afraid of hard work and who understand that leadership is about service, not self," says BG Morgan. "Norwich produces leaders who embrace challenges, remain calm under pressure, and care for their people; Norwich produces outstanding teammates who people want to follow."

"The Hill doesn't just prepare you academically or tactically, it shapes your character. The long nights, the discipline, the unbreakable bonds — they matter," he says. "As a servicemember, they'll see that the foundation they built here will be their edge. The Norwich lifestyle stays with you — it's how you lead, how you adapt, how you carry yourself, and how you perform under pressure. Wear your ring with pride!"

LtGen Broadmeadow — with his ring and fresh diploma — remembers riding home from The Hill that day alongside his brother. "As we were driving down 89, I realized I'm never coming back to Norwich as a student," he says. "It was significant, this major transition had just gone on in my life and I will never come back to that again — even coming back as the president isn't the same."

"Departing here as a graduate of Norwich was a very emotional thing, but the significance in the meaning really hit me as we drove south on 89, even before we got to EXIT 5," says LtGen Broadmeadow. "It really hit me that I'm leaving something very significant behind forever, and you know, that was a significant realization for me that I still feel to this day." 

Hello, Norwich Record,

As we M Co. Rooks neared the end of our first arduous Norwich academic year in the spring of 1968, we couldn't wait to get our grubby mitts on our first college yearbook. We tore into that '68 "War Whoop" anxious to see how we would be portrayed for posterity. Turning to the M Co. pages, we looked for our Rook platoon picture ... and looked ... and looked ... and there was no Rook platoon group picture with names, nor were there any upper-class platoon group pictures with names.

There was a list of the names of those with rank and a few filler photos, and that was it. Practically speaking, there was no record and no identifiable photos of those who actually resided in M Co. on the fourth and fifth floors of Gerard Hall in '67-'68, nor was there such a record for any other cadet companies. (Such individual platoon photos with names would be a vital part of the '69, '70, and '71 "War Whoops.")

For the record — and, hopefully, for the Record — hereby respectfully submitted is the only known assembled platoon photo with names from the Norwich University Corps of Cadets for the 1967-1968 academic year — the Rooks of M Company from the fourth floor of Gerard Hall!

We were 24 stalwarts most ably led by Company Commander Doug Anderson; Platoon Leader Steve Goyetche; First Sergeant Mike Cahoon; Platoon Sergeant Ron Harper; Squad Leaders, Sergeants John Rand and Jack Sparkes; and Corporals Stu Baker, Paul Steele, Chris Siedor, Tom Henry, Chris Snyder, and Glenn McCracken.

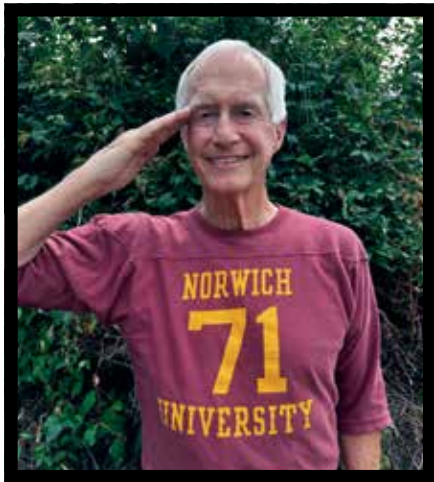
We won Field Day at the culmination of Rook Week. We also had the "privilege" of walking the longest of all "meat lines" (along with MP and Band Co. Rooks), bracing the greatest possible periphery of the U.P. (How could the Hawkins Hall Rooks live with themselves having the teeniest?). Then, in one final ignominy, instead of entering the front door of Gerard on the third floor and proceeding one floor up, we had to *descend* the exterior south stairs to the second floor, then trudge *up* four flights to our home. We performed this irritant all year, resigned to our fate and determined to overcome — and we did. From such mettle is character bronzed!

Lifelong friendships were forged. My Rook roommate Fran Kobylenski and I roomed together for three years. We were best man at each other's weddings. Pretty special indeed.

Thank you for this opportunity to cruise down 57 years of memory lane. Twenty-four strapping lads preparing for twenty-four unique routes to their futures. Hopefully all of my M Co. Rook buddies will glean some satisfaction in knowing that an attempt was made to have us properly registered in Norwich lore, and that our names and faces will now take their proper place in — during the late '60s — that "Long Green Line."

Greg May

Greg May '71
lkwdmays@comcast.net



Send your memories to
record@norwich.edu.

M Co. Rooks, 1967-68



First row: Fran Kobylenski, Greg May, John Roy, Pete Cargill, Tim Skinner, Ken Steblen
Second row: Clark Hicks, Jeff Taylor, Tim Dube, Bill McMahon, Paul Bouvier, Sean Regan
Third row: Kurt Pearson, Jim Lowell, Jim Devine, Ron George, Mike Dennett, Paul Benito
Fourth row: Charles Orcutt, Dave Wilson, Ed McNamara, Mark Hammond, Steve Toomey, Bob Sullivan

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

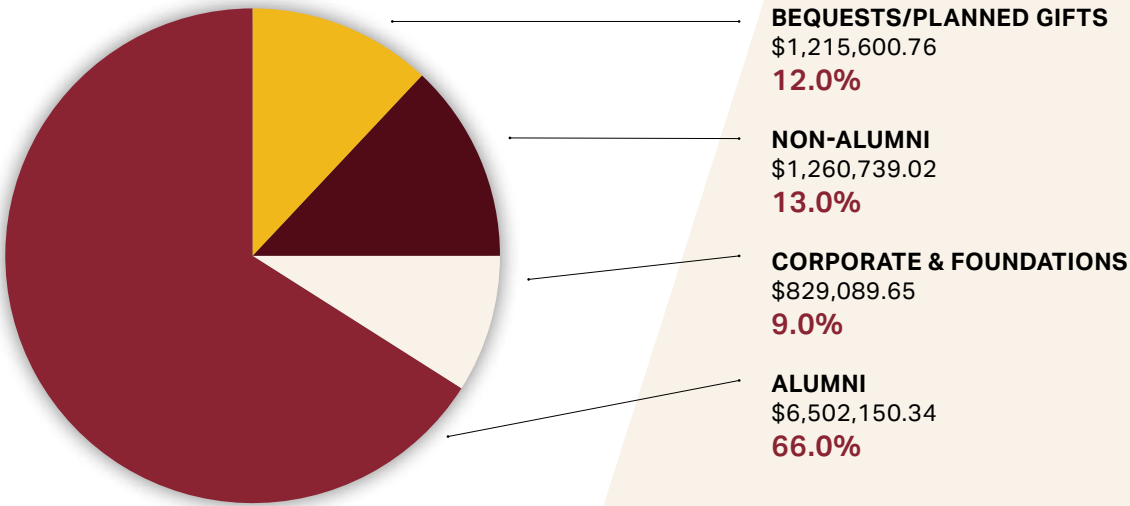
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION: 2-YEAR COMPARATIVE SUMMARY (IN THOUSANDS)*		
ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$28,899	\$30,920
Pledges, Accounts, and Loans Receivable, Net	\$17,323	\$21.609
Investments	\$293,333	\$280,542
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	\$163,623	\$164,759
Other Assets	\$23,267	\$19,779
TOTAL ASSETS	\$526,445	\$517,609
LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$11,075	\$10,764
Bonds Payable	\$61,685	\$65,046
Other Liabilities	\$14,507	\$15,123
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$87,267	\$90,933
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES: 2-YEAR COMPARATIVE SUMMARY (IN THOUSANDS)*		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2025	2024
Other Income	\$3,726	\$4,294
Tuition Fees, Room and Board, and Other Ed. Programs	\$74,852	\$72,763
Non-Education and Auxiliary Programs	\$1,333	\$1,271
Contributions and Grants Used in Operations	\$32,384	\$33,582
Endowment Spending and Investment Income	\$20,051	\$25,325
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES AND SUPPORT	\$132,346	\$137,235
Operating Expenses	\$128,350	\$127,589
Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$3,996	\$9,646
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2025	2024
Endowment Investments Return Net of Spending Used to Support Operation	\$8,217	\$14,294
Other Non-Operating Activities	\$286	\$10,315
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$8,503	\$27,743
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$12,499	\$34,389

*Represents non-audited results

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

FY25 GIFTS BY SOURCE

GIFTS BY SOURCE TOTAL: \$9,807,579.77



Information for FY25 Gifts

Campaign Name	Restricted	Unrestricted	Grand Total
Bearing the Torch	\$681,513.50	\$23,467.50	\$704,981.00
Forging the Future	\$572,053.21	\$55,459.92	\$627,513.13
Fueling the Future	\$3,812,961.15	\$2,541,778.78	\$6,354,739.93
Norwich Forever!		\$27,301.46	\$27,301.46
NU Support	\$1,415,280.55	-	\$1,415,280.55
Shoulder to Shoulder	\$450,537.42	\$227,226.28	\$677,763.70
Grand Total	\$6,932,345.83	\$2,875,233.94	\$9,807,579.77

The annual report shows a consolidated report of gifts from our alumni, students, parents, friends, faculty, staff, corporations, foundations and other organizations received by Norwich University; each report is from June 1 - May 31, of that fiscal year. The report is compiled by the staff of the Development and Alumni Relations Office in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer.

For any questions regarding these reports or for more information on making a gift to Norwich University, see our giving pages, email advancement@norwich.edu or telephone the Development and Alumni Relations Office at (802) 485-2300.

To view our Partridge Society donors and Corporation and Foundation partners, please go online at:





The Veterans' Place has become a community stronghold and launch point for veterans looking to get back on their feet.

A Legacy of Service: One Alumnus's Key Role in Founding The Veterans' Place

Story by Marc Kolb

In 2003, then-Vermont Governor Jim Douglas established a Veterans Advisory Board to address the pressing challenges faced by those who had served. Among the appointees was Jack McDermott, Norwich Class of 1960. Already active as president of the Green Mountain Military Vehicles Club and a member of the Vermont Veterans Benefit Association, Jack brought both visibility and credibility to the board's work.

It was within that forum that a sobering truth came into focus: too many Vermont veterans were facing homelessness. The governor charged the board with finding a solution. Jack took the challenge personally. He began researching, studying existing facilities, and drafting a plan that could change lives.

From there, his work became mission. Jack wrote the grants that secured critical funding and scouted locations across the state until he found the right one: the former Northfield high school, later a nursing home. Where others saw an aging building, Jack saw potential. He imagined a future where those who had served their country would have a safe and dignified place to call home.

Guiding the transformation from idea to institution, Jack built sustainability into the program and sought partnerships that would make it stronger. He connected with a church in Barre already supporting homeless veterans, ensuring that resources aligned where they

could make the greatest impact. Piece by piece, he laid the foundation for what would become The Veterans' Place.

When the doors opened, the facility stood as more than a shelter; it was a testament to Jack's conviction that one person's determination can ripple across generations. Norwich has remained closely connected to that mission, with student organizations and athletic teams continuing to raise funds and awareness. "The support we received from Norwich University is not just financial — it's emotional, spiritual, and practical," said Bonnie Allen, executive director of The Veterans' Place. "You show our residents that they are not forgotten, that they matter, and that people care about them. You are part of our history and our future."

Jack never sought recognition for his role. The documents and records of his work were given directly to The Veterans' Place, so the story belonged not to him, but to the institution he helped build. Yet without his vision, his research, his grant writing, and his persistence, there would be no Veterans' Place in Northfield.

As Jack celebrates his 65th reunion, his achievement deserves to be remembered. It exemplifies the Norwich spirit: one alumnus who refused to let a challenge fall to someone else, who answered the call, and whose efforts will continue to serve veterans for years to come. **N**



Greetings fellow Norwich alumni!

I have had the honor of serving all of you for a year. I can say without any hesitation that this is the job of a lifetime. Norwich alumni are passionate, generous, and always willing to lend a hand. The characteristics forged at Norwich serve as an example of the citizens we produce for our nation.

The same is true of the team of professionals I have the honor of leading every day. The Development & Alumni Relations department has two-dozen staff dedicated to serving our alumni. Some are new faces, many have been with Norwich for decades. Their enthusiasm, commitment and institutional knowledge have been an inspiration in this first year of my tenure.

This moment in time is an inflection point for our University. The landscape of higher education is changing — colleges and universities are being tested and only the strong will survive. We are unique in this environment because we offer an education that is not matched by any other institution. Our population includes cadets, traditional students, and online students. This mix gives us a diversity in the alumni base that is not matched anywhere else. Our strength and passion — and pride — will sustain Norwich while others are searching for meaning and traction in today's world.

The mission of Norwich University has not changed in our 206-year history. It is timeless and powerful, and worth reviewing regularly. All that we do must stay true to this founding concept:

"To give our youth an education that shall be American in its character — to enable them to act as well as to think — to execute as well as to conceive — 'to tolerate all opinions when reason is left free to combat them' — to make moral, patriotic, efficient, and useful citizens, and to qualify them for all those high responsibilities resting upon a citizen in this free republic."

Colleges across the nation are grappling with demographic changes, concerns about affordability, and questions about the value of a college degree. Traditional systems and curriculums have not proven to be of value as students enter the workforce and seek to make their mark on society. Norwich is not immune to these challenges.

Norwich cuts through this discussion with a resounding answer: We provide citizens for our nation, molded in Captain Alden Partridge's vision of a citizen-soldier. Our degree confers a value that is beyond a typical academic degree — it prepares graduates for a lifetime of positive contributions "to God, to country, and to mankind." We are proud of what we do, and we must communicate this to the outside world. The world needs to know what Norwich University offers.

Our alumni are renowned for the community built on The Hill, but we must also warmly invite friends of the University — corporations, foundations, and organizations that believe in our mission — into our community as well. Fostering these relationships with those who believe in our unique mission supports Norwich University and ensures our students are able to impact the real world. I humbly ask you to open your Rolodex to us and connect us to those who are interested in what Norwich produces for our nation — your active support ensures the survival of our mission and institution.

On campus, we are working towards cross-departmental partnerships with alumni that will foster collaboration with key University sectors such as enrollment management, student groups, career and veteran services, and athletics. We have untapped treasure in our alumni — by connecting you with mentorship and experiential learning opportunities alongside admissions outreach, we will strengthen our institution together.

Norwich University has a brilliant future. My goal is to create a stable foundation on which that future will rest. This is a team sport, and all of you are on the team. I rely on all of you to help me bring this home.

Norwich Forever!

Brian Doyle NU'94,

LTC, U.S. Army (Ret), Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations

CLASS NOTES

1950 & 1954

David Luce '54 stands with the melted remains of the NU Alumni Association's 2005 Distinguished



Alumnus Award, which was presented to his late brother, John Luce '50. Dave was residing in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles during last year's fires. While searching his home in the aftermath, he found an upright file cabinet that survived. Much of its contents were destroyed, but John's award survived, though burnt, charred, and warped.



1965 & 1980

In May 2025, seven Norwich alumni (plus one non-NU grad) spent three days touring the D-Day invasion beaches and battlefields. Pictured: **Joel Kobert '65, Larry Costa '80, Craig McLaughlin '80, Joe McMahon '80, Gary Hagar '80, Chris Norton '80, and Lance Manske** (not a Norwich grad but we forgive him).

1968

David Briggs '68 received the American Society of Engineers Vermont Chapter Engineer of the Year award, which weighed criteria such as outstanding contributions of the profession, professionalism and integrity, and community service.

1969

Walt Banaszak '69 and his daughter, Katie, enjoyed a Hurtigruten Expedition cruise from Nov. 28-Dec. 15, 2023, completing their quest to visit all 50 states and seven continents. Ports of call included Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Argentina, the Antarctic Peninsula, and the Falkland Islands. Highlights included the viewing of many kinds of penguins and birds, walking on the peninsula, and sea ice and the Zodiac raft rides.



1980

Amy Beth Moore, widow of COL James Moore '80, recently published "Double Dose of Joy," a book reflecting the encouragement of many Norwich alumni. Members of the Class of 1980 attended the wedding of Amy and James's son in July 2023.

1980 & 2027

Bill Pope '80 and Kai McCullins '27 met up at the National Outdoor Leadership School Wyss Wilderness Medical Campus in Lander, Wyoming, where Bill had just completed the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Wilderness EMT certification course, and Kai was just beginning it. Another great unanticipated reunion!

1983

Kenneth Rota '83 retired on Sept. 30, 2024, after a 34-year career as an inspector/enforcement manager with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Boston Office (Region 1). Prior to that that, he spent seven years with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Ken and his wife, Carol, sold their home in New Hampshire and now reside in Port St. Lucie, Florida, enjoying pickle ball, bike riding, and other "non-regulatory" activities after a 41-year career as a public servant.



1986

Maj Gen Gary W. Keefe '86 was awarded the distinguished Order of Merit "Gral Div Bernardino Caballero" in the grade of "Gran Cross" by the Paraguay President Santiago Peña in April. This award recognizes distinctive, valuable service and the alliance between Paraguay and the United States.



1986 & 2007

Maj Gen Gary Keefe '86, USAF, and MAJ Gene Enriquez '07, USA, met up at the 2025 African Chiefs of Defense Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in May. Gary is the adjutant general, Massachusetts National Guard, and Gene is the director of international affairs for Vermont Army National Guard.



1989

Jayson A. Altieri '89, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) senior member assigned to the Alabama Wing Headquarters, was awarded the CAP Bronze Medal of Valor on April 12, 2025, during the annual Alabama Wing Conference. The award was presented in recognition of Jayson's distinguished and conspicuous heroic actions on March 8, 2021, when he rendered first aid and assistance to victims of a fatal three-car accident on Highway 31 near Prattville, Alabama.



2012

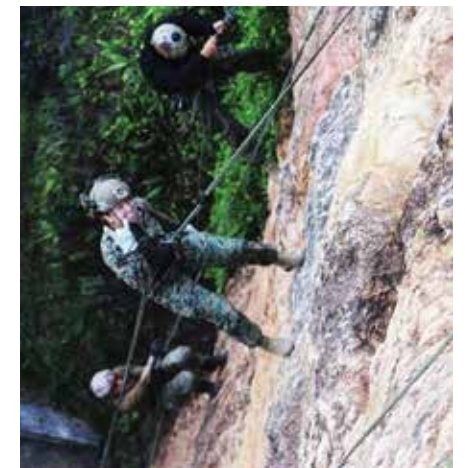
Kathryn and **Michael McCarthy's '12** wedding was attended by several Norwich alumni. Pictured left-right: **Aron Sweder '12, Matt Corriveau '12, Matt Ziniti '13, Michael McCarthy '12, Tom Nelson '12, Ricky Williams '12, Kevin Webber '12, and Jordan Lewis '11.** Many West Point alumni were in attendance in support of Kathryn, a West Point graduate. During the ceremony, "Norwich Forever" was sung as loud as possible to show the West Point alums what attending a real military college was like.



Liz (Spears) Perez '12 and her husband, Nick Perez, celebrated their wedding among family and friends on Jan. 30, 2024. On Dec. 28 they welcomed a daughter, Rylee Sue Spears-Perez, to their family.

2014 & 2015

Aliah (Curry) Pulaski '15 and Nicholas Pulaski '14 married on Oct. 13, 2024. Many former teammates and coaches from Aliah's time on the Cadet basketball team joined them in celebration.



2020

On February 7, 2025, **1stLt Zorya A. Webster '20** became the second woman, and the first female Marine, to graduate from the Jungle Leaders course. She is currently on mission with the U.S. Marines in Okinawa, Japan.

PARTRIDGE SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP KEY

CHAIRMAN'S SIX DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$10,000,000 or more

CHAIRMAN'S FIVE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$8,000,000–\$9,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S FOUR DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$6,000,000–\$7,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S THREE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$4,000,000–\$5,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S TWO DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$2,000,000–\$3,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S ONE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$1,000,000–\$1,999,999

FIVE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$750,000–\$999,999

FOUR-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$500,000–\$749,999

THREE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$250,000–\$499,999

TWO-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$100,000–\$249,999

ONE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$50,000–\$99,999

LIFETIME LEVEL
cumulative lifetime giving of
\$20,000–\$49,999

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
fiscal year gift of \$1,000 or more

1819 CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP
planned or deferred gift
to the university

**GARRISON ASSOCIATES
MEMBERSHIP**
consecutive annual giving
in five-year increments

In the recent print issue of the Record, Peter ’66 and Marlene ’66 were incorrectly listed in the Partridge Society section that acknowledged new giving levels achieved between Nov 1, 2024-May 31, 2025. The Dalrymples should have been listed as members of the Chairman’s Five Diamond Club (\$8,000,000-\$9,999,999). The Office of Development and Alumni Relations extend our sincere regret for this error. We are deeply grateful to the Dalrymple family for their extraordinary generosity and continued commitment to Norwich University. The error has been corrected below.

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 Nov. 1, 2024-May 31, 2025.

**CHAIRMAN'S FIVE DIAMOND CLUB
(\$8,000,000-\$9,999,999)**
Peter ’65 & Marlene ’66 Dalrymple

**FOUR-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS
(\$500,000-\$749,000)**
Anonymous

**THREE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS
(\$250,000-\$499,999)**
BG Richard M. Blunt USA (Ret.)
(Deceased) ’72 & Ms. Anita Porter
Stephen Jones ’71
David ’85 & Linda Pierce

**TWO-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS
(\$100,000-\$249,999)**
Andrew Bannon ’96
George W. Bowne ’75
George ’67 & Susan Condon
Randy ’75 & Terry ’75 Gaetz
Paul Madden ’88 & Maureen Clark
David ’81 & Donna Nock
Mr. Daniel Polachek ’06, M’09
Allen Potter ’58

**ONE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS
(\$50,000-\$99,999)**
Geoffrey C. Dawe ’84
Al ’86 & Kim Gobeille P’18
COL & Mrs. Michael S. Heimall,
USA ’87, P’16

Thomas ’75 & Mary Mihalek
Mr. & Mrs. Sean P. O’Brien ’90
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Quinn III ’65
Alex & Diane Resly

**LIFETIME MEMBERS
(\$20,000-\$49,999)**
Harold ’66 & Pamela Bresett
Regina Chelune-Kennedy ’83 &
William Kennedy
James W. Colby ’57
Mr. and Mrs. Bakari P. Dale, SES ’99
William ’64 & Suzanne ’65 Dragon
Donald ’73 & Helen Fournier
Jim Hosey ’75
Bruce ’70 & Dorothy Hotte
Thomas ’68 & Gloria Lochrane
Patricia ’69 & Michael Oliveri
Andrew ’65 (Deceased) &
Barbara Morse
Pete Peltier ’72
LTC Rick E. ’71 & Sally Rein, USA (Ret.)
Lenore P. Schmidt ’93, ’95
Stephen ’67 & Trudy Sonis
COL Michael ’85 & Dawn ’85 Teague,
USA (Ret.)
COL & Mrs. Douglas S. Watson,
USA (Ret.) ’76

1819 CIRCLE MEMBERS
David ’66 & Lee ’64 Quincy

ROLL OF HONOR

The following list reflects notifications of deceased Norwich family members received by the University from Nov. 15, 2024 to June 26, 2025. Full obituaries, when available, can be viewed online at alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries. To inform the University of the passing of a Norwich family member, please contact the Alumni Office at (802) 485-2300 or visit nualumni.norwich.edu/obituaries.

1945: **Anthony Lionetto**, 7/11/23, 96
1946: **Marjorie L. Basil**, 3/29/24, 92 —
Wife of Jack K. Basil ’46
1946: **Clifton H. Mattoon**, 10/21/23, 99
1950: **Philip W. Tiemann**, 3/27/25, 99
1951: **Barbara Lind**, 2/23/25, 94 — Wife
of Carl B. Lind ’51
1951: **Donald N. Shaw**, 2/28/25, 94 —
Father of Peter A. Shaw ’84 and father-in-law
of Susan J. Shaw ’84
1952: **Milton H. Greenfield**, 3/27/20, 104
1953: **Mary F. Gilmore**, 1/2/25, 93 —
Wife of Harold Gilmore ’53
1953: **Ralph R. Maturo**, 3/19/25, 93
1954: **Bernard E. Brault**, 4/15/21, 90 —
Brother of Michael J. O’Brien ’73
1954: **John R. Diego**, 2/14/25, 92 — Son
of John R. Diego ’36, brother-in-law of George
Mazuzan ’59, father of John R. Diego ’81,
cousin of Marianne Davidson ’72, uncle of
Robert W. Oddy ’71
1954: **Elwin W. Richardson**, 2/15/25, 92
1954: **Peter H. Stark**, 10/2/12, 80 —
Husband of Carol A. Stark VC’54
1955: **Calvin Hosmer**, 3/3/25, 91 —
Nephew of John W. Hosmer ’37, nephew
of Richard Hosmer ’34, cousin of Jakob
Hosmer ’02
1955: **Donald P. Lewis**, 11/11/24, 90 —
Father of D. Palmer Lewis ’84
1955: **Eric W. Schmidt**, 1/26/25, 91 —
Father of Jennifer B. Schwartz ’94
1956: **Frank E. Mazza**, 2/7/25, 89
1956: **Linda Romano**, 11/4/24, 84 —
Wife of Albert J. Romano ’56
1957: **Richard W. Buttinger**, 8/12/24, 92
— Brother of Robert Buttinger ’45, brother-
in-law of Howard Bacon ’44
1957: **Lea R. O’Connor**, 3/23/25, 87 —
Wife of Russell O’Connor ’56
1957: **Francis E. Rogler**, 1/30/25, 88
1957: **John J. Tedesco**, 3/12/25, 89
1957: **Edwin H. Turner**, 3/6/25, 89
1957: **Dorcas J. Zarse**, 12/5/24, 88 —
Wife of Robert B. Zarse ’56, sister-in-law of
Richard C. Zarse ’53
1958: **William I. Engle**, 4/12/25, 88 —
Father of Denise Granger ’83
1958: **Wallace K. Williams**, 2/12/25, 88
1959: **David Barrington**, 6/13/25, 88 —
Son of William H. Barrington Class of 1925,
brother of Donald Barrington ’65, father of
Chris Barrington ’98
1959: **Gordon R. Fawcett**, 6/4/25, 87
1959: **Ronald J. Rup**, 11/19/24, 87 —
Father of Sean E. Rup ’93
1960: **H. Mat Adams**, 12/21/24, 87 —
Brother of John W. Adams ’69
1960: **Bruce W. Baker**, 11/8/24, 86 —
Grandfather of Kevin Durgin ’11
1960: **James W. Bingham**, 10/26/24,
86 — Brother-in-law of Frank W. Allen ’58,
grandfather of Ethan Hagstrom ’20
1960: **Anthony R. Caprio**, 10/2/24, 86 —
Husband of Rosemary Caprio ’95
1960: **William J. Doiron**, 2/4/25, 87
1960: **David M. Gilmore**, 8/17/14, 77
1960: **Stephen A. Holden**, 1/3/25, 86 —
Brother of Orman A. Holden ’56, nephew of
Allan P. Davis ’23
1960: **Myrna L. Schultz**, 12/1/24, 82 —
Wife of Richard S. Schultz ’60, daughter-in-
law of David P. Schultz ’34, sister-in-law of
Robert Frolich ’59
1961: **Robert E. Shultz**, 3/3/25, 84 —
Husband of Nancy L. Shultz VC’60
1961 - **John N. Zervoulakos**, 2/2006, 87
1962: **Janet F. Delano**, 11/4/24, 82
1962: **G. William Menke**, 11/16/24, 85
1962: **Stewart E. Walton**, 1/3/25, 86 —
Husband of Sandra O. Walton VC’62
1963: **Paul J. Barcomb**, 4/2/25, 83
1963: **David C. Lundquist**, 11/26/24, 82
1963: **Kenneth P. Malone**, 11/3/24, 83
1964: **Allen H. Court**, 6/3/25, 82
1964: **Richard D. Moody**, 1/11/25, 82

1964: **Peter F. Woodley**, 4/18/25, 84
1964: **Amerigo J. Yacavoni**, 12/24/24, 84
1965: **Anthony G. Campano**, 1/2/25,
83 — Father of Anthony M. Campano ’91 and
Matthew J. Campano ’95
1965: **Barbara Constance**, 3/15/25, 80
1965: **Gail P. Dunne**, 6/6/21, 76 — Wife
of Edward T. Dunne ’65
1965: **Paul G. Fischer**, 3/16/24, 80
1965: **Neil A. Hiltbold**, 11/14/24, 81 —
Grandfather of Evan S. Cole ’21
1965: **Andrew L. Morse**, 3/11/25,
82 — Son of Louis L. Morse ’30, brother of
Thomas M. Morse ’60, nephew of Wilson C.
McNamara ’36, uncle of Wise M. Doane ’15
1965: **Jon R. Morse**, 5/14/25, 83 — Son-in-
law of Christopher Vrachos ’38, brother-in-law
of Christopher Vrachos ’70
1965: **William B. O’Neil**, 4/26/25, 83 —
Father of Daniel R. O’Neil ’02
1966: **Gregory M. Bullock**, 3/17/25, 80
1967: **James L. Alexander**, 12/22/24, 80
1967: **Bruce R. Beaney**, 5/17/25, 80
1967: **Lucius E. Bolton**, 4/7/24, 78
1967: **Susan W. Lindgren**, 3/27/25, 77
1967: **John D. Ridill**, 12/29/24, 79
1968: **John F. Nelson**, 2/22/25, 78
1970: **Richard L. King**, 12/29/24, 76
1970: **Robert D. Violet**, 5/13/25, 78
1971: **William J. O’Brien**, 10/30/24, 76
— Brother of Michael J. O’Brien ’73
1971: **Paul D. Tolman**, 2/12/25, 76
1971: **Ernest C. Wong**, 11/15/24, 75
1972: **Richard M. Blunt**, 5/8/25, 74
1972: **Thomas M. Carroll**, 11/18/24, 74
1972: **Julia Cefalo**, 1/2/25, 72
1974: **Kerry M. O’Connell**, 1/9/25, 73
1974: **James R. Shuler**, 12/28/24, 73
1975: **Steven T. Coleman**, 10/15/23, 70
1975: **Bruce Jennings**, 2/11/25, 77
1975: **Gary D. Wilkins**, 6/10/24, 70
1976: **John E. Monette**, 11/22/24, 70
1976: **Stephen E. Tidd**, 2/15/25, 70
1976: **Jay L. Vigent**, 6/18/24, 71 —
Brother of James G. Vigent ’68 and Joseph P.
Vigent ’66
1978: **Kevin J. Maher**, 2/8/25, 69
1980: **Christopher U. Mulholland**,
1/24/25, 66
1980: **Sheryl J. Niemiec**, 2/25/25, 66 —
Wife of Mark A. Niemiec ’78
1980: **Karen E. Perry**, 1/1/25, 66
1980: **Paul T. Rovezzi**, 12/23/24, 66
1984: **Arthur E. Wallach**, 5/20/25, 95
1984: **William L. Winslow**, 5/8/25, 62
1985: **Lauren L. Neun**, 2/3/25, 60 —
Sister of Nicole K. Cook ’96
1986: **James F. Skinner**, 5/11/25, 92
1986: **Maynard P. Valentine**, 6/14/25, 61
1987: **Sarah K. Blasius**, 12/7/24, 65
1987: **Robert P. Pacatte**, 3/3/25, 60
1987: **Scott J. Pfeffer**, 3/29/25, 60
1988: **Christopher P. Masciale**,
12/27/24, 58 — Son of Michael J. Masciale
’54, brother of Barry M. Masciale ’82
1988: **Suzanne C. Phillips**, 3/20/25, 81
1989: **Parker Towle**, 5/24/25, 91
1990: **Jerome A. Meyers**, 2/12/24, 56
Retired Staff: **Norman W. Smith**,
3/15/23, 82
Retired Staff: **Joyce D. Sweeney**, 3/7/25,
88 — Mother of Laura Amell ’89
Friend of Norwich: **Peter Bergholtz**,
4/16/25, 84

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