Happy Birthday NPS! University Celebrates 100 Years of Excellence

By Barbara Honegger

With flying banners and ribbon cuttings, the Naval Postgraduate School exuberantly celebrated its Centennial Kick-Off and Alumni Reunion Weekend, May 22-25. Launching four days of historic 100th-year anniversary celebrations was President Oliver’s State of the University address, followed by Provost Lon Leonard Ferrar’s overview of the university’s first century of world-class, military-relevant research.

“Thank you for joining us on this special day as we celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Naval Postgraduate School,” Oliver told the audience in King Hall. “As we honor NPS’ past and celebrate its current accomplishments, the future before us promises even more great contributions to our nation’s security and the world’s prosperity.”

Following the presentations, visiting alumni and students, faculty and staff moved to the Ingersoll courtyard for the dedication of the new NPS Centennial Time Line – 48 large panels displayed along the entire length of the outside of Root Hall covering all aspects of NPS’ history.

“It was a privilege to work on this [Time Line] project,” said Kari Miglue, NPS Director of Alumni Relations and Centennial Director, who was applauded by Oliver for her leadership in presenting this “remarkable and enduring gift” to the campus. “Erica Olsen’s words brought a long and complex history into focus, and Matt Rose’s inspired design brought the project to life.”

Saturday kicked off with an alumni golf event and was capped by the festive Centennial Gala ball in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom. President Oliver opened the Gala by inducting only the tenth member into the NPS Hall of Fame – former Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee (Electrical Engineering, 1969).

“General Hagee was and is a wireless advocate for military higher education,” Oliver told the guests at the sold-out black tie event. “As Maj. Gen. Mel Spores, who is on our Board of Advisors, said so well: General Hagee is a model of advanced education in the armed forces and the value it brings to the service member and the service.”

On Monday, NPS flung open its gates to the Monterey community for a special Centennial rendition of its popular annual Memorial Day Concert on the Lawn. In addition to Congressman Sam Farr, Monterey Mayor Chuck Della Salla and other officials, the university welcomed countless families to enjoy the concert, special kids’ events, informative open houses, and the Glass Hall and Dudley Knox Library rededication ceremonies.

But it was perhaps Oliver’s words at the gala two nights prior that is reflective of the entire weekend. “These extraordinary celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the Naval Postgraduate School signal the beginning of a year-long tribute to the legacy that has been created by this wonderful institution over a full century of its life. We honor NPS for the magnificent university it has become and the even greater university it will be 100 years from now,” Happy Birthday Naval Postgraduate School!”

NPS Team Tests Revolutionary Recon System

By Barbara Honegger

The Navy has tapped the Naval Postgraduate School to be the Operational Test Agent (OTA) for a new “tableau” multi-mission-capable, multi-sensor reconnaissance and surveillance system that could drastically cut costs while revolutionizing the way the military identifies and tracks targets on land and at sea.

A faculty-student team – led by NPS Distributed Information Systems Experimentation Research Group director Professor Shelley Gallup and OTA program manager Research Associate Brian Wood – has developed and will coordinate portions of the Joint Capability Technology Demonstrations (JCTDs) for the groundbreaking sensor package called the Joint Multi-Mission Electro-Optic System (JMMES).

“JMMES has the potential to be revolutionary for airborne surveillance and reconnaissance,” said Gallup, Principal Investigator for the JMMES OTA project. “It could be a game changer for high-cost, high-savings, technical capabilities innovation because it greatly enlarges the mission area by changing the software instead of creating expensive new technical platforms to address each threat area,” he explained.

JMMES enables ground or airborne operators to switch between eight critical mission-specific, real-time image processing algorithms to detect, classify, identify and track camouflaged and concealed targets during the day or night. The sensor suite includes electro-optic and infrared sensors, a laser designator/range finder and, in the future, a magnetic anomaly detector all in a single turret that can be mounted on piloted fixed- or rotary-wing aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

“For example, if an operational commander has a UAV or manned aircraft out on a counter IED mission, for example, and needs it for an at-sea maritime interdiction operation, he has to either task a second asset or call it back and have a new MO-mission-specific sensor installed, increasing re-configuration downtime,” Wood explained. “With JMMES, an operational commander may have the option to rapidly switch the IED-mission-specific software to MO-mission-specific software on the fly.”

“Two NPS students, both with first-hand knowledge of the limitations of current sensor systems, are researching aspects of JMMES for their joint master’s thesis, Information Warfare Systems Engineering students Marine Corps Maj. Bronchos Brown and Lt. Brian Schulz will analyze how JMMES impacts the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) process and compare and contrast JMMES and traditional ISR systems methodologies.

“As an Information Warfare officer in an EP-3 squadron, I noticed increasing flight delays on ISR missions because we didn’t always have the right carry-on equipment installed,” Schulz noted. “A multi-mission sensor system like this would be a huge cost and time saver for our operations.”

“In my last tour in Iraq with a wing staff, I was tasked daily to do non-traditional ISR IED searches,” Brown said. “It would be great to be able to switch the sensor suite on a single UAV or manned aircraft to do IED as well as other types of missions.”

For more information about the NPS JMMES operational test and evaluation program, contact Wood at (831) 656-3776 or bwood@nps.edu.

The NPS team evaluating a new, revolutionary reconnaissance and surveillance system reviews the upcoming test schedule. Shown (left to right) are students Lt. Brian Schulz, principal investigator Professor Shelley Gallup, Research Associate Brian Wood, and student Marine Corps Maj. Bronchos Brown.

IN BRIEF

• The NPS Beam Physics Laboratory generated its first photoelectron beam on April 17, 2009, and a formal “first beam” ceremony was held on April 18th – President Oliver launched the beam. This event marks the start of experimental free-electron laser physics at NPS, and the start of new capabilities for accelerator physics research at the School.

• NPS has been re-designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and designated as an IA Center for Academic Excellence in Research for academic years 2009-2014. A ceremony recognizing this achievement was held on June 3 at the 13th Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education in Seattle, Wash.

• The NPS Foundation will be laying Bricks on the Pathway to the Future in front of Spanghal Hall in June. If you would like to purchase a memorial brick as a mark of your accomplishments at NPS or to honor a friend or loved one, e-mail Trudy Elhbet at trehrha@nps. edu or call 656-2339.

• CED3’s call for funded course proposals resulted in 23 submissions covering diverse topics. Seven proposals have been selected by an advisory board for funding by CED3 in AY09. A full list of all the proposals with abstracts, go to http://intranet.nps.edu/announcements/documents/ced3_AY09_Proposals_FINAL.pdf.

• The Independent Television Service (ITVS), along with the National Endowment for the Humanities, is the lead sponsor of a new series called “FROM THE RADIO” that explores, through the eyes of modern-day journalists, contemporary topics on social justice and ethics. The series will be distributed to public television stations around the nation in November. For more information, go to http://www.fromtheradio.org.
Faculty Notes

Associate Prof. Ron Fricker was selected as a 2009 Fellow of the American Statistical Association for his contributions to the statistical profession. Fellows will be presented with their awards on August 4, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings award ceremony.

Prof. Art Krener of MA has been selected as a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Prof. Uday Apte was awarded the Distinctions by gaining greater access to the base benefits by having students please keep a steady hold on their awards on August 4, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings award ceremony.

Distinguished Prof. Chih-pei Chang was appointed Co-Chief Editor of World Scientific Series on Earth System Science in Asia, a project co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Prof. Chang chaired the 4th WMO workshop on monsoons in Beijing, China last fall and is editing a book titled The Global Monsoon System: Research and Forecast for WMO.

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