

an Army nurse currently stationed in Fairbanks, AK, but scheduled to deploy to Iraq later this year; now *that's* climate change! Andrew, who many of us watched playing lacrosse for Navy, is off to P-cola, Lauren's a junior communications major at Salisbury State, while Matt, a high school senior, recently finished a summer State Department scholarship to Russia.

As Father and Mother Thorp, Owen is of course remains a Permanent Military Professor, teaching technical engineering courses and continuing to serve as the longest serving Officer Rep in the history of Navy Lax; as Kathy noted, it keeps him busy and off the streets... sort of like Midnight Basketball for retired O-6's!

Kathy herself is a full-time student at Maryland, and should be finishing her Masters in Nursing this December. As you probably noticed, she commands a reserve medical unit at Camp Lejeune, and travels frequently between 12 detachments scattered in 4 states, which is quite a change from the prior 20+ years working at Bethesda. She'll be hanging up her USMC stethoscope next year, marking 30 years of service to her country. Think about it; four kids, 30 years in the Marine Corps Reserve... AND Owen!

A snappy hand salute to both Kathy and Owen for their service; we'll keep the entire family in our thoughts and prayers!

Moving on, **Dan Whitsett (11th Co.)** checked in with a photo of his son Danny, USNA Class of 2013, taken during the recent Plebe Summer Parents' Weekend....



Danny, the 4th Whitsett to attend Boat School (joining his father, uncle ('76) and cousin ('06) in the hallowed halls of Bancroft), should be in good hands; his sponsor is none other than '77's own **Rick White (8th Co.)**, and Dan's old roommate Ollie Read has dispatched his son Ben (Class of 2011) to keep tabs on him as well.

Dan lives in Leesburg, VA, a mere 90 minutes from Annapolis, where he operates Secrets in Lace, an internet/mail order lingerie business. Rumors that **Kirk Barker (9th Co.)**, world-renowned bon

vivant and man-about-town, has repeatedly offered to screen Dan's models could not be confirmed!

Next up, **Pat Walsh (12th Co.)** continues to advance '77's banner to new heights!



Pat, pictured above with his wife, Andy Kaye, and Bob ('72) and Donna Willard, recently took over PACFLT from Bob, who is stepping up to the U.S. Pacific Command. Best of luck to both Pat and Bob in their new positions; as we've said before, it's nice to see good things happen to great people!

Speaking of great people, in a related story, another Walsh is in the news. **Joe Walsh (10th Co.)**, having just retired as Bob Willard's deputy commander and chief-of-staff, recently signed on with Electric Boat as special as to the company president.

And if that isn't enough coincidence for on column, Joe's old roommate, **Mike "Eddie Haskell" Canders (9th Co.)** only last week stepped down as commander of the 106th Rescue Wing, a post he's held since 2002. Mike's next assignment will be CO of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base outside Baghdad.

Good luck, Joe. And to Edward, fly safe; you're our hero! Rest assured you'll be in our prayers!

Finally, **Colin Sargent (22nd Co.)** emailed us an update on the sales of his novel. We're pleased to report that after two hardcover printings and readings at both the Naval Academy and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, *Museum of Human Beings* will be going paperback on November 1st. BZ Colin; may they sell like hotcakes!

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

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Tales of Classmate loyalty and friendship never cease to amaze and inspire me. For example, in August, **Drew Nienhaus**

drove four hours all the way from Slidell, Louisiana to Montgomery, Alabama just to visit his old 36th Company roomie **Jim Pointer** in the hospital for a few hours—and then drove back to Louisiana that same day. On top of that, Drew then had had knee surgery two days later. It was for “tune up” on the same knee previously operated on ten years ago. As for Jim, his hospital stay was the result of a serious blood clot (deep vein thrombosis) in his left leg. We hope that by now it has resolved with from the blood thinners the docs had Jim on and there's no more pain.



Drew and Jim

Congratulations to **John Semcken** and his Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry, CA (near LA). The Resort was selected as a finalist for the 2009 golf course of the year. John and his team can be very proud of what they've accomplished. I hope to hear that they've won! Either way, it's an honor. Next time any of you are out on the “left coast” check it out. The course is very good—and the Sunday brunch is the best I've ever had!

Herb Nyberg wrote that his son Michael (2/LT, USAF) and **Randy Masters** joined up for backpacking and mountain climbing in the Rockies. Together they scaled Kings Peak - the highest peak in Utah (13,528 feet). Herb said that Randy was an experienced hiker and had all his gear ready. Herb described the trek:

■ “First day we hiked in we had a little snow but managed to reach our campsite without much difficulty. The Altitude was difficult to adjust to our site was at 9000 feet or so. Second day we hiked the mountain. Mike decided we should take the short cut, which was a 500' rock slide, big mistake. At the top it was almost vertical and every step had to be measured to avoid starting a rock slide and turning us into hamburger. Randy was none to happy when I kept knocking boulders loose and they tumbled toward him. We did make it to the top with fantastic views. On the return we took a longer trip around the slide but tried to shorten

it by crossing a flat bolder field, that may have also been a mistake due to the difficulty in negotiating the rocks and our (mine) level of fatigue from the day. Next day we hike back and we stayed with Mike near Salt Lake City. Had a nice steak dinner watched a movie, re-told old stories and went to bed. Randy left next morning then Mike and I continued hiking and climbed Mt Timpanogos. It was great to hike with Randy. He insists that Lew paid me to take him to get him out of Texas for that week because Lew was travelling through Texas at the time, not true." ■

Randy chimed in via e-mail that Herb and Mike **are the experienced hikers**, having summited all the peaks along the Appalachians. That explains his "letdown" (I won't say "near tears" let down) when after 8 hours of hiking the boulder fields he rounded the corner to only to see Gunsight Pass a few hundred feet below and still 1/2 mile away! Randy also countered that it *was* Herb not he who was apprehensive about that rock slide at Anderson Pass. He had photographic evidence. Randy did say that while Mike and Herb were well out ahead of him on that long journey back down the Peak, they took care of their "wingman"—pausing (as good hikers would) to check that Randy made it over each ridge line on the way out. Randy characterized hiking through the boulder fields as "running the seawall carrying a pack wearing clunky boots." He appreciated that Herb and Mike included him in their Father/Son outing. Whichever *version* you like—there's no denying there'll be some great stories to be told about that trip! Some of you may recall Mike is the inventor of the Nyberg family. He was 15 when he invented and patented a mosquito larva killing invention that uses sound—the Larvasonic. Now he's in the Air Force and stationed at Hill Air Force Base just north of Salt Lake City. As for the other Nyberg kids: Herb's next to last daughter began UCONN this year, one daughter is still at home; and his oldest daughter began Grad school and a research position at Clemson in August. Herb said he is still cleaning "bugs off the fronts of cars". That is to say he still owns car washes in CT. He had a partner in his first car wash but bought him out in December '09. Since then it's a full service wash like the one at his Norwich location. He does travel to Florida often and has a small house in the Keys (that he rents cheap to

friends – it's on water and has a nice tiki hut for pina coladas).



At the Summit- Herb, Mike and Randy

To continue on with congratulations—congrats to our former webmaster, **Dr. Rob Cloutier**. Rob is an Associate Professor in the School of Systems and Enterprises at Stevens Institute of Technology. (Stevens Institute of Technology is one of the leading technological universities in the world dedicated to learning and research.) Rob is the 2009 recipient of Stevens' School of Systems and Enterprises' Alexander Crombie Humphreys Distinguished Teaching Award. Since joining Stevens faculty in 2007, Rob has taught courses and delivered workshops in systems engineering, system architecture for industry and government systems engineers; and architecture thinking for architecture thought leaders at Nokia. He got his Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, and also holds an M.B.A. from Eastern University. Rob's research interests include model based systems engineering and systems architecting using UML/SysML, reference architectures, systems engineering patterns, and architecture management. If you want to read more about his research check out his blog Patterns and Systems Engineering, <http://sepatterns.typepad.com/sepatterns/>. Maybe *you* might understand it—as for me, it made my head hurt.

Congrats also to **John Lademan**, who was selected as the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI)'s First Vice President. John's "day job" is Director for Strategic Planning and Advanced Systems with Northrop Grumman Corp. in Annapolis, MD. John's been at Northrop for 24 years. In his current job he works a myriad of unmanned system and system of system developments which include unmanned vehicles and "heterogeneous cooperative unmanned vehicle autonomy" (*That's a mouthful!*). This sets him up well for the AUVSI association work. Since joining it

in 2003 John's already participated as a committee member for their North American convention providing Plenary Speakers, technical paper reviews and selection, and as session chair and done the same for AUVSI's winter Program Reviews. John's 22 year naval career was in the submarine service. His assignments included submarine tours, instructor duty at Nuke Power School, staff positions and as a Senior Field Liaison Officer at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) working science and technology issues for unmanned underwater vehicles. Conrats again, John. See you at one of the conventions—with one of my ISR unmanned vehicles maybe *not necessarily in person*.

Best of luck to fellow Devil Dog, **Charlie Pangburn**. Charlie accepted a position with the General Counsel's Office at the University of Cincinnati. I wonder if his coming to UofC has anything to do with the recent success of their ranked football team. Just don't go become counsel at Air Force or Army! **Phillip Wiecek** checked in to report he's "Still Alive". He said in fact he's also receiving mail. In August he was looking for an IT position somewhere after having been part of the labor cuts at Chevron. As this goes to print we wish him well and hope he's hooked up with a company. How could anybody go wrong with someone from '78?! My old 1st semester second class year roomie – "H" Scott Rodgers got together with Scott Provow, Jeff Carpenter and his first wife Dr. Pam Wacek Svendsen ('80) down in the Pensacola area this summer. Since their last divorces, H and Pam have been dating each other again. Scott and "Carps" were there for the comradery, the view, the wine and the sun. Bit of trivia—who were the first union of Naval Academy grads?—No, *not* Terry O'Brien and Joe Martin— though we almost always see them together. I mean a *marriage*. The answer—H Scott Rodgers ('78) and Pam Wacek ('80). We wish them luck in this dating thing.



Scott, Pam, "H" and "Carps"

I started out by saying how classmate loyalty and our bonds of friendship never cease to amaze me. Well it permeates all through the alumni of Navy—across all classes and between classes (Shipmates). Here's another quick illustration—I got an e-mail from **George Parrish** ('48). His classmate and best man was **Merill Norton**. George also identified Merrill as the “father of one of your classmates (Morris Norton).” While Merrill passed away a few years ago George wrote that he “kinda lost track of his wife and children since then.” And that he recently “ran across a good picture of Morris’ father, standing ‘mate of the deck watch’ in Mother Bancroft during his second class year.” George wanted “send a copy to Morris, but don’t have his most recent mailing address or e-mail address.” Well I linked him up with our classmate—23rd Company’s **Morris Lafayette Norton**. The last I heard Lafayette and George have kept in contact. Lafayette and his family are learning more stories about their father from George; and I guess in some fashion, George is staying connected to his roomie. Isn’t that just great?!

In closing—belated Happy Birthday to all my other brothers – My fellow Marines. Since this is a two-month column the Balderrama family also extends a very Merry Christmas (Hannukah, Kwanza, etc) and our best wishes for a Happy, prosperous and safe New Year. Launchin’ Spot Four with an RTB (return to base, um – column) in 2010!

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

I hope this Holiday Edition of the “79 Chronicles” finds you all happy and well. No doubt you’re in the midst of planning for family gatherings and all the other activities that make this time of year so special. Karen & I are driving to South Dakota to spend time with her family. It’s a busy time for everyone. So I’m grateful that you have taken a few minutes to read these words and learn what your classmates are up to.

I’ll begin with updates on a few of our Flags. **RADM Tim Giardina** completed a successful tour as

Commander, Submarine Group 9 in Washington state. He received the Legion of Merit for his leadership, which included the conversion and successful first deployments of former boomer subs OHIO (SSGN 726) and MICHIGAN (SSGN 727). Tim and the family have once again crossed the country, ending up in Norfolk, VA, where he will take over as director, Readiness and Training at Fleet Forces Command. Congrats, Tim, and good luck in your new assignment.

I also received a brief note saying **RDML Joe Mulloy** will be changing jobs as well. Joe will be dual-hatted as the director, Office of Budget (Financial Management and Comptroller); and the director, Fiscal Management Division (CNO N82). He had been serving as the head of the Programming Division (CNO N80). At least he won’t have to pack up and move! Congrats, Joe.

I received a copy of a White House communiqué announcing that **Sean Stackley** won’t be giving up his job after all. In July 2008 Sean was appointed by President Bush as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He fully expected to be replaced after the change in administrations. Evidently President Obama knows a good thing when he sees it, because he tapped Sean to remain in his current post.

And his job is a huge one: Sean is responsible for the development and procurement of all Navy and Marine Corps platforms and warfare systems. A former surface warfare officer, he served in a range of Industrial, Fleet, Program Office, and Headquarters assignments in ship design and construction, maintenance, logistics, and acquisition policy. More recently, Sean was a Professional Staff Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. So congrats to Sean for **NOT** changing jobs!

Let’s see, what else do I have? **Fred Gerheiser** passed along an email he received from **Mike Kennedy**, who spent part of last fall hangin’ around campus in Chapel Hill, NC. Mike joined fellow 79ers **RADM Mike Shatynski**, **RADM Dan “Traps” Cloyd**, and **RADM Tim Moon** in attending UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business school. They weren’t able to attend the Navy-La. Tech game in person, but they did get together to watch Big Blue’s first victory of the season at a local establishment. Mike sent along a photo, which appears in this column. He closed with the comment, “While the course is great, we would have all much preferred

Fred’s Cat 5 Hurricanes!” Thanks, guys, for the update.



(l-r): **Mike Shatynski**, **Mike Kennedy**, “Traps” **Cloyd**, and **Tim Moon**.

Speaking of football, how about that Navy-OSU season opener? So close! This year I did something I had NEVER done before – root against Ohio State. I grew up about 50 miles from there, and I still have family in Columbus. Nevertheless, for one game I had to root against the Buckeyes.

A few of the hardy 79er tailgaters made the trek to the OSU Horseshoe for the game, and I have this report from **Sean Cate**:

■ Hi Wiz. There I was, driving west on I-70 in Ohio when I spotted a sign that said, “Welcome to Zanesville, Home of the Wiz.” Despite strong urges to stop so we could see historic Wiz landmarks, we needed to press on to Columbus for the Ohio State football game.

We had a blast at the game. We stayed at the Navy headquarters hotel. Valerie Gerheiser arranged limo transportation to and from the stadium, which was great because we had no idea where 105,000 fans would park. Our immediate group included Janet and me, Valerie and **Fred Gerheiser**, **Chuck Dixon** and his friend Deborah, and other friends, including an OSU alum.

During the game, Dennis McElroy stopped by our seats to say hi. Also at the game, but unfortunately in the crowd of 105,000 we didn’t see them, were Daryl and Grant Thornton, Bob Klocek and his wife, and Corrine and Tony Konecny. There may have been others, but we didn’t see them.

The unfortunate interception at the end which prevented a possible overtime did not dampen (too much) our enthusiasm for Navy’s overall effort. Hope all is well! ■

Sorry I missed the trip, guys. And I’m very sorry you didn’t have the time to visit the “Historic Wiz Birthplace” (*motto*: