

1,000 WORDS



SeaPerch With Sunita
CAPT Sunita L. Williams '87, USN (Ret.), spoke during a SeaPerch event held in Houston, TX, jointly hosted by the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, Blue and Gold Officers and the USNA Parents Club of the Texas Gulf Coast. The aquatic robot competition attracted 45 teams with 217 students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR ANDREW C. HOWARD '75, USN

'87

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Hello Classmates,

Welcome to the June issue, June week, graduation and wedding season. I hope this finds you well and enjoying Spring.

Amy (Donovan) Byrne shared a nice update:

✉ "I loved Devon Marsh's poem in the Jan-Feb column. I hope more classmates share theirs. I do not write poetry, but I do like to read it. I found this one recently with my dad's papers:

The City and the Sea

The panting city cried to the Sea,
"I am faint with heat, — O breathe on me!"

And the Sea said, "Lo, I breathe!
but my breath

To some will be life, to others death!"

As to Prometheus, bringing ease
In pain, came the Oceanides, —

So to the City, not with the flame
Of the pitiless sun, the east wind came.

It came from the heaving breast
of the deep,
Silent as dreams are, and sudden as sleep.
Life-giving, death-giving, which will it be,
— O breath of the merciful, merciless Sea?

-Henry W. Longfellow

Forwarding you a photo from a Vienna, VA classmate gathering last month. If you live in Vienna and didn't know we were joining up, send me a note! **Fred & Melanie Latrash** encouraged us to join the Greater Wash DC Chapter of the Alumni Assoc, but not before mesmerizing us with stories from the infamous summer of '84 sailing cruise to Bermuda. The moral of that summer: a safety harness is a sailor's best friend... and if you're not wearing one, **Fred Latrash** is your best friend. I have since talked to **Erica Sahler** (newly back to the DC area), **Didi Dorsett**, and **Kathy Buckley Daniels**, about their memories of the cruise. The fleet encountered the wild, unanticipated storm that sank the tall ship MARQUES (with 19 lives lost). Our classmates were sailing 44-foot USNA Yawls: "Resolute" and "Fearless", were two of them. **Fred** was on the 46 ft sloop

"Spitfire." Maybe we can gather memories from more classmates who sailed with them. It would also be nice to recognize the OICs who brought them through the storm. After the sea calmed, antennas were down, boats were off course and solo (P-3s were out looking for some of them), and celestial navigation ruled the day. I read in RADM Robert McNitt's 1996 book "Sailing at the U.S. Naval Academy - An Illustrated History," that the previous summer, USNA had brought offshore sailing and summer-cruise sailing together under the Commandant's oversight. Previously, offshore sailing mids were in leave status, sailing with professional sailors. The summer of '82 saw the first Professional Development Dept summer sailing cruises, which employed OICs who had volunteered and trained during their tours of duty on the Yard. They were/are brave leaders, to have gotten underway with 7-8 midshipmen with only basic sailing experience. One OIC was a family friend of ours, CAPT Bruce Sonn, who has since passed away (2016). It would be nice to know and honor the other OICs, our classmates who made the journey, and to read their memories of the cruise. Send your stories!

Best to you and yours, '87!!!"

Amy (Donovan) Byrne

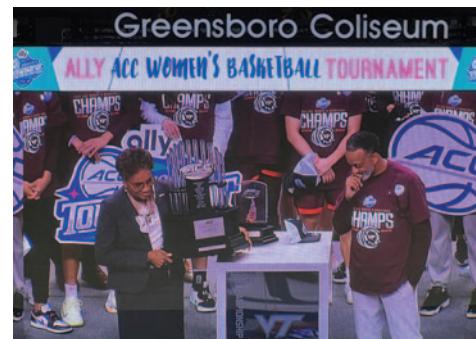


(L to R) Deb and Tom Bacigalupo, Bill Byrne, Shawn and Marc Dalton, Amy (Donovan) Byrne, Melanie and Fred Latrash



(L to R) Mary Miles McElroy, Suzanne Skelley and Didi Dorsett

LUCKY BAG OF BOOKS
To check out all the options for your reading pleasure, visit usna.com/LBB.



(L to R) Mary McElroy, ACC Senior Associate Commissioner, Women's Basketball presents trophy to 2023 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament champion team coach, Kenny Brooks of Virginia Tech.

Suzanne Skelley spent some time having fun with **Mary McElroy** and **Didi Dorset**.

✉ "While attending the 2023 Ally ACC Women's Basketball tournament, Suzanne Skelley and Didi Dorsett were hosted by Mary Miles McElroy in spectacular fashion. It was fun to catch up, meet some of Mary's friends and colleagues and gain a little insight into the dynamically evolving world of college sports. As the ACC Senior Associate Commissioner, Women's Basketball, Mary ran a fantastic tournament with first-time ever corporate sponsor, Ally bank. It's great to see a classmate achieve so much & do so well! A couple of photos follow, one of us and one of Mary presenting the championship trophy."

Suzanne Skelley

Thanks to Amy and Suzanne for contributing to this issue. Please send your news and writings to rpinataro87@gmail.com with "SHIPMATE" in the subject line.

'88

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'88 "Par Excellence",
USS RAMAGE (DDG-61) r/Sara

Eric Reinhold: It's always fun when '88ers show up in my backyard. For the last game of the season, **Dion Cornett**, his wife MJ and **Pete Shumway** showed up to meet my wife, Kim, and me. We were all welcomed at a friend of mine's UCF tailgate. As 15 point underdogs, it was great to come away with a victory and have momentum going into the Army-Navy game. The same week, I received the December 2022 30 Year Anniversary issue of *Cigar Aficionado* magazine and my submission last year was finally printed in their "Moments to Remember" section. Shane Smith '90 and I

CHAPTER NEWS



L-R Chris Heath '72, Laura Hine '97, and Jane Lochner '84 enjoy the Western spirit at the James Museum tour and Social

SPRING PICNIC BRINGS ENTHUSIASTIC CANDIDATES AND FAMILIES

Over 100 high school candidates and their families joined our great chapter members for our annual spring information picnic. We flipped some burgers and served up brownies while proving valuable information on USNA and the Admissions process. BGO and Area Coordinator **Steve Swift '87** provided the main course of information, and the event was highlighted by a panel of current Midshipmen who shared their spring break time. Several remembered when they were part of the crowd!



High School students and families line up to check in with BGO Steve Swift '87 for our popular Candidate Information Picnic

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings provide a spirited forum for planning, networking, and socializing. Recent participants include **Jane Lochner '84, James Hamm '84, Jack Plunkett '70, John Miles '93, Duane Lafont '78, Gary Polansky '69, Brian Tsai '16, Jonathan Shannon '02, Austin Gullett '03, Chris Thompson '92, Paul Matthews '85, Matt Packard '06, Miller Detrick '63, Bill Graham '72, Warren Hahn '60, Perry Dempsey '72, Tom Repeta '72, Mark Schramm '72, Chris Heath '72, Mike Stocks '72, Sean Harper '15, Jon Connelly '05, Tom Draude '62, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Tom Hartline '81, Steve Swift '87, Don Aiken '78, Janel Brown '97, Joe Wendl '93, Jonathan DeSimone '13, Derrick Clark '98, Eric Kennington '88 Peter Damisch '75, Fallon Arnold '18, Clay Robinson '96, Doug Berry '69 and new member **Jonathan Kirsch '95**. Welcome aboard!**

Watch for information to sign up for these future events -

Future Events

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month
- 20 May Army-Navy golf match
- 24 June All-Academy Tampa Bay Rays baseball game

Our social media links are in our header.

Don't forget to enroll on MyUSNA.com, our new all-service platform, and join the Tampa Bay Chapter.

Everything's great in the Sunshine State!

Chris Heath '72

Georgia

Atlanta Chapter

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Atlanta is back!

The Atlanta Chapter resumed our monthly luncheon series in March. Our speaker for this inaugural meeting was CAPT **Woodrow "Woodie" Vaughan '64 (Ret.)**. Woodie regaled us with anecdotes from his two attempts to summit Mt. Everest. He outlined the arduous process that climbers must go through to acclimate to the high altitudes - a process which takes over a month. He described the harrowing experience of crossing huge chasms using an aluminum ladder. At first, he wasn't sure he had the nerve to even try to cross. Then, just as he began his first few tentative steps, he had to backtrack to avoid the oncoming yaks.

Woodie almost achieved the summit on his second attempt - he estimates he was within 600 vertical feet of the top. However, his strength was giving out, and he knew he still had to make the descent. Once he made the decision to turn back, his guide commented that he made the correct decision: "Getting to the top is optional, but getting down is not!"

Woodie closed with stories of taking his granddaughter climbing all over the world. When she was 10 years old, he took her to visit Everest base camp. Even outfitted with her own backpack, she was more than capable of keeping up with the adults around the camp. To say that Woodie was a proud grandpa would be an understatement.



March luncheon attendees



March luncheon attendees



Guest Speaker "Woodie" Vaughan '64

Plans for the next chapter luncheon are currently being drawn up, and Chapter President **Dante "DJ" Marzetta '94** will send out emails as they are finalized. There are also plans in the works for a large summer gathering at Lake Allatoona. The gouge on these and other meetings will be posted on the chapter website. All Atlanta-area alumni are welcome!

Hawaii

Hawaii Chapter

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