NPS Redoubles Commitment to Human Subjects Research

As a result of recommendations made through the process of Assurance – which certifies that an institution complies with the requirements set forth in the federal regulations for the protection of human subjects – in May 2009 the university redoubled its commitment to human subjects and ethics research by establishing a dedicated Institutional Review Board (IRB) Chair and a full-time administrative assistant.

Formerly a position of collateral duty in Operations Research, the Chair of the IRB is now Dr. Angela O’Dea, who oversees the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) at NPS. Joining Dr. O’Dea is her assistant, Ms. Rikki Panis, and an 11-member volunteer Operations Research, the Chair of the IRB is responsible for the protection of volunteers research subjects from research risk is a distributed fairly.

Responsibility for the protection of volunteer research subjects from research risk is a distributed fairly. All individuals and mandates special protection for those persons with diminished autonomy; beneficence, which entails an obligation to respect the personal dignity and autonomy of individuals; and justice, which requires that the benefits and burdens be distributed fairly.

Responsibility for the protection of volunteer research subjects from research risk is a distributed fairly. The School has new collateral pieces to use in its marketing efforts, the NPS Viewbook along with a 15-minute DVD, which provide an overview of NPS itself and its status and its ability to maintain Assurance. In addition, an increasing number of academic journals now require IRB review and approval prior to publishing.

In the past, new collaborative initiatives – faculty recruitment and expansion of programs, research and teaching capabilities at NPS – both President Oliver and Provost Ferrari recommended that NPS produce its own viewbook, thereby launching the seven-month effort.

What distinguishes viewbooks from other marketing materials is that they describe, in a visual way, the essence of a university, its faculty, students and programs. An external company specializing in viewbooks began the effort for NPS by holding extensive background interviews with campus leaders and arranging for focus groups comprised of students, alumni, deans, faculty and community leaders. Transcripts of all interviews were produced and reviewed by each School and department. The resulting information formed the basis for the text of the NPS Viewbook.

NPS has new collateral pieces to use in its marketing efforts, the NPS Viewbook along with a 15-minute DVD, which provide an overview of NPS today and a look toward its future. Together, these two materials outline the story of NPS in a fresh new way, one that is certain to appeal across the spectrum of the School’s audiences.

The School has marketing tools that focus on specifics, such as the Fact Sheet, Research overview and other brochures. In addition, NPS has available a tri-fold brochure which gives an ex-planatory overview of the campus. Both President Oliver and Provost Ferrari felt that NPS also needed a recruitment and marketing tool specifically designed for potential students and faculty. Based on the viewbooks from peer institutions and other research organizations, and in keeping with their initiatives – faculty recruitment and retention, recognizing impending federal work-place labor shortages due to retirements, and the expansion of programs, research and teaching capabilities at NPS – both President Oliver and Provost Ferrari recommended that NPS produce its own viewbook, thereby launching the seven-month effort.

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Famed Naval photographer Brian Wolff visited NPS for three days, and shot stunning aerial photographs as well as all around the campus. The high-resolution photos have been added to the School’s photo gallery.

The new NPS DVD is a 15-minute compilation of interviews with campus leaders, faculty and NPS supporters such as Mr. Leon Panetta, Director of the CIA, and General Michael Hagee, retired 33rd USMC Commandant, who shares how NPS impacted his career.

Copies of both the NPS Viewbook and the DVD have been sent to Department of Navy, Department of Defense and Pentagon officials, Navy Flag Officers, the presidents and provosts of the top 100 research universities, local and community leaders and the NPS Board of Advisors. To obtain a copy of the NPS Viewbook and/or DVD, please contact Mr. Alan Richmond, Director of Marketing and Community Relations at Ext. 3649.

In Brief:

• Led by Professor Oleg Yakimenko, a team of NPS students from the department of Mechanical and Astronautical Engineering (MAE) won First Place at the AIAA Propulsion Rocket Launch at Koxon Lake, near California City, Calif. GSEAS and the AIAA Point Lobos section co-sponsored two NPS teams, one from MAE and the other from Systems Engineering. All eight teams were required to assemble their rockets, work out their weights and balance, and the other from Systems Engineering. All eight teams were required to assemble their rockets, work out their weights and balance, and the other from Systems Engineering.

• Spannagle building manager Kenny Yuber supervised an Alumni Relations-sponsored cleanup – providing trash and recycling receptacles, bins for batteries and toners, and manpower to haul excess furniture, equipment, tech equipment, etc., making safer, cleaner and greener working and learning spaces for users of the building.

• This Fall, eight civilian students will enroll in master’s and doctoral programs at NPS under the DoD-sponsored Science, Mathematics, And Research for Transformation (SMART) program, bringing the total number of students in this program to 10. The students will be working towards degrees in Computer Science (3), Electrical Engineering (3), Mechanical Engineering (1), Astronautical Engineering (1), MOVES (1), and Operations Research (1). If you know top-caliber engineer, science, mathematics or analysis students who would like to participate in this Scholarship-for-Service program, please invite them to apply at www.ayera.org/SMART.

• While the larger section of Lot P (HOV lot) located closest to Hermann Hall will remain HOV parking only from 0700-1200, the section closest to the boiler plant is now open parking. This lot, with a separate entrance/exit from the HOV lot, allows parking for 26 vehicles and is located close to the library and academic buildings. There are also eight additional HOV spots located at the end of Meiners Loop adjacent to Lot A1. The motorcycle parking area by the boiler house has been upgraded, providing support parking for motorcycles. Motorcycleists are strongly encouraged to use designated motorcycle spots and not to park in spaces designated for vehicles.

New Arsenal for Marketing NPS

August 2009

Navy Postgraduate School Monterey, California

Rikki Panis

Angela O’Dea

www.nps.edu/research/IRB.htm, also posted on the Student Information Page.

Dr. O’Dea welcomes thesis students and/or faculty to drop by her office in Halligan Hall 285 or to contact her at Ext. 1966 if they have questions about human subjects or ethics research. Although it is currently being updated, another good resource for learning about the processes and responsibilities involved in human subjects and ethics research at NPS is the IRB Web site which can be found at: http://www.nps.edu/research/IRB.htm, also posted on the Student Information Page.

In This Issue: New Arsenal for Marketing NPS, Message from Provost, Air and Space Week Recap

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
We have much to celebrate at NPS in the areas of faculty and staff professional development, initiatives that are important not only in meeting the strategic goals of NPS, but also as we prepare for the next and last stage in our accreditation process, the Educational Effectiveness Review in 2010. Academic Affairs has expanded professional development programs and services for faculty and formalized a program, Promote Excellence in Teaching to Advance Learning (PETAL), the initiatives of which include courses, seminar programs, personalized consultations, resources for educational effectiveness and assessments and the Compass Series, an orientation program that features first-year services to welcome and support faculty new to teaching and NPS. Twenty-three faculty sought periodic development and planning courses through instructional coaching, piloted in fall quarter 2009. During the spring quarter, a session of Interactive Teaching and Learning was offered for resident faculty. The session was designed as a practicum to introduce educational research, theory, instructional practices for teaching, learning and assessments. Faculty can then apply this knowledge to courses that are developed for resident, blended and distributed learning platforms. In fall and summer 2010, results and recommendations will be shared after six courses are selected for a research pilot designed to collect data primarily related to course migration into Sakai, an open-source alternative to Blackboard that was developed by Stanford, MIT, Michigan, Indiana and Minnesota and is now in use at over 300 higher educational institutions in the U.S. The Staff Development Advisory Committee hosted training in conjunction with the April Federally Employed Women’s Conference, (FEW) and sponsored a training in July, “Business Grammar and Proofreading” and “Administrative Professional’s Study Skills” with the guidance of the National Business Schools. The Committee will be conducting a SharePoint training at NPS, is currently working on developing a multicultural training for the staff, and will also brief the staff about the elections for the new members of the Council. In addition, in conjunction with HRD, the Council has rewritten the Wellness instruction to include both health and education, and was the origin of the Academic Development instruction, which now includes the new process for applying as a staff employee to NPS. Thank you to all who are working on these important initiatives and committees. Your efforts are invaluable to us and appreciated by the entire campus.

Announcements

On August 7, 2009, just a day after the IG inspection is complete, Col. David Smarsh will be turning over his responsibilities in advance of his official retirement on December 1, 2009 from a successful career serving in the United States Air Force.

Appointed to his post in July 2003, Col. Smarsh currently serves at NPS in three capacities: as Senior Military Assistant to the President, to the Military Element – a title issued in December 2007 via a Memorandum by the Vice Chief of Naval Operations – and Chief of Staff. Col. Smarsh also served NPS as Interim President prior to President Oliver’s arrival, and prior to regionalization, Col. Smarsh was responsible for overseeing base activities. Colonel Smarsh has been a Commander four times throughout his career, and values as his legacy the persistent practice of doing the right thing.” He also has strong academic credentials – a doctorate and three master’s degrees. His hopes for the School are that it continues to be a relevant, flexible and the premier provider for graduate education and research for our military services. Recognizing the contributions of so many who have helped him to achieve success, Col. Smarsh would like to extend his thanks “to all at NPS for their dedication, support and teamwork.” Colonel Smarsh’s successor will be Col. Peter Boerlage, USAF.

Col. Bob Chambers, Deputy Dean of Students, has retired from the Navy, and has accepted a position as the Senior Naval Science Instructor (NJROTC) at Alvara HS in Salinas.

Ms. Tele Long has accepted a position with the FAQ program. Mr. Phil Gonda, Cmdre., USN, (ret.) has assumed the duties as the Executive Assistant for the Dean of Students.

Lt. In Sung Cho, from HSC-28 in Norfolk, Va., has reported aboard as the Deputy Director of Programs.

Faculty Notes

The Rear Admiral John Jay Schieffelin Award for Teaching Excellence was awarded to Prof. Nanci Haged, Department of Physics.


In 1942, McDowell turned his attention to human factors as a member of the secret National Defense Research Committee Project 173-3, a joint Army-Navy program titled, “The Physiological and Psychological Effects of Sound on Men in Warfare.” He also has a key role in a landmark 1943 psychological analysis for crew selection for the new battleship USS New Jersey. The project was later called ‘sustained launch success’ by Dr. Leonard Carmichael, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of Tufts University.

McDowell is student number fifty-five (second row from back, standing by the lamppost) in the 1930 NPS class photo.

Air and Space Week Rocks!

The Alumni Relations and Centennial Headquarters Office will be presenting “NPS Centennial Salute to Aeronautics and Astronautics” during Air and Space Week, from August 4—9, 2009. Events will include: “Wear Your Flight Suit to Work Day” on August 4, an aviation guest lecture “Skunk Works Design Story” on August 5, an Astronaut Symposium on the 6th, Breakfast with the Astronauts on August 7, and concluding with NPS Apostrophe Preciation Day at the Airshow, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

Mrs. Alan Brown, former Director of the NPS Research Program at NPS.

On August 26, 2009, Prof. and Director of the Information Operations Center at NPS, Mr. Phil Gonda, published an article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled “Click, click... counting down to Cyber 9/11”. His latest book is titled “Worst Enemy: The Relentless Transformation of the American Military.”

Historical Highlights

The earliest Naval Postgraduate School student thesis currently held by the Dudley Knox Library was written in 1930 by ordnance engineering student Lt. j.g. P.E. McDowell. His thesis, titled “The Problem of the Eight Inch Cruiser,” was a classic kinetic treatment of offensive firepower.

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