July 2009

In This Issue: Symposium Explores Changes in Defense Acquisition, Celebrating a Culture of Advanced Computing for Academia

By MC2 Kellie Arakawa

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Acquisition Research Program hosted the 6th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium May 13-14 in Monterey, Calif. This year’s theme, “Defense Acquisition in Transition,” addressed pending changes in the acquisition process brought forth by both the new presidential administration and current economic environment.

This year’s symposium addressed the changes taking place within the acquisition field, and opened with a discussion on the “National Security Acquisition Agenda for the New Administration,” led by Former Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) Jacques Ganzler. The forum also included more than 20 different panels and 100 research papers, which covered a myriad of interdisciplinary topics ranging from program and policy analysis to acquisition challenges overseas. In addition to dozens of NPS faculty members, researchers from over 20 other universities participated.

“What makes this symposium unique is that there is no other forum where these senior acquisition professionals can get together and participate in a public discussion like this,” said retired Rear Adm. James Greene, the Acquisition Chair. “We provide the forum for them to not only talk about changes in acquisition, but other internal issues that directly affect the acquisition process.”

Greene also noted that this year, both the President of the United States and members of Congress have expressed high levels of interest for these issues. “Because the President is very focused on DoD’s acquisition processes, and with Congress picking up on this theme as well, the whole DoD acquisition process is going to be in transition,” he said.

Feedback from the symposium has been extremely positive, and Greene described this year’s research papers as “absolutely phenomenal.” The rise in high-quality research reflects the influential economists, his remarks mirror that of many of his colleagues … the students are the best students I’ve ever had,” she said. “This year, the students are the best students I’ve ever had,” she said. “More advanced graduate students, they’re the best students I’ve ever had, but their outstanding motivation doesn’t hurt either.”

Symposium Explores Changes in Defense Acquisition

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University Names Newest Distinguished Professors

By MC2 Kellie Arakawa

Five professors at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) have received the title of “Distinguished Professor” in honor of their significant contributions to the Navy, the university and their respective academies.

Dr. Dorothy Denning of the Defense Analysis Department, Dr. Nancy Haeigel of the Physics Department, Dr. Robert Looney of the Logistics and Technology Department, Dr. Michael Morgan of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and Dr. Kevin Wood of the Operations Research Department, were formally conferred their titles by NPS Provost Dr. Leonard Ferrari at the Spring Quarter Graduation Ceremony in June.

“Title of ‘Distinguished Professor’ is the highest academic honor the Naval Postgraduate School bestows upon its faculty, and I was very pleased to award some of our most accomplished professors their new titles,” Ferrari said. “The significant contributions each of them have made to research are not only a reflection of their individual efforts, but of their departments and our institution as a whole.”

“I love working with my colleagues and over all, these are the best students I’ve ever had,” said Denning, a computer scientist who specializes in cyber warfare, cyberterrorism, and network security. Denning has received some of the most prestigious awards in her field, including the ISSA Hall of Fame Award and Harold F. Tipton Award. She was also recognized as a Security Innovator by Time magazine in 2001.

Haeigel, who also received this year’s Schiefelbein Award for Teaching Excellence, has helped pioneer research on transportation imaging in semiconductors. Her research group has also led the development of an “Identify Friend or Foe” patch, which aims to mitigate fratricide by identifying friendly forces during nighttime operations.

raud [This is an acknowledgement from your peers in your academic community that you’ve made contributions and will continue to do so … that’s very satisfying],” she said of her selection, while also crediting her colleagues in the Physics Department, whom she added are extremely generous with their time and support.

Looney, a researcher and author specializing in Middle East and international economics, has been teaching at NPS since 1979. Once ranked 16th out of the world’s 250 most productive economists, his remarks mirror that of many of his colleagues … the students are the best students I’ve ever had, but their outstanding motivation doesn’t hurt either.”

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“Some of the biggest resources at NPS is the access to real-world problems that come directly from the students,” he explained. “Getting to a civilian university, where you really have to search to find interesting, real-world problems to work on, they just fall into our laps here. Teaching our students has been rewarding because of that … but their outstanding motivation doesn’t hurt either.”

IN BRIEF

• The Fourth Annual America’s Heroes Charity Golf Tournament and Expo will be held at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club on August 11, 2009. The NPS Foundation established the tournament in 2006 to raise funds to assist U.S. troops and veterans. Proceeds, over $1.5 million has been raised. Charities benefiting from this year’s tournament include the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Casualty Assistance Program, Student Loan Scholarship Foundation, and the NPS Foundation. For more information about the tournament, visit www.npsfoundation.org/golf.php.

• Twenty-eight HR Commanders (120X designators) and one civilian HR/Region XI expanded their professional expertise by completing the HR Advanced Course hosted through the HR Center of Excellence in the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP). The 17-day course included instructional modules and practical exercises lead by a combination of Navy Total Force subject experts and GSBPP professors. Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP), participated by video-reconnaissance with Rear Adm. Dan Holloway, N13, speaking in person with the class about Navy personnel management dynamics and pressures associated with the rising cost of manpower. Also participating was former CNP and current NPS President, Vice Adm. Daniel Oliver (Ret.), who conducted a discussion session regarding Navy personnel issues and leadership. From the top to the bottom, the 17-day course, students were exposed to the full array of manpower, personnel, training and recruiting aspects that make up Navy HR work.

• The Naval Inspector General (NAVIG) Command Inspector of the Naval Postgraduate School is scheduled for August 3-7. As part of the inspection, the NAVIG has provided a survey regarding job satisfaction, health and safety, and the overall quality of life at NPS which all military and civilian personnel were encouraged to complete.
While more than a month has passed since the extraordinary Memorial Day celebration that marked the beginning of the Naval Postgraduate School’s Centennial Anniversary, the excitement of this historic milestone can still be felt across the Quad. Perhaps it is the impressive timeline stretching the length of Root Hall or the Centennial banners waving majestically throughout campus that stand as a constant reminder that our university has been impacting the world for 100 years.

Or perhaps it is something else. If you agree with President Oliver and me, the excitement is not born from how long we have been here or what we have done in the past, but rather, what we are doing today and what we will do in the future. I firmly believe that interest is just beginning to scratch the surface of what we are becoming – an academic institution where world-recognized experts in diverse and emerging fields of knowledge are building intellectual vitality into a first-rate educational experience that, in our areas of expertise, rivals that of any university in the country.

We have seen impressive growth in our research programs over the last several years, as well as our commercial contracts. Our research has offered to host a reception in our honor. The Navy funds about 30 percent of our sponsored research programs, and I see this event as an excellent opportunity to expand our relationship with OPR and increase that figure. Throughout the coming weeks, you will certainly hear more about these and upcoming events, and I encourage you all to share your thoughts on how best to tell the story of NPS, the nation’s premier national security research university.

Announcements

By Barbara Honegger

The Naval Postgraduate School’s Information Technology and Communication Services (ITACS) celebrated more than half a century of academic computing with historical presentations, an open house and a ribbon cutting for its new information technology archives and photo gallery as part of Centennial Kick-Off weekend, May 22.

“What has the Naval Postgraduate School been such a pioneer and leader in information technology?” President Daniel Oliver asked the audience in Ingersoll Hall auditorium during his welcoming remarks. “It’s because it’s not just a support function here. It’s a mission and a national security imperative to keep our computing systems on the cutting edge. Congratulations to [President for Information Resources] Dr. [Christine] Cermak and all of your team. I’m so proud of all you and all your accomplishments on this wonderful occasion of NPS’ Centennial.

Ms. Colleen Nickles will join the executive leadership team on July 6, 2009 as Special Advisor to the Office of the President. Ms. Nickles previously served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Financial Services, for the California State University (CSU), Office of the Chancellor, and as Assistant Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer at the CSU Monterey Bay campus. Prior to the CSU System, Ms. Nickles worked in Budget and Financial Analysis at the University of California, San Francisco, and in the Office of the Senior Vice President as the Director of Business and Finance Operations, and at the Office of the Treasurer both in the system-wide offices of the University of California. In her capacity at NPS, Ms. Nickles will be spearheading a number of initiatives for improving business and administrative processes.

The Modeling, Virtual Environments, and Simulation (MOVES) Institute is pleased to announce the 9th annual Research Summit hosted at NPS from July 21-23. The Research Summit is a valuable tool to connect government, military and civilian industry sectors to engage in meaningful discussions about training and analysis products, education and exemplary research in the field of modeling and simulation.

Perhaps the highlight of the event was a retrospective on the evolution of NPS information technology by its founder and leader of over three decades, Professor Emeritus Doug Williams.

“It’s a wonderful experience to be back at NPS after 15 years,” said Williams. “When I came here from the University of Edinburgh [Scotland] in 1957, all the students had slide rules and no one used computing machines. Soon, NPS was offering two of the first computer science programs in the world. In just two hours, we were able to teach them FORTRAN and, once they had access to the mainframe, were able to issue our first program in less than three days. That got the faculty’s attention. We soon needed to integrate the computer into the educational system. The story of the military victory through superior information – it is a strategy in a different world and we still do that to this day.”

As part of the celebration, three industry leaders gave presentations along the theme “Technology as Mission Critical” – Case Powell of SUN Microsystems, Cdmr. Don Mitchell of Schneider Electric, and Vicente foam of Xerox. “History is the story of military victory through superior information – it is a strategic priority in both war and peace,” Palowitch said during his presentation.

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Two generations of NPS computing pioneers meet in the new High Performance Computing (HPC) Center. Professor Emeritus Doug Williams (left), NPS director for computing from 1961-1994, found- ed the W.R. Church Computer Center where he led the continual installation of the latest computing technology and software updates. His current peer, HPC Manager Jeff Haferman (right), takes Williams on a tour of the newly installed facility following the ITACS’ ribbon cutting ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION SERVICES (ITACS)

July 3
Independence Day Holiday Observed

July 9-12
International Telecommunications Teleconference
POC Jane Barret Ext. 3397

July 9-20
Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace
POC Sgr Fields Ext. 7678

July 16
Rear Adm. John Padgett, USN (ret.)
Menneken Lecturer
POC Rear Adm. (ret.) Jerry Ellis Ext. 2488

July 16-24
NWDC Rear Adm. Wendy Carpenter
Innovation Workshop: Self-Propelled Submersibles
POC Jeff Kline Ext. 7946

July 21
Dr. Thomas Finger
Professor, Political Science, Stanford University
Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

July 21-23
New Fighting Machine War Game Center for Executive Education
POC Jeff Kline Ext. 7946

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Physics/chemistry professor Gil Kinney earned a mem- bership certificate for the Domain of Neptune Rex when he crossed the line aboard the USS Laffey in July 1946. Kinney was returning from Bikini Atoll, where he served as a scientific adviser for Operation Crossroads, the series of nuclear weapons tests on naval ships. Kinney’s 1962 book, Explosive Shots in Air, would be considered a major, authoritative work and the book’s 1985 edition continues to be used as an important reference source today. Kinney received the Naval Postgraduate School Distinguished Professor Medal shortly after the first edition was published. The medal is part of the current NPS centennial exhibition at the Monterey Maritime & History Museum titled, Hidden History: Untold Stories of the Naval Postgraduate School.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.