Provost Applauds Summer Graduates

by Kenneth A. Stewart

NPS bade farewell to 384 graduating students from every branch of military service, including 28 foreign officers from 10 nations, earning 387 graduate degrees, during the Summer Quarter Commencement Ceremony in the university’s King Auditorium, Sept. 23.

Dr. Steven R. Lerman, recently named NPS Provost and Academic Dean, served as guest speaker at the ceremony. In Lerman’s first formal address to the NPS community, he focused on what he calls “four key, transformational elements” that he believes have changed society for the better – legitimate governance, innovation, effective collaboration, and the one element that he argues allows the others to work, education.

“Whether there is a constitution or some other body of common law, having a widely-accepted set of rules and procedures that is seen by the vast majority of citizens as reflecting the legitimate will of the people is an essential element for societal success,” said Lerman.

“Education provides the foundation upon which all else rests.”

— NPS Provost Dr. Steven R. Lerman

In Lerman’s view, legitimate governance founded on laws that reflect the will of the governed create the conditions by which his second transformational element can be achieved, innovation.

“In general, societies that innovate, thrive. Those that don’t, fail,” explained Lerman.

Lerman’s third transformational element is one that he describes as “less widely acknowledged or accepted … but nevertheless significant.” He contends that the transformative element of effective collaboration can be measured by a society’s ability to ensure and embrace diversity.

“Societies that fail to do this risk becoming paralyzed by their inability to create a workable consensus. Even worse, they may fragment entirely, sometimes with violent, chaotic results,” Lerman said.

Finally, Lerman demonstrated the means by which education makes the various transformative elements possible, noting that all of them rely upon an educated populace that is capable of making informed decisions about leadership and policies.

“It is precisely the type of education you have received here at NPS that enables the three positive forces – legitimate rule of law, innovation, and collaboration of diverse individuals – to work effectively,” Lerman said. “Education provides the foundation upon which all else rests.”
Beloved NPS Professor to Retire After 53 Years

By Kenneth A. Stewart

NPS Professor and longtime Space Systems Academic Group Chair Rudy Panholzer was honored at a retirement ceremony on the Quarterdeck of Herrmann Hall, Sept. 27. Panholzer has been an iconic member of the NPS faculty for 53 years.

As a young man in his native Austria, Panholzer used to stand and look at an atlas of America where he would dream of finding a place across the ocean that combined his love for the sea and the mountains. He found that place, at least on the map, in California. But that young Austrian could hardly have anticipated the send off he received in Central California more than a half century later.

Dozens of well-wishers including astronauts, colleagues, former students, employees and family members crowded the Quarterdeck to share stories and retell the many moments that Panholzer touched their lives and impacted their careers. First to the podium was NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route.

“Your enthusiasm and dedication to the field of space exploration continues to be an inspiration to NPS colleagues and all of the many students who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with you. I look forward to your continued association with us and our students as an emeritus professor,” said Route.

Distinguished Professor Herschel Loomis read a note from retired Rear Adm. Thomas Betterton to Panholzer that read, “I am fortunate to have known and worked with Rudy for a major portion of his time at NPS. The growth and well-deserved reputation of the Space Systems Academic Group is directly attributed to his dedication and perseverance. Rudy’s influence and direct impact on many of our national space systems cannot be overstated. His legacy will endure.”

Professors Jim Newman, Sherif Michael, Clay Moltz and Distinguished Professor Michael Ross, among others, recalled everything from Panholzer’s long relationship with NASA to his longevity, personal moments shared at conferences, and his ability to build a community all while touting the “amazing impact he had on our lives.”

Moltz noted that if he “accomplished half of what Rudy has accomplished [at NPS]” that his career would be a success, and former astronaut Daniel Bursch stated that he would “always proudly be one of Rudy’s astronauts.”

In his typically unassuming manner, Panholzer expressed his gratitude for the many accolades heaped upon him and attempted to deflect some of the praise to his colleagues and staff.

“I’d like to meet the guy you are talking about. All of those accomplishments could not have been due to the work of one person - indeed they were not,” said Panholzer. “I am facing this transition with mixed emotions, with ‘one smiling eye and one crying eye.’”

But perhaps it was Panholzer’s son Gaudenz Panholzer whose emotional tribute to his father best summed up his father’s time at NPS.

“This place has been part of our family for 53 years. I remember going to his office and sorting wires, attending nursery school and spending summer days swimming in the pool here,” he said. “My father stayed because this place became part of our family.”

Panholzer agrees. When asked about his greatest accomplishment at NPS he did not cite the launching of satellites, or the creation, promotion and maintenance of six sponsored, externally-funded professorships, or the partnerships he fostered with NASA and the German Armed forces. It was being a part of the NPS family and his contributions to it that he takes the most pride in.

“It’s not the projects or the labs. It’s the people. It’s the flood of people that I’ve worked with and who have touched my life,” said Panholzer. “NPS is just three letters … What matters is the people. There are a lot of ties that you cannot see when it comes to my family at NPS.”

Panholzer will become a professor emeritus and will not be giving up the office that he has occupied for the last 53 years any time soon. He insists that he still has a lot of work to do, not to mention a bucket list that includes travel and time with his family.

“I am not just going to fade into the background. As an emeritus there are several projects that I would like to see through to their completion … I would like to stay involved, to a certain degree, with happenings in space and with space engineering, especially our work with NPSAT1 whose launch was delayed for a year. I will definitely be there when NPSAT1 is launched next year from the Cape,” he said.

We wish him the best. Onward and upward, Rudy!

“Update NPS” is a monthly publication for students, faculty and staff of the Naval Postgraduate School produced by the Public Affairs Office. For additional copies, comments, or to suggest story ideas, contact the editorial staff at pao@nps.edu.
NPS’ Undersea Warfare Chair retired Rear Adm. Jerry Ellis, far left, and NPS Research Assistant Professor John Joseph, far right, are pictured with NPS international students on the roof of Halligan Hall, Aug. 30. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Victoria Ochoa)
FDNY Chief Offers Emotional 9/11 Tribute

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security student, Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) Battalion Chief Kevin Harrison addressed students, faculty and staff after placing a wreath on the 9/11 Memorial during a commemoration ceremony in remembrance of the 15th anniversary of 9/11 at NPS’ Centennial Park, Sept. 12.

“Thank you for taking some time to honor and commemorate 9/11. It’s been 15 years since that fateful day. In some ways, it’s been a blink of an eye, in other ways it feels like 100 years,” said Harrison.

Harrison was at home preparing for a promotional exam with some his fellow firemen on 9/11 when for the first time ever, the New York City Fire Department recalled everyone.

“We responded into New York City, which was a blur of activity. Everything blended together … lots of information, rumors and news, some good but a lot bad,” recalled Harrison. “But through those early days, you could feel it. You could feel the slow deliberate resolve building. We would recover somehow, someway.

“From the day following the attack, FDNY seemed to have the support of the entire country behind it,” said Harrison.

“The NYC Fire Department is probably one of the best prepared, equipped and trained homeland security assets in the country,” he continued. “It was awe inspiring to see the help that we received.”

Now 15 years later, Harrison says the department continues to be the beneficiary of tremendous support from the general public.

“I pledge both personally, and for my agency, that in your time of need, in your dark hour, the New York City Fire Department will be there for you. My hope is that we can maintain and demonstrate the high level of help and aid that you gave us,” he said.

Chaplain’s Lecture Series Highlights Differences Between Culture, Religion

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

Naval Support Activity Monterey Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. John Van Dyke kicked off the latest chaplain’s lecture series in Glasgow Hall, Sept. 9. This initial offering of the 10-month series featured a discussion on the relationship between culture and religion.

“One of the big purposes of this series is to get people from different programs and departments across campus to engage with one another,” said Van Dyke. “We’re trying to foster dialogue and cultural engagement across the campus.”

Van Dyke says he believes that there is a payoff from respectful dialogue between varying parties that comes from getting away from one’s comfort zone and he hopes that the lecture will expand in the future, with a broader base of views to enrich the discussion.

“It’s way too easy for people to surround themselves with people who agree with them, who think the way they think,” he said. “This is open to everybody.”

“The lecture series is meant to engage the students on campus, we would love to have faculty and staff involved with this as well. This is a way to reach out to the entire community,” Van Dyke continued.
The Physicist and the Poet

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

Dudley Knox Library recently hosted an informal conversation on science and poetry featuring NPS Distinguished Professor of Physics Dr. Bill Colson and renowned poet Peter Thabit Jones moderated by retired attorney and local arts patron, Patricia Holt.

The conversation delved into how the very different fields of poetry and physics could be integrated.

“If we are to explore other places in the universe, why not have a poet onboard?” asked Jones. “Why not capture the literary truth of such a space exploration experience, as well as the scientific truth? … Imagine if a poet had gone to the moon with Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins.”

During the conversation, Colson and Jones discussed how poetry and physics are interconnected in ways that are not apparent at first, and how both fields can be merged to work in conjunction seamlessly.

“I have a proposal for the future to better connect our worlds,” said Colson. “Peter and I should work together to convey a physics concept through poetry; I will try to contribute accuracy and clarity, while Peter will give it beauty and deeper meaning.”

Both physicist and poet demonstrated their need to expand their horizons to better themselves, and their craft.

“To succeed, poets don’t need physics, and physicists don’t need poetry,” said Colson. “However, both can benefit from understanding the beauty of the other, and it is probably the individual who makes the effort to appreciate both that benefits the most.”

Colson offered an example in nature that could inspire both the physicist and poet within their respective fields.

“While laying on the beach at sunset, see the sun disappear just over the horizon, then stand up and you can see it disappear again 10 seconds later,” said Colson. “Using your height and this time difference, you can calculate the radius of the earth. This example captures some of the fascination and wonder of physics.”

GWC Reaches Out to Students

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

NPS Associate Professor of National Security Affairs Zachary Shore recently addressed NPS students, faculty and staff during a Graduate Writing Center (GWC) Workshop in King Auditorium, Sept. 27.

The GWC center provides students with a series of workshops to help them develop grammar, structure, and logic skills while completing courses at NPS.

“The writing coaches cover the nuts and bolts of writing,” said Shore. “It’s going to help you to save time and it’s also going to give you a lot of power to get your ideas noticed.”

Students have not always been so lucky. There was a time when students were forced to look for outside writing assistance. Thankfully, students today have more resources available, which allows them to focus more on their research and less on grammar.

“Years ago there wasn’t a GWC to help students with their writing. I found that paradoxical because faculty always complained that students couldn’t write. There was resistance to setting up an institutionalized center where students could get help with their writing,” said Senior Lecturer in Defense Analysis George Lober.

GWC coaches have the training and experience necessary to help students organize their ideas, develop an outline, prepare citations, manage the writing process, and overcome writer’s block. For more information visit the GWC located in the Dudley Knox Library.

NPS Meteorology and Oceanography student, and past President’s Student Council Chair, Lt. Cmdr. Colleen McDonald is the recipient of the Summer Quarter’s Superior Service Award, one of 18 awardees honored for their academic, research and service achievements during the Summer Quarter Awards Ceremony, Sept. 13.

“That those who volunteer, myself included, do not do it for the recognition, and so most people have no idea how you spend your free time,” said McDonald. “It’s so nice to be recognized for all the things you do on a normal basis.”

In addition to her time as Chair of the President’s Student Council, McDonald volunteered at the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, mentored students through the Motivating Others Through Outreach program, and organized and attended NPS’ student painting of Dorothy’s Kitchen, a homeless shelter in Salinas, all while completing her graduate degree.

“It’s been an honor to get involved in the community and on campus over these past two years,” said McDonald. “I came away learning so much more than I could have hoped.”

Send your campus news and notes to update@nps.edu.
First MDA Cohort Graduates from NPS

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

NPS’ Department of Systems Engineering (SE) graduated its first cohort from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) during NPS’ 2016 Summer Quarter Graduation Ceremony, Sept. 23.

The MDA cohort, comprised of distance learning students from several different fields, worked together on a capstone project titled, “MDA Ballistic Missile Defense System-of-Systems Modeling and Simulation Needs and Gaps.”

“The professors were very knowledgeable and helpful. We were able to relate to them because they worked in the same field,” said NPS student Theron McCray whose work centers on Aegis operational capacity. “They understood the challenges we have at the MDA.”

Attending the commencement ceremony were MDA Deputy Director for Engineering Dennis Mayes and Director for Engineering and Career Development Dr. Pamela Knight. They worked closely with the SE department to develop the curriculum.

“NPS is one of the best systems engineering programs around. [Associate Chairman for Distributed Programs and Outreach Dr. Walter] Owen was great. He was flexible, doing what we needed because we are a very high op-tempo organization,” said Knight.

“[MDA] is the largest system of systems that I have ever seen and we are going to have more systems engineering as a result of this cohort graduating. This enables us to look around and hire other engineering disciplines, like software engineering, and build the systems engineering knowledge they need,” she added.

Mayes agrees. He is currently focused on matching his graduates with positions suited to their newfound capabilities.

“What I plan to do is look at what their curriculum was and where our critical needs are. We are always looking to train great engineers … and with what they have learned, put them in critical locations so they can lead the way,” said Mayes.

NPS Department of Systems Engineering Professor and Chair Ronald Giachetti is proud of the work that his faculty and students are accomplishing in the increasingly important field of systems engineering.

“We are proud to be one of only two graduate level degrees accredited in systems engineering. We now have 20 students in the PhD program,” said Giachetti. “They start out with the certificate program with some students continuing on to the full master’s degree.”

He is also proud of his program’s mix of resident and distance learning.

“We are leaders in delivering distance learning education at the graduate level. The SE department’s distance learning program is three to four times larger than our residence population, about 500 students as opposed to the 100 resident students we have in Monterey,” Giachetti said.

Focus On … Hospitality

A Monthly Look at Names and Faces on Campus

Zsuzsanna Alexandru has been proudly working at the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites for “two years and three weeks.”

She started as a front desk associate, then became front desk lead. She is now the Group Reservations Coordinator. Her increased responsibilities attest to her organizational skills, courteous manner, and her desire to excel. She’s now in charge of making reservations for groups as large as 150.

“I have developed great relationships working with NPS’ administrative staff, who bring world leaders and the highest ranking military officials to Monterey,” said Alexandru.

Alexandru is methodical and loves to pay attention to detail in everything she does.

“I love structure. I’m one of those people that likes to keep things organized … I guess I’m a bit meticulous,” she said.

Alexandru’s diverse background and language skills, she speaks an impressive five languages, makes her particularly well-suited to her position.

“I grew up in Brasov, Transylvania as an ethnic Hungarian until I was 27. In my particular school, children were still being taught German. Later I studied English,” said Alexandru. “I’ve grown tremendously at Gateway Inns and I have also gained huge confidence within the team.”

Zsuzsanna Alexandru
Thank you to those of you who participated in the recent Student Experience Survey. The results reflected an overall satisfaction with the student experience here at NPS, but also highlighted several areas in need of improvements. Now that the results are in, the President’s Student Council (PSC) will sort, group, and address these issues over the next few months. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please utilize your school representatives or send a message through the PSC suggestion box on the intranet.

For those who are interested in innovation or getting involved with innovation within the Department of Defense, several opportunities are currently available. Professor Peter Denning and Marine Corps Col. Todd Lyons will be conducting a seminar throughout the quarter to address why our success rate at innovation is only four percent and will be asking what we can do to improve it. Also, registration is now open at Stanford University’s Hoover Institute for the Defense Entrepreneur’s Forum at Silicon Valley (DEFxSV), which begins October 12. Get involved.

If a student group or faculty would like to announce an event, please let me know so I can assist in advertising. Ball season is coming up, so I know there will be several fund raising events being organized. Additionally, there will be an increasing number of volunteer opportunities, particularly during Veterans Day and the holiday season. If you send me the information for these events, I will add them to the monthly announcements.

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

October 4
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
12:00 p.m. in front of Herrmann Hall

October 6
Newcomers Welcome Aboard Fair
6:00 p.m. in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom

October 14
Fall Fun Run
3:00 p.m. in front of Herrmann Hall

October 15
241st Navy Birthday Ball
6:00 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel

October 10
Columbus Day

October 31
Halloween

Historical Highlights

With the command “Storozhevoy!” [all ahead full] a Soviet Krivak Class Destroyer stealthily slipped from her berth in the early hours of November, 8 1975. It was an act of mutiny.

NPS Department of National Security Affairs student Lt. Gregory D. Young, searched public records and interviewed “those persons who have any knowledge concerning the mutiny that occurred aboard a naval vessel in Riga in 1975” for his 1982 thesis entitled, “Mutiny on Storozhevoy: a case study of dissent in the Soviet Navy.”

Young’s thesis inspired Tom Clancy’s, “The Hunt for Red October,” which was published in 1984 and later made into a Hollywood movie. Young retired from the Navy, earned a PhD and is currently a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Colorado. He expanded upon the tales in his book, “The Last Sentry: the true story that inspired the Hunt for Red October,” published in 2005.

(Image ©2005 reprinted with permission of Naval Institute Press)

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.