NPS Alumnus, Former CJCS, Guest Lectures

By MC2 Patrick Dionne

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired Adm. Mike Mullen addressed NPS students, faculty and staff on the challenges facing America today and our way forward during the latest Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) in King Auditorium, Jan. 23.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), Mullen served as the nation’s senior military officer and top military adviser to Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. During that time, he oversaw the end of combat missions in Iraq, the killing of Osama Bin Laden, and the dismantling of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.

“My career has seen defining times in our country’s history,” said Mullen.

“During the September 11 attacks, I was in the Pentagon the moment the plane hit the building. I was down in the Chief of Naval Operations’ area about 100 feet away and I knew one thing, the world as we knew it had changed.

“The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the killing of Osama bin Laden also became incredibly defining events for me, as well as the rest of the world. What I learned from that is that you don’t get to choose what defines you,” he continued.

Mullen offered a candid, honest review of current national and international challenges, focusing part of his discussion on leadership and the challenges associated with a globalized world.

“We need leaders, and we need global leaders, but it is hard to see who those are right now in an environment that is so divisive and divided,” Mullen said. “That we would be drawing back and trying to isolate ourselves as a country after these wars, that are not even really over, that makes sense. But, we need to be very careful in the way we come home in a world that is so unforgiving and more global than ever.”

Mullen graduated from NPS in 1985 with a master’s degree in Operations Research, was named a distinguished alumnus in 2002, and bestowed with one of the university’s highest honors in 2009 when he was inducted into the NPS Hall of Fame.

NPS’ Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture program provides a series of professional lectures by senior leaders throughout defense, government, industry and academia designed to help the university’s students and faculty link their studies, teaching and research efforts to the defense needs of the nation.

Afghanistan’s Top Diplomat Reaches Out to NPS

NPS Conrad Scholar Award Continues Legacy of Rear Adm. Peter Conrad

FAQs, DOD Civilians Get Primer on Joint Humanitarian Ops
Annual Menneken Awards Honor NPS’ Top Researchers
By MC2 Patrick Dionne

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Provost Dr. Steven R. Lerman announced the winners of the 2017 Menneken Awards, Jan. 10. Made possible by the NPS Foundation through a grant from the Carl E. and Jessie W. Menneken Foundation, the awards recognize NPS researchers for highly meritorious research with significant impact on the Department of the Navy.

Associate Professor Eric Hendricks from the Department of Meteorology has been honored with the award for Highly Meritorious Research by a Junior NPS Faculty Member, while Distinguished Professor Young Kwon from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering earned the Significant and Sustained Contributions award.

“I feel very humble to receive this award as gratification for all I have done at NPS and the Department of Defense overall,” said Kwon, who originally joined the faculty of NPS in 1990. “The most enjoyable aspect of NPS is that I am doing work that is impactful to national defense, and knowing that my work is directly applicable to this makes it a really rewarding experience.”

The award for Significant and Sustained Contributions is intended to recognize a senior faculty member for his or her body of work with particular emphasis on sustained impact to improving the effectiveness of the Navy and DOD.

Kwon’s research contributions have led to the development of higher-order finite-element models of non-linear materials for structural analysis. He has also developed fluid-structure models that have been employed for use in naval-relevant applications. Most recently, he and his group of students have worked on Femtosecond Laser Surface Textured Aluminum Alloys for drag reduction, amongst other applications.

Additionally, Kwon’s work was influential at the highest levels of defense with his study of the feasibility of using numerical modeling of the effects of shocks on new naval vessels as a replacement for extremely expensive full-ship shock testing on behalf of the Chief of Naval Research (CNR). His numerical models and his recommendations in this area have the potential to save billions of dollars in costly at-sea ship trials.

“Last year, the CNO talked to our president about what could be the best option to test if a ship could survive the stresses of dangers such as an underwater torpedo or mine that would usually be tried through ship shock testing,” said Kwon.

Shock testing not only provided an analysis of what would happen to a ship’s hull, but was limited in its evaluation of the varied systems inside it. “Right now, the procedure of evaluating that is not well validated, so this modeling offers a better technique to do that,” he added.

This marks the second time Kwon has received a Menneken Award, as he was formerly presented the meritorious research award in 1995. Hendricks’ recognition is intended to encourage younger faculty members, providing support to both the researcher, and to the research itself.

“It was a huge honor to see all the hard work that I put into my research the past two years recognized with this award,” said Hendricks. “I have been interested in weather my whole life, I grew up watching The Weather Channel and was just fascinated by how it works. I was especially interested in hurricanes and tropical cyclones so being able to work in this field is incredibly rewarding to me.”

Hendricks’ research involves advancing our understanding and prediction of tropical cyclones in support of Navy operations, as well as high-resolution modeling of hazardous material plumes in urban environments in support of homeland defense.

“The idea here is to essentially improve our predictions of tropical cyclones to not only protect our fleet out at sea, but naval base personnel as well,” he said.

Additionally, Hendricks noted that throughout 2017, “We saw the disaster these storms can cause through Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma … If we can better warn people 48 hours, 72 hours, even 120 hours in advance and figure out a clearer picture of what is the intensity of the storm and how strong the rains and winds will be, then we can be better prepared.”

The Carl E. and Jessie W. Menneken Awards are named in honor of NPS’ first dean of research, Carl E. Menneken. The awards are conferred upon faculty members for outstanding effort and achievement in research that makes a significant impact on the Navy.
As many of you know, Afghanistan has gone through a very difficult period in history, with four decades of wars that have crippled our infrastructure, and more importantly, our human resources,” said Ambassador Mohib. “Regardless of recent victories against terrorist elements in our country, a great many other problems are challenging us.”

“Today, Afghanistan is fighting the idea of terrorism and the idea of extremism … But, the voice and the fight that is against the idea is ours alone. It takes diplomacy and it takes the creation of alternative voices [through rebuilding a social infrastructure] and trust with the Afghan people,” said the Ambassador.

Ambassador Mohib ended his talk by offering a quote from Afghanistan’s President, Ashraf Ghani, speaking to the Afghan Joint Session of Congress. “Ordinary has escaped us. Ordinary is what we desperately want … In Afghanistan, we want to be able to do ordinary things, where we can save for the future of our children and to be able to travel back to the villages where we came from, walk the streets without worry and feel free.”
Retired Rear Adm. Peter Conrad died in Leonardtown, Maryland, Dec. 10, 2017 at the age of 88 years old. He was predeceased by his wife Judith Coville Conrad and by his younger twin siblings Julia Conrad Byrne and John Conrad. He was survived by his brother Charles Conrad and three children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren.

Conrad’s at sea career culminated with command of Cruiser Destroyer Group TWELVE. Ashore, he held several billets involving financial management with his final position before retiring being Deputy Comptroller of the Navy. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1953, and went on to hold sea duty assignments on both diesel submarines and surface combatants.

Conrad is the namesake of the NPS Conrad Scholar Program, which seeks to enhance professional development opportunities for students and faculty, and conduct and direct research supportive of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller) in areas of resource management. Up to four top Financial Management M.B.A. students per graduating class are identified as potential Conrad Scholars and cleared to complete their theses.

“This highlights their qualifications as scholars, and the quality of NPS graduates, to the highest levels of Navy leadership in the financial management community,” he continued. “Longer-term, the Conrad Scholar Additional Qualification Designation in their service records indicates outstanding academic performance in the Navy financial management community, which gives them priority in filling positions of increasing responsibility in financial management when available.”

Since the program’s inception in 1991, there have been 133 Conrad Scholars, with that number growing each passing academic year. Several of the scholars have achieved flag and senior executive service rank within the Department of the Navy and the federal government.

“Conrad Scholars address many of the high interest challenges that face our Navy and Marine Corps today,” said NPS Conrad Chair retired Vice Adm. John T. “Terry” Blake. “Topics include personnel issues such as retirement, maintenance, training and readiness issues which are front and center before the department’s leadership today. Conrad Scholars return to Washington, D.C. just prior to graduation and brief their topics to the Department of the Navy’s leadership. As a result of their research, they often work with individuals they will interact with in future assignments following graduation from the Naval Postgraduate School.”

Lt. Benjamin Rathwell is one of several new students returning to the rigor of graduate education with the 2018 Winter Quarter now underway. Rathwell is enrolled in the university’s 24-month Master of Science in Systems Engineering program.

“I really enjoy systems as a whole and the interconnectedness that is part of how the Navy operates,” said Rathwell. “I am excited to get a better perspective on the engineering aspect of the Navy and how it applies to wartime readiness.”

Systems Engineering offers a variety of resident and distance learning degree programs providing a unique, tailored advanced education in systems engineering, all designed to increase the combat effectiveness of U.S. and allied armed forces.

“I am really excited for the opportunity to expand my knowledge in the realm of engineering, as well as meeting people who will become other future leaders in the Navy,” said Rathwell.

"Before this, I spent four years in Sasebo, Japan aboard USS Germantown, and then following that, I was stationed in South Korea as part of the military armistice commission," Rathwell continued. “I’ve had a lot of great experiences, but I am excited for what lies ahead.”
NSAM Turns Tennis Courts into New Multi-Use Facility

By Melinda Larson

A multi-use facility is set to open this spring with the addition of a bocce ball-pickle ball-putting green complex at NSA Monterey (NSAM) in a spot formerly occupying the tennis courts near the front of the Herrmann Hall.

“The tennis courts were in desperate need of repair and there were already two courts located near the gym so the two courts up top were rarely used,” said Capt. Rich Wiley, Commanding Officer, NSA Monterey, who enjoys playing bocce ball having grown up playing the game with friends throughout Monterey County. “We surveyed the area and what properties we could use that would be respectful of the historic Hotel Del Monte and its tradition.

“Bocce-ball, a putting green and a pickle-ball court were ideas our visitors recommended and we are looking forward to this enhancement, and hope everyone visiting the base and staying at the Del Monte will be able to enjoy it, he continued.”

According to the United States Bocce Federation, “everyone” can play bocce ball. It is played all over the world and is part of the International Special Olympics and the Senior Olympics. Pickle ball is another all-hand’s game, and is a simple paddle game played using a special perforated, slow-moving ball over a tennis-type net on a badminton-sized court. A golf putting green will round out the three-game complex, along with barbecue grills, tables and chairs.

“When the thinkers and visionaries on the command staff came to Public Works with their idea, we were happy to support it. The result will be a very nice complex for students, staff and visitors to barbecue, have mixers and to play popular sports like pickle ball,” said Lt. Cmldr. Paul Weyant, Public Works Officer, NSA Monterey.

NPS Hosts Panel Discussion on Role of Big Data in Ocean Policy

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

NPS students and faculty join forces with the Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) to present a panel discussion on the use of data science in developing sound ocean policy, Dec. 12 in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Auditorium on the university campus. The event was organized by COS’ Monterey Area Research Institutions’ Network for Education, or MARINE, consortium, of which NPS is one of seven institutional members.

Featured on the panel were, pictured from left, California Campaign Director and Senior Scientist for Oceana Dr. Geoff Shester, Chief IT Architect for the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Bruce Gritton, Research Oceanographer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Cara Wilson, and NPS Department of Meteorology Chair Dr. Wendell Nuss.

Students in NPS’ Meteorology and Operational Oceanography program, Lt. Kellen Jones and Lt. Jason Tucker, helped organize the event, referencing the Chief of Naval Operations’ Task Force Ocean, and its emphasis on advancing ocean science to maintaining an operational advantage.

“The ocean is the key to victory and an advantage over our adversaries,” said Jones. “Understanding the environment that includes the sea floor and the water column, the atmosphere and outer space, is key to making better decisions in policy, in our government and in the military.”

The Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System (BRS) went into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, offering nearly 1.6 million current service members with the option of remaining in the current high-three retirement system or opting into the BRS.

The new system, which utilizes a defined contribution system of automatic and matching government contributions through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), will be open for a majority of service members to opt into throughout the year, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2018.

To opt into BRS, service members from the Army, Air Force and Navy will need to visit MyPay at https://mypay.dfas.mil. Members of the Marine Corps should visit Marine Online at https://www.mol.usmc.mil For more info, visit: http://militarypay.defense.gov/Blended Retirement/
Focus On … New Student Services Officers
A Monthly Look at Names and Faces on Campus

Lts. Ryan Clifford, left, and Janet Eddy have officially assumed the duties as NPS’ newest Student Services Officers, using their own experiences as recent graduates to assist university students navigate through a broad range of services and issues, from check-in day to graduation day.

“The broad range of support provided by the Student Services Office at NPS is a force multiplier, and enables the nearly 1,500 students at NPS to focus on their primary mission of academic study,” said Dean of Students Cmdr. Paul Rasmussen. “As recent NPS graduates, Lt. Clifford and Lt. Eddy have the ideal background to continue in a long legacy of fantastic officers who have supported our impressive student body.”

As a Student Services Officer, I submit muster reports, approve leave and miss muster requests, assist in coordinating main events such as SECNAV Guest Lectures (SGLs), student orientation, student awards ceremonies and graduation,” said Clifford. “I will also attend regular meetings, in addition to duties assigned by the Dean of Students, and various other collateral duties.

Clifford recently graduated from NPS with a degree in Security Studies – East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, while Eddy is an alumna of the Space Systems Engineering program.

“We assist students with any processes, questions, or problems that may occur pertaining to NPS or Navy procedures,” said Eddy. “Additionally, we try to get any information that is relevant to students out to them, primarily through the Student Muster page.”

NPS’ Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) Prevention, Relief and Recovery program, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), brought together military and DOD professionals who will react as initial responders to overseas disasters of catastrophic proportions for the latest iteration of the two-day Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (JHOC), Jan. 25-26.

The course was first brought to NPS through CCMR last year and is available to a wide range of participants, including Foreign Area Officers (FAO) who will be posted at American embassies around the world.

Participants in the course learn about the various U.S. government and civilian organizations that respond to these incidents, along with the policies, procedures and mandates that guide how they work together, and with international organizations and foreign governments that also respond to disasters.

Current FAO, U.S. Army Maj. Scott Wares earned his master’s degree through the Department of National Security Affairs (NSA) in the Fall of 2017, and was appreciative of the opportunity to expand his education within this specific mission area.

“I think the course was excellent. It provides officers with a realistic perspective on interagency operations from the perspective of the other agency, as some of us may be called upon to assist during a humanitarian disaster,” said Wares. “I’ve done it twice in my career, and at a minimum, I think that every FAO should attend this course before going on to their next assignment.

Fellow FAO and NPS student Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Frost, also of the NSA department, believes that projecting “soft power” will continue to be an important part of American foreign policy.

“How we respond to humanitarian crises quickly and efficiently is something the U.S. excels at because of the unique capabilities our military can offer,” Frost said. “Learning to work with USAID, OFDA is essential for FAOs and staff officers because disaster response is nuanced. Without knowing how the process works, well-meaning actions taken by proactive commanders can severely degrade the effectiveness of the overall relief effort, and even tarnish America’s image.

“The JHOC course is essential to learning exactly when and how the military should participate in these operations,” he continued. “This knowledge contributes to a better whole of government approach to executing U.S. government policy.”

FAOs, DOD Civilians Get Primer on Joint Humanitarian Ops
By Javier Chagoya

U.S. Agency for International Development and Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) member Todd Forsman reviews material with National Intelligence University Senior Fellow and NPS doctoral candidate Bill Colligan during a two-day Joint Humanitarian Operations Course held in Glasgow Hall auditorium, Jan. 26. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)
Any Day at NPS ...

NPS Provost Steven Lerman, center, along with several NPS deans attends the 7th annual COMPASS New Faculty Orientation Program. The Office of Teaching and Learning and Academic Affairs sponsors the COMPASS New Faculty Orientation. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)

NPS Provost Steven Lerman, center, along with several NPS deans attends the 7th annual COMPASS New Faculty Orientation Program. The Office of Teaching and Learning and Academic Affairs sponsors the COMPASS New Faculty Orientation. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)

Fellow Students,

Another new quarter has kicked off to start off the new year. I hope everyone enjoyed their well-deserved holiday break and if this is your first quarter among many, or last quarter to finish strong, or somewhere in between, welcome!

The President’s Student Council (PSC) is here to serve you and to be your advocates within NPS and NSAM. We are students ourselves and can relate to many of the challenges faced on a daily basis. This organization allows us to communicate those challenges and provide feedback to the various supporting units throughout the NPS campus in order to help make improvements that benefit the students.

After the August 2017 PSC Student Survey, the PSC has been able to meet with the NPS President, Provost, Dean of Students, NSAM CO, Library Staff, MBAC staff (gym), MWR, Medical and Dental in order to personally deliver a vast amount of student feedback to various leaders and highlight some issues that students face, as well as recognize some of the great resources being utilized by students.

The PSC is always welcoming new members. If you would like to know more about being part of this unique team, please email any current member (info below). Also, all students are always welcome to our monthly meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 1200 in the library room Kn-263A.

Ideas? Concerns? Don’t hesitate to contact us:

Chair: LTJG Tanya L. Herfi
Vice-Chair: Capt Dan Salazar
SIGS School Lead: Capt Alejandro Bihar
GSOIS School Lead: vacant
GSBPP School Lead: vacant
GSEAS School Lead: LT Josh Malia

Have a story to share? Public Affairs is constantly seeking interesting news and stories for Update NPS. Send your tips to pao@nps.edu.
Historical Highlights

This Presidential flag was flown at the Naval Auxiliary Air Facility Monterey during a 1956 visit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, then vacationing at Pebble Beach. The nation’s chief executive is seen here with S.F.B. Morse, builder of Cypress Point Golf Course, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Monterey Peninsula Country Club and the Hotel Del Monte, site of today’s NPS campus.

The flag’s 1916 designer had NPS ties: as an aide for Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels after World War I, he witnessed Daniels’ transformation of the Postgraduate Department of the Naval Academy into the Naval Postgraduate School.

His son, Bruce McCandless I, became an alumnus of the Naval Postgraduate School and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1971, the Navy commissioned the USS McCandless (FF-1084) in honor of Commodore Byron McCandless and Rear Admiral Bruce McCandless I. The Presidential flag is now part of the Dudley Knox Library’s Special Collections & Archives.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.