It was nearly one year ago, Memorial Day's in the Air, that the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) embarked on its Centennial Celebration. Throughout the course of this journey, there have been countless notable events celebrating the university’s landmark achievements — a century of Excellence in Education. While that voyage is nearing its conclusion, it will close with a plethora of festivities during the upcoming Reunion Weekend and Centennial Celebration, May 27–31, as NPS Celebrates the Past, Defines the Future.

On Thursday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. President Daniel Oliver will present the State of the School Address in King Auditorium followed by an NPS Centennial Tribute presented by the Alumni Relations Office. The academic quad in the center Spreuce Plaza is host to the next event, where at 11:30 a.m. the school will dedicate its Centennial Time Capsule, the contents of which will offer a hand-on look at what life was like on campus, in the community, in the nation and globally in 2010. Memorabilia collected from faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the community, which will be stored and protected within the gas-treated air - and water-tight time capsule, the contents of which will offer a hand-on look at what life was like on campus, in the community, in the nation and globally in 2010. Memorabilia collected from faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends can also be submitted individually to be included in the time capsule to be opened at a later date. (U.S. Navy photo by Steve Hildebrandt/Released.)

By Joan Ackerman

Come One, Come All to the Centennial Finale!

The capsule will be buried on June 9, the university’s 100-year anniversary. As for the future, surfers know “The Seventh Wave” is the biggest. With the new rip current paradigm, it looks like MacMahan has caught his “Big One” and that his research will be making waves for a long time to come.

By Barbara Homay

Research Revolutionizes Understanding of Rip Currents

In surf zones near the Naval Postgraduate School and around the world, NPS Oceanography Assistant Professor Jamie MacMahan is quietly revolutionizing the understanding of rip currents, turning them from a swimmer’s worst nightmare into a friend.

In This Issue:

• The three subcommittees created for the three themes of the WASC reaccreditation effort have been working on the first draft of the Educational Effectiveness Review, which has been reviewed by the Strategic Planning Council. The report will be made available to the entire campus for review prior to its submission to WASC in July.

• The Defense Resources Management Institute (DRMI) Field Studies Program (FSP) Office and the NPS Staff Development Council are offering a Cross-cultural Communications course for 30 staff on May 13-14, taught by Charlie Osburn, DRMI FSP Manager and Alan Howard, Global Policy Public Academic Group Senior Program Manager. To register, contact Laura Cole at lacole@nps.edu.

• An “All Hands Cybersecurity and Privacy Refresher Training” - a 90-minute session for all of the ERN/ eda that will satisfy the five-hour required online annual refresher training, will be offered Tuesday, May 25 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. and Thursday, June 20 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Glasgow Hall Room 102.

• For security purposes, the Del Monte gate is now open at night from 4:00 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. the following day. The 9th Street/Soquel Ave. gate is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Pass and ID office is now open weekdays only from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

• NPS will host the 68th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway on Saturday, June 21. Retired Army Col. Professor Jon Czarniecki, who teaches Joint Maritime Operations at NPS, will speak on “The Heart of Command: Chester Nimitz at Midway.” Reservations are now open and can be made at the MWR IIT Office or at www.nps.edu/midway. POC is Lt. Brad Thompson at bthompson@nps.edu.
A Message From Provost and Exec. Vice Pres. Leonard A. Ferrari

The Naval Postgraduate School is a truly unique combination of cultures – I cannot think of any organization that is quite the blend of defense department organization and high-level academia. We are fortunate that our university has such a clear and concise mission to guide us, and that we are truly driven by that mission.

Ask any academic, and they will tell you the importance of having a solid infrastructure within the fabric of education – they are intrinsically inseparable. But there are times when we need to be reminded about why we give up so much of ourselves to the effort of research. In the simplest of terms, research fulfills the mission-critical needs of the Departments of Defense and Navy as well as our allies, enhancing our national security. But its benefits exist so far beyond this one crucial element. Research recruits world-class faculty; it is a constant and unrelenting safeguard to the quality of our curricula; and it meets the accrediting standards that require our faculty to remain on the cutting-edge of their given fields.

At NPS, faculty should and do have the academic freedom to pursue relevant research in support of the school’s mission. Research funds are requested through an array of investigators with expertise in areas reflected on research funding proposals and Broad Agency Announcements. Programs and projects are screened and reviewed by Chairs, Deans, and the Vice President of Research to ensure academic rigor and relevant results. Because most research is reimbursable, funded and supported by the Department of Defense or the national security enterprise, only space and time – not funding – dictate the extent of research produced at our university. Without the variety of reimbursable programs at the school, the advancements in our super-secret projects would go to waste, and research would be relegated to those with less expertise.

Nowhere else but at NPS is a university truly driven by that mission...