

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
February 2002**



**USNA ACADEMIC DEAN SPEAKS TO
JANUARY LUNCHEON CROWD**

DARK AGES/FOUNDER'S DAY PARTY THIS MONTH

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

02/12	February Board Meeting
02/15	February Luncheon
02/23	Dark Ages Party
03/12	March Board Meeting
03/15	March Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Valentine's Day to all! You did remember to get your better half a card/gift for Valentine's Day on February 14th, right?

First, just another reminder that you will be receiving your year 2002 Chapter dues mailer in the mail soon. The mailing was delayed for several days by the bulk mailing service (long story). It will look much like the one used last year, with a place to fill out/update personal information for the Chapter Roster, a choice of membership types, and an enclosed return envelope. I won't give you my pitch from last month again, but you know we need to get our membership numbers up to maintain our representation on the national board of trustees.

In that regard, current Chapter Trustee, Bob Bush '65, has informed us that he will be moving out of state well before the end of his term as trustee. As such, it is the Board of Directors responsibility to nominate and elect a replacement. Only past Chapter presidents who are currently Chapter members are qualified to serve as Chapter Trustee. Since past Presidents Paul Hurst '62, Carl McCallum '60, and Jim Ravenel '45, have already served terms as Chapter Trustee, they have unanimously thrown their support to past President Bill Rentz '55, who has volunteered for the position. As such, we expect that Bill will be officially voted in as Chapter Trustee at the next Board of Directors meeting on February 12th. Thank you to both Bob and Bill for their dedicated service and support of the Atlanta Chapter.

The Dark Ages are upon us, and the plans for our Chapter Dark Ages Party have been finalized for February 23rd. This is a by-invitation, members only, black tie optional event in connection with Founder's Day to celebrate the founding of the United States Naval Academy. Look elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Chapter web site for more information.

Now for a job that I wish I did not have to perform. I am sorry to have to report to you that we have lost yet another Chapter member and shipmate from the Class of '42. For those who weren't at last month's luncheon, I announced there that Bill Carver '42 had passed away after a long struggle against Lou Gehrig's disease. It is now my sad duty to report that just recently Art Warner '42 was the victim of a stroke which he did not survive. Bill and Art could always be counted on to be among the Class of '42 contingent at Chapter luncheons and events. We will miss them dearly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of both of these fine men... veterans, shipmates, and good friends.

God bless America, and God bless our troops deployed in the Middle East.

And...BEAT ARMY!

Bob Schultz '71

CHAPTER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dark Ages Party

We are excited to announce that this year's Dark Ages Party will be held at the Lickskillet Farm Restaurant in Alpharetta on Saturday, February 23rd at 7pm (cocktails at 6:30). The Lickskillet is located at 1380 Old Roswell Road Alpharetta, GA.

The event is black-tie optional and is by invitation only. All year 2001 Atlanta Chapter dues-paying members will receive formal invitations in the mail.

Our guest of honor will be VADM John R. Ryan, Superintendent U. S. Naval Academy.

Reservations are a must. Seating is limited to the first 100 diners. RSVP upon receiving your

invitation to 770-351-0008, then mail a check payable to USNAAAA, to:

Mr. Robert Bush
4103 Madison Drive
Atlanta, GA 30346

The \$40 per person charge will cover entertainment by the Jim Pearce Trio, dinner, wine, beer and soft drinks. Cocktails will be pay-as-you go at \$6 per drink.

The Buffet Menu includes:

Tossed Mixed Greens Salad
Homemade Biscuits and Rolls
Carved Top Round of Beef
Chicken Picatta
Tri-Colored Cheese Tortellini in Rosatta Sauce
Sautéed Sugar Snap Peas in Sesame Oil
Sautéed Yellow Squash with Onions and Tomatoes in Cheese Sauce
Honey Cinnamon Glazed Baby Carrots
Rice Pilaf made with Fresh Vegetables and Chicken Stock
Scalloped Red Bliss Potatoes Broiled with Bacon, Scallions and Parmesan Cheese
Baked Alaska (Flambé Presentation served with Chocolate Syrup and Berries)

The event will be limited to the first 100 diners, so sign up as soon as you get your invitation.

Chapter Membership Drive Underway, Making Way

You should have received our annual dues mailer. Join us and reap the rewards of the camaraderie and friendship that only a special organization like the Naval Academy and Alumni Association can provide!

February 2002 LUNCHEON

Our monthly luncheon will be held on the third Friday of the month, February 15th, 11:30, at Jocks & Jill's Sport Bar & Restaurant, 4046 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA. Phone: (404) 816-2801.

Admiral Bill Miller '62, USNA Academic Dean Addresses Atlanta Alumni Chapter

After an eloquent introduction by his son, Bill Miller '88, Admiral Bill Miller, USNA class of '62, the Academic Dean of the Naval Academy spoke before a packed house at Jock's and Jill's for the Chapter January luncheon.

The luncheon crowd of approximately 55 alumni exceeded the capacity of our private room at Jock's and Jill's...a problem we love to have!

Admiral Miller started by saying how excited the entire USNA community is to be bringing in Paul Johnson as the head coach of our football team. Unequivocally, Admiral Miller announced, the administration “expects to win”.

Admiral Miller structured his remarks into four areas – faculty, students, curriculum and facilities – but said overall, the Academy is looking for candidates with a high degree of moral character who are willing to work hard academically to graduate.

In terms of the faculty, Admiral Miller commented on the strong core of senior faculty, the traditionalists as he described them. These professionals, all of whom have PhD's in their field, provide continuity to the academic program at the Academy where nearly half of the instructors are military officers on relatively short tours. Fortunately, Admiral Miller has worked to create a military faculty with 40 PhD's.

Admiral Miller assured the group that he has the budget and the mandate to pursue America's top professors and top graduate students. Offering several examples of the Naval Academy faculty, he referred to Craig Simons, a history professor, author, and a leading expert on the American Civil War. Professor Simons was named not only the most outstanding scholar, but the most outstanding teacher. Admiral Miller was also excited to report that he has hired Dr. Deloris Vetter, a move he made to strengthen the electrical engineering department. Dr. Vetter has published 18 books, and we already use three of her textbooks in the curriculum.

In terms of the Midshipmen, Admiral Miller said that the plebe's class SAT average is well above 1300, including Napsters. Over 80% of them

lettered in high school sports, and among them are a Rhodes scholar, Marshall scholars and a Gates scholar. While the Dean admitted that the environments from which the Midshipmen come are frequently different from many alumni, the expectations at graduation (professionally, ethically, and academically) are the same.

To assess the effectiveness of the curriculum, Admiral Miller said he and the administration polled Fleet Commanding Officers through extensive surveys and focus groups and benchmarked against other top universities. Because the Academy has the benefit of knowing who will “hire” its graduates, he explained, it makes sense to go straight to the “customers”. The response from the Fleet overwhelmingly pointed to two things: Mids need to write better, and they need more information technology. To address the latter, Admiral Miller has added an IT major to the curriculum and another EE course to the core curriculum. Fifty Mids chose to the new IT major. As a sign that USNA is on the leading edge, Admiral Miller described an academic program in which Midshipman, with the assistance of our aerospace department, design, build and launch a working satellite every two years.

In terms of facilities, Admiral Miller reported that we are in the middle of a \$300 million renovation of academic buildings. This summer, Luce Hall will undergo a renovation that will culminate with Mids having the ability to participate in networked training exercises with the Fleet.

In closing Admiral Miller relayed that he has been appointed for another four-year term. Admiral Miller was accompanied by his wife Barbara.

Present at the January luncheon were Jim Ravenel '45, Bill Wideman '35, John Fry '80, Bill Miller '88, Gil McCullen '53, Jim Todd '55, Ed Flynn '51, Bob Schultz '71, John Stark '51, Ned Hunter '81, Bill Brewster '42, Harry Miller, Jeff Sayre '80, Marc Farris '70, John Brashear '54, Mike Nassr '54, Mitch Rowland '71, Arif Cirtlik '98, Johns Jauden '55, Jim Hatch '47, Linda Postenrieder '82, Sean Banks '96, Joe Frazar '65, Britt Watwood '72, Linda Watwood '72, Paul Hurst '62, Ron Sedgley '67, Perry Stephens '51, Paul Bridges '42, Jim Traa '61, Beverly Traa '61, Art Warner '42, Carl McCallum '60, Bill Rentz '55, Paul Borer '70, Bennett Christman '01, Dick Fitzgerald '62, Eddie Myers

'82, Arnold Galit '92, Mark Poole '82, Charlie Hill '42, Will Wood '66, Steve Frederick '72, Rich Rodgers '67, Matthew Kirby '94, Dale Herndon '56, Bob Bush '65, Clint Johnson, Jon Barton '66, Eric Busko '88, Dan Branch '96, Jim Slemenda '66, Walt Coakley '54, Bill Miller '62, and Barbara Miller '62.

USNA Gospel Choir in Concert at Ebenezer Baptist Church Re-opening Ceremony

The U.S. Naval Academy Gospel Choir was in Atlanta for several days for recruiting purposes, visiting local high schools, and to participate in the re-opening of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend.

On Saturday, January 19th, just before the concert, the Atlanta Chapter, with much help from the Georgia Parents Club, sponsored a lunch for the choir members in the Martin Luther King, Jr. visitors' center.

The barbeque lunch was certainly appreciated by the Midshipmen, but the homemade desserts from the Parents Club members were the big hit! It was a nice chance to see the caliber of young people going through the academy today. (Though it was a little sobering to see nametags on these Mids with classes

on them like 04 and 05! Lord, how old are we all getting?!)

The concert was held from 1400 to 1530 in the just re-opened Ebenezer Baptist Church. We got a little less gospel singing this year compared to last year due to the requisite pomp and ceremony of the re-opening, but what we got was just great! There was clappin' and praisin' and dancin' in the pews! It was an uplifting experience that made the outside weather (rained all day) seem much brighter.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King briefly took the pulpit and spoke regarding her late husband and the deep meaning and symbolism of his "old church". This was the first time that I have ever heard Mrs. King speak, and she is a gracious and compassionate person.

Those of you who missed this event should make a mental note to plan to attend next year. It's a great time and a great opportunity to visit with the Midshipmen on a one-on-one basis.

Thanks to Stewart Caldwell, our Chapter's Director for Brigade Support, for coordinating this event for us. Thanks also to Kent and Janice White (Parents Club President) and their members for making the great desserts and giving the event a real "being back home" flavor for the Midshipman.

Bob Schultz '71

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Address Correction Requested.