Secretary of the Navy Reveals the Next President of NPS

By Dale M. Kuska

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer announced, Oct. 10, that Dr. Ann Elisabeth Rondeau, retired Vice Adm., will serve as the next president of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). Spencer made the announcement during an all-hands call with NPS students, faculty and staff where he praised Rondeau for her proven experience as an educator.

“Admiral Rondeau brings with her an unparalleled record of leadership and achievement as a university president, change agent, officer and leader,” said Spencer. “At every level, she’s been a champion for students, teachers, and cutting-edge research, and I am confident she is the right person to build on the great evolutionary work that’s been done so far to take this institution, and the naval enterprise it serves, to the next level.”

Rondeau, a 38-year Navy veteran, currently serves as president of the College of DuPage, a two-year community college network serving more than 28,000 students in Illinois, and previously served as president of National Defense University. For NPS, she becomes the university’s 50th president/superintendent.

“This opportunity to serve and help lead the Naval Postgraduate School is a privilege and honor,” said Rondeau. “NPS is a brilliant place where individual and collective genius come together in teaching, learning and exploration, resulting in the premiere educational research institution in all of DOD.”

Rondeau will replace current NPS President, retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, following the completion of his five-year term at the helm of the institution. Spencer recognized Route for exemplary leadership at the university, presenting him with the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award the Secretary can present to a civilian employee.

“Admiral Route has been the much-needed steadying hand as NPS regained its position as a pre-eminent educational and research enterprise,” said Spencer. “His leadership as an educator, businessman and officer will live on in the achievements of all of those students lucky enough to have benefited by his experience.”
Early this year, the Naval Postgraduate School’s (NPS) Student Services Office formally launched the NPS Industry Internship Program to provide valuable internship experiences in partnership with leading industry and technology partners.

In the short time since, the university has more than doubled its participation in the unique program, sending a total of 20 students in its latest iteration to private sector partners, ranging from Amazon to Lockheed Martin, in an effort to align with the Secretary of the Navy’s initiative to establish partnerships between the DOD and industry.

“This program is meant to expose students to a different way of thinking with the hope that the brief exposure these students get to these companies will give them a deeper understanding of the fields they are studying,” said NPS Dean of Students Navy Capt. Markus Gudmundsson.

Each student spent one week in late September on site at several different locations learning the tools of the trade from top companies that include Amazon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, the Elbit Corporation, Raytheon, the Cubic Corporation, AFWERX and Creare LLC.

“NPS is at the cutting edge of a number of technologies, and so are some of these companies,” said Gudmundsson. “So why not send a student who is researching cutting-edge technologies to a company who is employing same said cutting-edge technology to find some synergy between the two.”

For Marine Corps Maj. Alissa Tarsiuk, the Industry Internship Program provided a chance to explore the process of how industry selects its leaders. She spent a week at the headquarters of Amazon, where she examined how a massive, multinational corporation hires its employees on all levels.

“Amazon is one of the fastest, globally dominating companies in the world, and I wanted to see how they ensure the people that they are hiring are in line with their culture and leadership principles,” said Tarsiuk.

“One of the biggest takeaways is that they are absolutely committed to their principles and culture, and I was surprised that a place like Amazon, that is so diverse and so broad, had such a strong culture. It is a lot like how the military has so many different job fields but still maintains a central identity,” she added.

In addition to connecting students to programs of relevance to their thesis, internships also give students the opportunity to explore production to gain a broader understanding of the systems that they may be using throughout their careers. Take Navy Cmdr. Durward Dunn, for example, whose internship with Lockheed Martin offered a unique perspective on a technology the Navy uses every day.

“For my internship, I got to visit their technical campus, their advanced product development center and their main plant,” said Dunn. “While I was there, I had the opportunity to talk to a few Lockheed senior fellows about future Lockheed Martin projects involving nanomaterials, including carbon nanomaterials and other nano projects of interest to the Navy.”

A Lockheed senior fellow is a non-management senior technical advisor that, according to Dunn, seem to be significant assets to the company. The experience provided him with a deeper understanding of the systems that he will use as an Engineering Duty Officer.

“We were able to go over future projects involving radar and other AEGIS combat systems, and we were actually able to provide some insights to them of how we use the systems in the fleet,” said Dunn.

Looking ahead, and seeing the value of the internship program to students, Gudmundsson says he hopes to continue growing the program. He envisions a program that is sending students for short industry experience internships throughout the year when class schedules permit.

“Ultimately, we are trying to improve the value of an NPS education,” he continued. “Those in the fleet should see this as a fantastic opportunity to be exposed to things that they would not otherwise see ... It’s just one more reason to want to come here.”
The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) welcomed Dr. Eric Schmidt, software engineer and former executive chairman of Google and Alphabet to speak during the latest iteration of the Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) series in King Auditorium, Oct 30.

Schmidt held a candid discussion with NPS students, faculty and staff about his past relationship with the university, and his current efforts to help the Department of Defense improve its ability to be innovative, bridging the gap between advanced research and operational implementation.

“I have a special relationship with NPS, having taught a set of management classes here in the mid-90s,” said Schmidt.

At Google, Schmidt said, executives get a portion of their time, 20 percent, to pursue relevant interests, and “I decided to spend my 20 percent time working on getting innovation into historically non-innovative but crucial industries, like the DOD.”

Contrary to the usual rhetoric, Schmidt sees the DOD as already possessing a relatively robust culture of innovation, but the problem lies in transitioning innovative thought to action. The issue, he says, is rooted in challenges of adoption, progressing the tools from research to engineers to operators.

He sees NPS as a part of the DOD that can help solve that problem, with the right mission and the right integration of faculty and thoughtful military operators.

“Fundamentally, the mission of NPS is to expand and broaden our nation’s defense capabilities,” said Schmidt. And it is precisely the right place to do it, he continued, because the rough configuration at the beginning was correct all along... “Smart faculty, and military people who are here for a specific period of time, who then go back out [to the fleet].”

Schmidt says his current trip to the university comes not long after a conversation with Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard V. Spencer.

“I asked Secretary Spencer, ‘What do you want these guys to do?’” said Schmidt.

“And he told me something you may have all heard before,” Schmidt said. “I want them to be the primary educational, research-based department between the military, the private sector, and academia to solve the most vexing national security problems,” Schmidt repeated.

Schmidt kept his formal presentation short, noting his priority was not necessarily lecturing to the NPS community, but rather, to hear directly from the students and faculty on their questions on how DOD can break through its traditional bureaucracies to become more agile and innovative in the fleet and field.
Students, Faculty—and Dumbledore’s Army—Prepare for Discover NPS Day

By Michael Ehrlich

In preparation for Discover NPS Day, NPS students Lt. Aaron Green and Lt. Cmdr. Cassie Hamblin did a practice run of their venue with a few members of the target audience. Hamblin and Green, along with Navy Capt. Clark Bone and Dr. Kathryn Aten, came up with a concept using techniques of social network analysis to help Harry Potter and Dumbledore’s Army squash the Death Eaters.

The team utilizes a custom application to share and evaluate different data sets about the Death Eaters and Dumbledore’s Army, and teach how techniques in social network analysis (SNA) can be used to make informed decisions.

“One day we are teaching kids how to look at data and make sense of it using Harry Potter as reference material,” said Hamblin. “Our CORE Lab colleagues built us an app that the kids will use to see what courses of action they can come up with to prevent the Death Eater’s from getting the Horcrux from Gringott’s Bank.”

During the dry run, nine children, volunteered by their NPS student and faculty parents, previewed the presentation and tested the software, among other goals.

“Most importantly, are they having fun and are they learning what we want them to learn,” Hamblin stressed.

Discover NPS Day Committee Chair Cmdr. Paula Travis says this venue is “a great example of collaboration” by different schools to present a broader perspective of NPS. Bone, from the School of International Graduate Studies, encouraged Information Warfare students to step up and show what they do, and Graduate School of Operational and Information Sciences students Green and Hamblin came forward. Rounding out the team, Dr. Kathryn Aten of the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy brought her expertise in social media and networking. The result, they hope, is an awesome and insightful experience, and another glimpse into what NPS does on a daily basis.

The event will be taught in approximately 45-minute sessions, where Green, Hamblin and other student volunteers will explain what social network analysis is, and then let attendees play with the application and see if they can find meaning behind the data. The discovery continues, as students continue to look for information in other NPS labs that may help them thwart Voldemort’s plan.

“What we are doing with Harry Potter is fictional, but we are using a very real process that is used in the real world. And hopefully, we leave them with the idea that it can be used elsewhere,” said Green.

“Family trees; Facebook friends; how grocery stores keep their shelves stocked; where all the parts of a car come from; these are all things that SNA can be used for,” he continued. “There are ways to apply these concepts to the civilian and defense worlds that could be applicable to middle school, high school and undergraduate studies.”

NPS Staff Quarterly Awards Ceremony

By MC2 Tom Tonthat

NPS recognized staff Sailors during an awards ceremony, Oct. 5. AT2 Trevor Perry and STG3 Samuel Ziegmeier received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their time in service. CS1 Ralp Cubangbang was selected as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2018. IS2 Billy Rhoads was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2018. YN3 Jeremiah Alisea was selected as the Blue Jacket of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2018. ATAN Elizabeth Orsburn was meritoriously advanced to Petty Officer Third Class.

“It is great to be recognized for the work you do,” said Alisea. “I also learned on areas I can improve as well. Be prepared, don’t be scared to fail, that’s where some of life’s best lessons come from.”

Cubangbang agreed with Alisea that these awards are personal honors that also reflect on that challenges we face to achieve them and the ways we can grow.

“Winning is fun, but I believe that in the military if you received an award, it’s an affirmation,” said Cubangbang. “It means that your chain of command appreciates what you do. Every award I have received is a confirmation of something I have done and that motivates me to push harder.”

MMCS Richard Hill, left, and EMCS Veronica Mikulewicz, right, pin Third Class collar devices on AT3 Elizabeth Orsburn during a promotion ceremony, Oct. 5. Orsburn was the fourth NPS Sailor to be promoted through the Navy’s Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP). (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tom Tonthat)
Marine FASNCOs Bridge Experience With NPS Coursework

By MC2 Tom Tonthat

During a lecture on the history of Turkey, a Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) professor describes an environment of tension and conflict. For U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. Bruce Villasenor, it sounded eerily similar to his own experiences while stationed overseas, en route to the U.S. Embassy in Istanbul.

“I traveled from Istanbul to Ankara for [weapons qualifications] training,” said Villasenor. “As we were driving back, we got a phone call from the embassy’s post one detachment commander. He said, ‘Don’t come back to the embassy ... We were literally five minutes from the gate.”

Villasenor is a departure from the typical NPS student, but as a Foreign Area Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (FASNCO), he is eligible to take part in a program the provides senior Marine NCOs with an opportunity to attend a graduate-level certificate program at the university.

The FASNCO program provides Marines with the tools needed to bridge relationships between the United States and its allies abroad by providing language, regional expertise, and cultural (LREC) education opportunities based on the regions they will be deploying to.

“The program allows us two quarters to take as many courses as we can to complete a certificate depending on which region we’re assigned after completion,” said Villasenor.

He was selected to undergo FASNCO training for the sub-Saharan Africa region because of his familiarity with the culture, as he had served there before. He spent a few months in Senegal to immerse himself in the French language before becoming a student at NPS to study the history and culture of the region he would be responsible for.

“When a professor is talking about topics such as Africa’s interactions between the population and government, challenges with education, and extreme poverty from neglected or mismanaged funds, I feel that I'm able to get a deeper understanding and appreciation because I've been there and saw this firsthand,” said Villasenor.

NPS Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

By MC2 Tom Tonthat

EMCS Veronica Mikulewicz speaks during the National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration held by the NPS Heritage Committee on the Herrmann Hall patio, Oct. 11. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tom Tonthat)

Great food and a salsa-making competition brought the NPS community to the patio outside Herrmann Hall to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, Oct. 11.

EMCS Veronica Mikulewicz served as guest speaker for the event, sharing the importance of family, culture and tradition.

“Some of our most cherished traditions are shared through food, art and music,” said Mikulewicz. “To enhance our traditions as Hispanics is to share our stories and continue our journey with you.”

Navy Capt. Mike Ward, NPS Chief of Staff, set the stage for the event, acknowledging the importance of diversity to attendees.

“Diversity is a key part of our Navy and it’s important that we bring people from all walks of life for a common purpose,” said Ward. “Together, we’re better. We’re more effective and we’re better warfighters on behalf of the nation.”

Ward judged the competition and gave ET1 Jenn Macaya’s spicy salsa the winning vote.

The Naval Postgraduate School Heritage Committee organizes these events to celebrate the diverse heritage around us.

“The United States is not just built of one particular nation,” said NPS Heritage Committee member Jenny Stevens. “It’s built with people from many countries who come here to follow their dream to better themselves and their families.”


The WIC is a coordinated effort to execute a series of cross-campus educational and research activities that share a central theme, this year focused on the application of emerging technologies in future cross-domain operations.

The event brought together NPS students and other participants with seasoned mentors from across the fleet, industry and academia to explore in detail this futuristic scenario of naval warfighting.

“What we wanted to do was create an environment where we combined early career engineers with our own officers and put them in a setting where they would access, using subject matter and technical expertise, the value of the technology we would present to them,” said NPS Chair of Systems Engineering Analysis retired Navy Capt. Jeff Kline.

“What happened was, we ended up with a unique blend that uses the techniques of wargames and design thinking, as well as base concept development, and the synergy that has occurred is fantastic,” Kline added.

The workshop’s keynote address entitled “Crossing the Valley of Death” – a colorful title referring to the challenge of bringing innovative ideas to market – was delivered by Vice President of Defense Acquisition University (DAU), retired Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley.

As Vice President of DAU, Kelley oversees the development and expansion of the DAU curriculum in alignment with the DOD’s goal of creating a primary learning institution for acquisition.

Send your campus news and notes to update@nps.edu.
Service members and supporters from across the Peninsula gathered in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom, Oct. 13, in celebration of the Navy's 243rd birthday. Attendees were treated to a rousing address by local Congressman Jimmy Panetta, as he paid respect to the service and the many Sailors in the room.

"It is an absolute honor to be here as we celebrate 243 years that the Sailors of the U.S. Navy have not only flown the flag, but have served, fought and sacrificed to never give up any ship," said Panetta.

Panetta himself served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 2003-2011 before transitioning to civic service.

"This is my home and it always will be," said Panetta. "Every Sunday night, we would go to dinner at my grandfather’s house, and my father would ask my grandfather why he would take such risk in coming here from Italy. His response was simple, to give his children a better life."

In closing his remarks, Panetta took the time to express his thanks to NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, for his own service to the Navy, nation and to NPS.

"Your time here was exemplary of your career," he said, "as you furthered the prosperity of the Naval Postgraduate School."

In 1972, then Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of October 13 as the Navy’s birthday.
Fellow Students,

I hope that your studies are going well and that you are prepared to face the upcoming midterms. The student council has also been hard at work. We have compiled and analyzed all responses to the Student Experience Survey in order to prepare a succinct yet inclusive report for student consumption. Once again, we are grateful for the candid feedback.

In other news, Discover NPS Day was a total success. The event was executed flawlessly and this is due largely to the outstanding pool of student volunteers. Thank you for your involvement in the event and for sharing your wisdom with the new generation.

The PSC is also ushering a new generation of members and leaders committed to improving the student experience at NPS. Capt Angelica Silva-Garza and I have been honored to represent NPS students thus far and now look forward to handing the rudder of the PSC to our successors. We would like to extend our gratitude to past school leads and representatives for their hard work and dedication. Additionally, we wish the team success as they look towards the 110th anniversary of the establishment of NPS.

If you would like to be involved in the Student Council, please feel free to reach out to school leads or representatives. As always, the PSC is standing by, ready to help. We can be reached at PSC@nps.edu or via your school representative.

Sincerely,
Capt. I. Benjamin Collier, USAF
Historical Highlights

From the very beginning, the “Navy’s University” at Monterey called for a serious research library. At first, it was the ex-Hotel Del Monte’s famed La Novia Room that served to supply a stream of technical reports for NPS researchers, but as early as 1953, an official “Fact Sheet” was able to point to a “Reference Library” that offered thousands of books, reports and “scientific Government publications” to the campus, as well as a “Technical Text Library” comprised of some 70,000 textbooks. From its location in Herrmann Hall, the library collection would be temporarily moved to Root Hall in 1954. It would be 18 years before the move to the new “state of the art” Dudley Knox Library building we know today. This month we’d like to share a surprisingly lovely picture we ran across in the archives. Taken by an unknown photographer sometime in the 1960s, it shows the NPS library as it was, at twilight, back when it was located in Root Hall.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.