

Kevin, got extra bonus points for having the best title on his Battelle business card. It read, "Relationship Manager". Your guess as to what that means is a good as mine. As for Art's talk, here's Fred's synopsis:

■ "Art spoke on servant-leadership characterized by humility, drawing on the 2001 book by Jim Collins, "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't" (HarperBusiness). In it, Collins describes what he terms a "Level 5 leader -- an individual who blends extreme personal humility with intense professional will" (p. 21). For the level 5 Leader, it's not about themselves; it's about their people (who they serve) and the mission of the organization. Art went on to talk about the "window" vs. "mirror" leadership philosophy: when things go right, these L5 leaders look "through the window" at their people and commend them for a job well done; on the other hand, when things go wrong, they look "in the mirror" to see what they personally need to do to address the problem -- not the other way around. Finally, Art compared the "show horse" (who thrives on appearance) to the "plow horse" (who faithfully does the heart of the organization's work, often with anonymity), and called us as leaders to be the latter breed. As the first Distinguished Military Professor for Leadership at the Academy, Art is in unique position to incorporate these principles into the USNA leadership curricula, which he is purposing to do." ■

Taking a lesson from Art's talk, Fred asked, "Do you know the name of the cleaning lady in your office?" (I did, and I know her replacement's name, too.) Thanks for the update, Fred. Wish I could've been there! Thanks also to Class of '81 and their President, **Jim Ahlgrimm** for working these joint luncheons with Fred. The next one will probably be sometime after the beginning of the new year. The regular, quarterly '78 lunch at the Pentagon City Mall has been penciled in for Dec 9th. If anyone is passing through the area or is new to the District, drop Fred a line and he'll add you to the e-mail invitations.

Jock Maloney brought to my attention an article in the Oct 4th *Philadelphia Inquirer*. It was entitled "SEAL Moves Up

To Lead Joint Command". It was about Dave Morrison leaving his two-year command of the "East Coast Seals" to assume a new role, leading a joint forces special operations command. The article described Dave's new job as "not only work[ing] with Navy officers but with all of the armed forces to train commanders and their staffs on how to employ special operation forces. The article chronicled Dave's career from our graduation to the first years as a black shoe; then following successful completion of grueling SEAL training, a platoon commander tour overseas tour in Southeast Asia; teaching physical education back at the academy; and then as a commander of Special Boat Unit 13. In 1990, Dave was in Bahrain when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Already in the Central Command theatre, he helped prepare the logistics for the special forces arriving in the Middle East. After 9/11 he headed a special operations command for Operation Enduring Freedom, running missions from Turkey to Afghanistan. As commander of the Naval Special Warfare Group 2, he was in charge of the East Coast SEAL teams as well as three overseas units, a total of about 1,000 personnel. Now in his fourth command tour Dave faces the challenge he identifies as a "constantly changing mission that goes with this global war on terrorism". The article goes on to quote him as saying, "You're not fighting one country. It's a global network of terrorists. You're not looking at one particular country. They're scattered in and amongst many countries... You need to adapt training and equipment for different missions, different altitudes, weather extremes and terrain... All of these become unique challenges for logistics." The new job includes training conventional and special operation joint force commanders and their staff on how to employ special operation forces. It's a task to which Dave is more than able and I know that I'll be sleeping better because he's there. Good luck, classmate!

Soon the hurricane season will be over and I hope that everyone living in the affected areas is closer to recovery. I've seen many of the pictures floating along the internet and I am always at awe at the power of nature. **Billy Martin** provided a PIREP on the damage Ivan subjected to his Pensacola home:

■ "Ivan hit us pretty hard, but there are a lot of folks who are worse off than us, so no complaints. We still have no power or water, but we procured a generator on Saturday so we are enjoying some minor creature comforts! No food got spoiled, and we have fans to keep us semi-cool! We have around \$25,000 in damages so far, between the roof, solar water heaters, skylites, fences, storage sheds, and my pool/patio enclosure, but we are getting debris cleaned up and I am having a roofer hang some tarps over the most damaged areas today as we are expecting more rain later this week. I have a 200' pine tree from my neighbor's yard hanging precariously over my pool, so if it goes, another \$25k or so. The Nat'l Guard has been terrific about helping w/ gas and ice and water (and for you Marine types MREs), so we will just plug and chug along, one day at a time. I hope to be able to get back to work later this week, but I wanted to let you know we are doing fine, and to thank everyone who tried to get us generators and gas and tarps from all over the south!" ■

On August 2nd, Leslie and **Chris Nichols** presented their son, William, with a little sister, Anna Ophelia. She was born at Bethesda Naval Hospital with Dad in attendance. Chris was so engrossed in the event he admits he didn't "even notice the gender when she came out". He had to ask after they took her to the table. That's okay, Chris, if they don't tell you at the get-go, all you can tell is that it's a messy, squiggly thing—but it's yours. Chris said he "can't wait until she starts dating, 25 years from now!" Those of you with daughters know that he's at least 10 years over-optimistic or hopeful. He's obviously gonna need some of your sea stories and advise on raising a daughter and also on which is the best weaponry to fend off unwanted suitors. You can share them with him over the keg at one of the tailgaters. Best of luck and congratulations to Leslie and Chris!

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Nichols' new addition

On Sept 30th, **Terry O'Brien** (Terry.Obrien@ngc.com) represented the class and went down to Norfolk to present the Arch Griffin Leadership awards to Porter Crewmembers the last week of September. This year's recipients were again a great group of sailors. For Terry, it was his last "official" duty to be done in uniform. The best feedback he got was from a Seaman and Third Class Petty Officer who thought it "pretty cool" that he would do that. Terry responded that it should not be any other way –and that "ships and sailors is what the whole thing is about." The awards are having the impact on the crew that Arch envisioned when we changed the program. The CO and his leadership team gets to see who is nominated (by their peers – not always the sailors that the chain of command would select) and gets great feedback from the crew about life on Porter. The Command Master Chief thinks it one of the best things he has seen. Several of the crew members talked with Terry after the ceremony and remembered our previous visits to the ship. It is clear in the minds of the crew of Porter that the Class of 78 is a part of their lives – and they appreciate it. We are not the typical ship sponsors, seen only at commissioning and asking for ball caps and souvenirs on a continuing basis. The ship is underway for the North Atlantic and will be visiting Philly with the USS Cole for the Army/Navy game. Terry says that the CO, he will make tours available for 78 on Sunday morning. He'll get the word out on the specifics, so pay attention to the website for the hot gouge. If you want to tour work through OB don't contact the ship directly. Thanks for representing the class this year, Terry and for volunteering to coordinate any tours with the ship.

Well, that's it this month, short and sweet. Keep those cards and letters coming in and to help me from doing something stupid (which I have been known to do—and for which I still do penance) make sure you mark stuff "SECRET NOFORN" or "off-the-record" if it's not for public dissemination. For my sins of the past, I say mea culpa and apologies. In closing, happy birthday to all you Devil Dogs as we celebrate the founding of the world's finest fight force, the United States Marine Corps. Launchin' Spot Four with a big OOOORAH!

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 89%

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Greetings, 79!

As promised, we start this month with an out-brief of our Gala 25th Reunion Extravaganza, courtesy of Class President **Sean Cate**:

■ The Class of 1979, to the surprise of no one, had itself a tremendous Reunion Weekend. We got off to a fast start on Thursday, 23 September, with over 50 classmates and their wives and children, checking in and starting the party. The BWI Marriott had to have been pleased with the business we gave them Thursday evening. On Friday, as classmates and their families continued to stream in, buses began runs to the Naval Academy where we toured the yard, shopped the Mid Store, and ran into our friends.

Friday afternoon we dedicated our class crest in Alumni Hall, and then heard about the state of the Academy from George Watt, President of the Alumni Association, and from **VADM Rod Rempt '66**, the Superintendent. This was followed by a brief class meeting where we discussed Reunion administrative matters, the class elections, and reviewed past class projects and the upcoming class legacy project. We broke for our class picture and then headed over to Worden Field for the Parade by the Brigade of Midshipmen.

Friday evening we enjoyed a magnificent feast enhanced by the open bar. Out early Saturday for the Tailgater at the stadium. For those who had not seen the newly renovated stadium, it was truly an amazing sight. With all of our family members there, the tailgater was the largest gathering of the weekend. The gorgeous early Fall weather we enjoyed all weekend was only topped by Navy's win over Vanderbilt. Finally, we have won a Reunion Weekend Football game.

The party continued back at the Marriott Saturday night, and went into the early morning hours of Sunday. Bus runs to the Chapel for services Sunday morning led up to the finale of the weekend, our tribute to our fallen classmates at our first-ever Memorial Service. This poignant ceremony capped a great weekend that brought nearly 300 members of the Class of 1979 back to Annapolis for a memorable reunion.

So many people worked very hard to make this Reunion a success, and at the risk of leaving someone out, I'll take my stab at recognizing some of the key players. **Kirk Michealson** is to be applauded for his communications role in the class. **Jeff Johnson** has done a tremendous job paying the bills, collecting the money, and helping out wherever needed. His job continues well after the reunion while the rest of us wind down.

Ohlen Hunt, Cindy and **Pat Dennis**, Mary Ellen and **Mike Doyle**, my wife Janet, and **Kevin Sinnett's** daughters **Rheanna Sinnett '03** and **Jackie Sinnett '05**, who assisted ably with check-in duties and set-up for various events. Several others, from time-to-time, stepped in to help as well, so that each aspect of the reunion went off nearly flawlessly.

Grant Thornton, once again, did a great job coordinating and running the class elections. Thanks to all those who volunteered to run and serve, and to all those who voted. I also want to thank **Mark Edwards** and **Tom Joyce** for their inspirational messages at the Class Memorial Service.

Most of all, though, our class owes a great debt of gratitude to our Reunion Coordinator, Valerie Gerheiser. When the class selected Valerie, I knew we would be in for a memorable reunion experience.

Valerie never missed a beat, managed every detail to perfection, and made the entire weekend come off with precision and class. We were introduced to a new Class Store sponsor, a tremendous DJ for our evening social events, and my personal favorite, a photographer who will provide us with our visual reunion memories. Each of these came to us through Valerie's efforts. And how about that goodie bag? For her service above and beyond the call of duty, we all salute Valerie!

On behalf of the Class, my thanks for all those who made our Reunion Weekend a tremendous success. We'll do it again, even better, in 2009! ■

Thanks, Sean! I have a whole host of personal anecdotes about the weekend, and if I were to attempt to list them all I'd quickly exceed my allotted space. I would, however, like to elaborate on a few of the events as I saw them.

I was unable to get up to Annapolis in time for the Class Meeting and P-rade on Friday afternoon. Karen & I ended up driving straight to the hotel, where Karen helped man the check-in tables prior to dinner. Kirk Michealson provides some details on Friday's activities in the Yard:

■ The meeting with the Superintendent was informative. We were joined by members of the Classes of '69 and '74, who were also celebrating their reunions. After dedicating our class crest in Alumni Hall, VADM Rempt provided a "then and now" presentation comparing how it was for us and how it is now for the midshipmen.

We learned that our alma mater was ranked 4th in the nation as an engineering school and 3rd for being "stone cold sober." We now have 38 varsity sports (men, women and co-ed) and there is no longer an evening meal formation. Because they have to schedule field time, the mids now have a buffet from 1700-1900. We could see that VADM Rempt and the Commandant, **CAPT Joe Liedig '78**, have brought a new-found morale and enthusiasm to the brigade.

When we completed the meeting, we went to the steps by Nimitz and Rickover for a couple of pictures – one with just us classmates and one with our spouses. Then it was on to the parade.

It was a different perspective watching a P-Rade from the stands. Many of us had never down that before. It was a

gorgeous day. The mids marching in with the yawls out sailing on the river in the background. When the mids finished marching in, we were caught of guard – all of the companies were in one row. There are now only 30 companies, 5 per battalion. They've also now added a new routine to their P-Rades. They now sing a song. The audience was asked to join in. When we did, the Class of '74 sitting next to us about lost it with laughter. We sang as well as we did when we were plebes: "Fight, fight, fight for the Navy. La la la la. Fight, fight fight for the Navy. La la la la. That's what we learned, right? Anyway, the Class of '74 and our spouses loved it! ■

Thanks, Kirk. Continuing from there, the big event on Friday was the "formal" dinner. As more and more guys gathered and bumped into each other, it became somewhat of a challenge to finally get everyone seated. (We needed an "Anchor" from which to call "Brigade! Atten-HUT!") Anyway, Sean finally got the group quieted enough to lead us in prayer, and then we attacked the steak and crab cake dinner (complete with chocolate mousse!). The bars were open, and since no one had to drive anywhere, the alcohol flowed freely until midnight (and beyond, in some cases!). During the dinner Sean recognized our seven (so far) flag selectees, and also the two attending astronauts, **Dom Gorie** and **Dan Bursch**. (**Mike Foreman**, our third astronaut, could not be present.)

Saturday, as Sean mentioned, was a sunny fall day, and perfect for football. A fleet of buses met us at the hotel parking lot and took us to our private stadium entrance, bypassing all the traffic that already had begun backing up on Route 50. The entire trip took only 40 minutes, and no parking hassles! Our tailgater spot was inside the stadium in the new "Class of '53 Pavilion", behind the new seating on the hill in the north end zone. For 6 hours there was an endless supply of food, drink and camaraderie. Our seats for the game were a short walk down into the aforementioned end zone seats, and we were treated to an exciting win over Vandy, 29-26.

After the tailgater we again boarded the buses back to the hotel. A quick wash-up, and then it was back downstairs for the Extended Tailgater. The hotel

provided a hot food buffet (pasta, beef and pork), coffee, desserts, cash bars and a dance floor. This was again a time to catch-up, and even though my voice was just about gone, I yakked the whole night and still didn't get to see everyone. One notable event that wasn't on the program was **Dave Bethel** entertaining the crowd, singing several Sinatra songs karaoke-style with the DJ. Dave, if I had any voice left, I would have joined you.

It was right and proper that, as we enjoyed a great weekend seeing each other and resuming friendships, we should also take time to remember those classmates who are no longer with us. And so on Sunday afternoon we gathered in the Chapel for the Class of '79 Memorial Service. **Tom Joyce**, pastor of the Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, VA, gave the invocation and benediction, while **Mark Edwards**, pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Washington, MD, provided reflections. Talk about a moving ceremony. In addition to Tom's and Mark's remarks, there were Scripture readings, a reciting of the list of lost classmates (way too long of a list), the sounding of "Taps" (many moist eyes!), all ending with the singing of the Navy Hymn. It was a great tribute, and a fitting way to end the reunion. Borrowing from Mark's reflections, it was the right thing to do at the right place.

Voting for Class Elections also wrapped up during the weekend, and on Saturday night the results were announced. **Sean Cate** and **Jeff Johnson** were re-elected to their positions of President and Treasurer, respectively. **Fred Gerheiser** is our new Vice President, as the incumbent **Mike Parrott** chose not to run again. Thanks, Mike, for your years of service to the class.

In addition to the Class Officers, we elected our first slate of Class Council representatives, one from each battalion. Those elected were: **Pat Dennis** (4th Co.), **Pete Long** (7th Co.), **Ralph Quarles** (14th Co.), **Kirk Michealson** (22nd Co.), **Dick Yocum** (29th Co.), and **Kevin Sinnett** (35th Co.). Duties and responsibilities of the council will be detailed in an upcoming column. Congratulations to all the electees!

One quick news item before I close. I received word from Kevin Sinnett that