

NORWICH RECORD

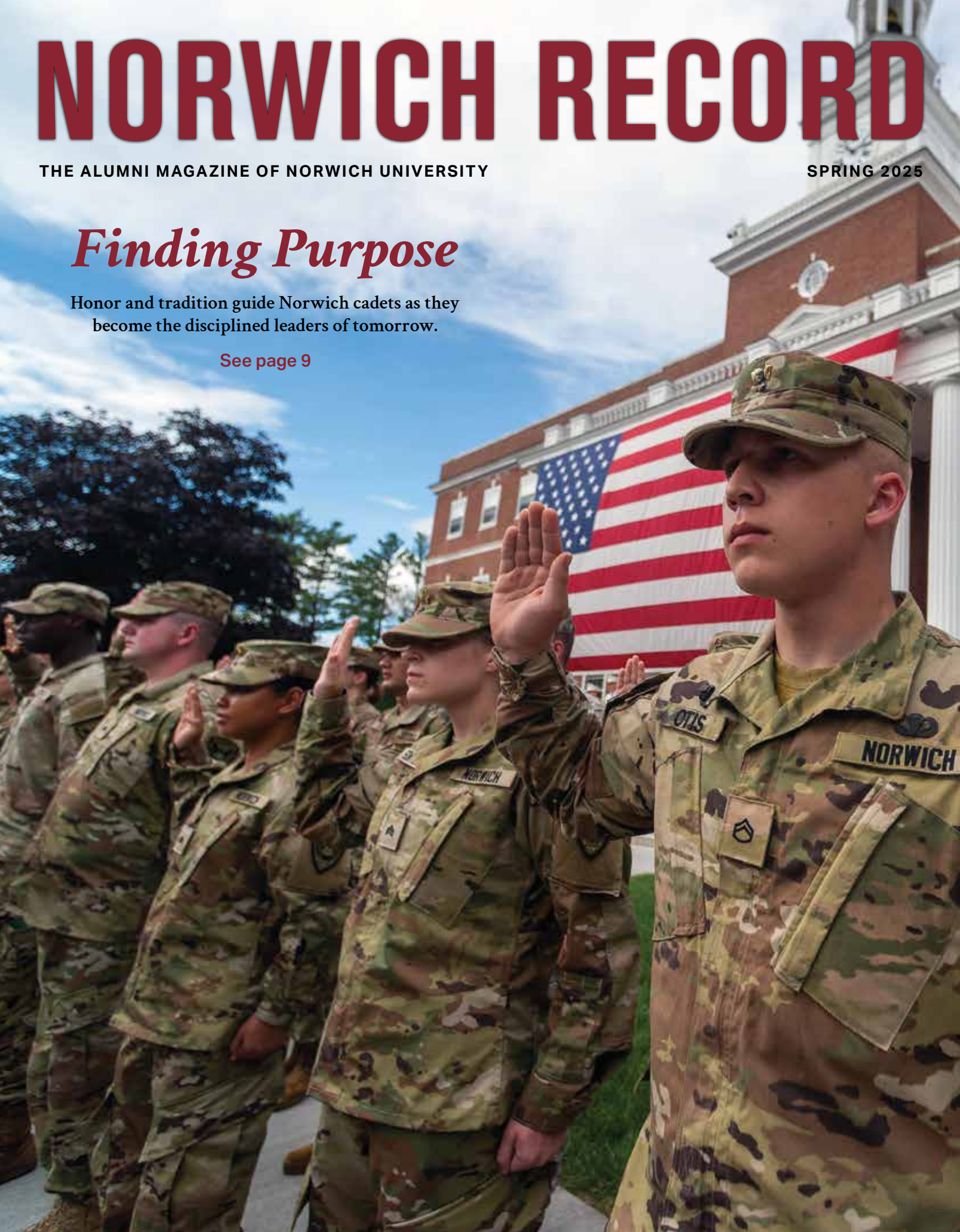
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2025

Finding Purpose

Honor and tradition guide Norwich cadets as they become the disciplined leaders of tomorrow.

See page 9





Welcome to
Norwich



Cadets march along the Upper Parade Ground during a Review with Retreat.

Contents



9

Finding Purpose:
Cadets seek inspiration and challenge when they embrace the Norwich way of life in the Corps of Cadets.



19

Building Grit and Resiliency: The Counselor Embed Program helps produce Rooks who are in a position to succeed.



27

The Right Decision: Two Norwich football players chase success both on the field and in the professional world through their master's programs.

SECTIONS

P. 1 The President's View:

A letter to you, from Woodbury Hall.

P. 3 News From the Hill:

The latest and greatest from campus and beyond.

FEATURES

P. 7 A Tradition of Greatness:

Norwich hockey continues winning on the ice in Kreitzberg Arena.

P. 25 Women on the Hill:

A glimpse of Norwich women.

P. 33 Committed to Service:

Sigmund Borkoski '63 volunteers in service of wounded veterans.

P. 37 A Real-World Adventure:

Three Norwich students take experiential learning to the next level.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

P. 41 Stay connected through Class Notes, the Partridge Society, and Roll of Honor.

Publisher
Brian Doyle '94

Vice President of Marketing & Communications
Sarah Stefaniuk

Editor-in-Chief
Zack Bennett

Creative Director
Joe Yglesias

Photographer
Mark Collier

Design
Robbie Blanchard

Contributors
Claire Clarke
Heather Leblanc-Nuñez '17
Joshua Leonard
BG Tracey Poirier '96
Diane Scolaro

Correspondence
Editor, The Record
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield VT 05663
(802) 485-2080 • record@norwich.edu

Address Changes, Class Notes & Obituaries
Office of Alumni & Family Engagement
(802) 485-2300 • alumni@norwich.edu

Norwich Online
www.norwich.edu

The Norwich Record
(ISSN 2380-7407, USPS 16179)
is published twice per year in February and August.
By Norwich University
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield, VT 05663-1035

Periodicals postage at Northfield, VT,
and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster
Send address changes to
Norwich University Office
of Development,
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield, VT 05663-1035

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW



I have found great satisfaction in returning to my alma mater as the 25th president. There are few things in life that bring Karen and I as much joy as seeing the ways in which students, faculty, staff, and alumni express their love and commitment to this University.

Community is something we hold dear at Norwich and is most tangibly expressed during Alumni Weekend. The past two Alumni Weekends have been particularly special for Karen and me. In 2023, we celebrated our 40th graduation anniversary, and this past fall, we celebrated our first Alumni Weekend in my role as president. These celebrations are always fun, but now, they have even more meaning.

The energy and support of Norwich was palpable when I addressed our alumni for the first time from Sabine Field. Your confidence and belief in our mission does not go unnoticed. The love that is shown to our students, whether military or civilian, in the classroom, on the playing field, or in the real world after graduation, is second to none. If you have never been back for Homecoming, or if it has been a while since you returned to campus, I personally invite you back to Northfield. You will love every second of it!

Our weekend was hectic but filled with many highlights. Spending lunch with the newest class of the Old Guard, 1974, was incredible; their Norwich spirit was infectious and energizing. I was particularly pleased to be able to visit with many of the reunion classes at Sugarbush on Friday night. Meeting you and listening to your feedback is crucial for the future of our institution, and I thank you for your commitment to Norwich University.

A month later I attended my first Board of Trustees meeting in my new role, rather than as a trustee. I'd like

to share my remarks from the Trustee dinner with faculty, staff, and students. It best reflects how I feel after six months in the job.

Karen and I have been here for just over five months. The welcome we've received from across our entire community has been heartwarming and humbling. I'd especially like to thank the town of Northfield for welcoming us into this close-knit community and for their support of Norwich.

Many people ask me if I have a sense of nostalgia as I walk around the campus and watch the goings on. I have to honestly say... I don't.

That's not to say I'm not comforted by the familiar scenes and memories of our time here. But rather, what strikes me most is the freshness of all that is going on. What I see, and what I feel is not nostalgia, not looking backwards. Instead, it's an overwhelming sense of looking – and moving – forward. An excitement that good things are coming. That despite all the negative vibes in national conversations surrounding higher education, Norwich is looking confidently to the future.

In many ways, I'm seeing our school through new eyes. In this, my Rook year as President, even the familiar seems new. That excitement, the sense of new possibilities, extends to each of you here tonight.

To the Trustees: I am eternally grateful for your profound trust in placing me at the helm of this vital institution. Over the last three years I've come to count you as my friends and value your counsel. This weekend represents the start of a new way forward in our relationship. We begin the task of crafting our shared future vision for Norwich. I look forward to our discussions this weekend and for the months to come.

To the staff: We spent the summer together, and I watched you closely keeping this campus beautiful, working non-stop to conduct the business of our school, planning, and conducting events, coaching sports practices and games, and caring for all our constituents, especially our students. I'm proud to be on your team as we forge a path ahead ensuring Norwich's foundations remain strong and the school vital for America.

To the provost and faculty: I've just recently started my sessions with each department and with many of you individually. Your passion for our students comes through in every engagement I have with you. I sincerely appreciate your patience and frankness as you educate me on how we remain true to Partridge's vision of experiential learning while ensuring our students are educated for the future needs of our republic.

For alumni present: Your support of Karen and I has been overwhelming. Homecoming took on a special meaning this year, filled with an enthusiasm that kindled an even brighter passion in me to ensure we move Norwich forward together.

Most of all: To our students: Of all of us, you most represent that bright future of Norwich. And more than anything, you are forging my confidence that the future is bright. You have exceeded any expectations I had before I arrived. In you I see confidence. I see grit. I see a desire to take the future head on. I have no doubt you will write chapters of Norwich's history that those of us that have come before you could only dream about – and you will make us proud.

In this edition of the *Record*, you will read about our Corps of Cadets as it exists today. I am proud to say that you will see yourselves in them. In my short time here as president, it is astounding to see the dedication, drive, and passion that fills the hearts of these young Norwich men and women. The Corps of Cadets is in good hands.

You will see an example of how we prepare our cadets for the future when you read about our Counselor Embed Program. It is crucial that we holistically support them. We must not only prepare them to face challenges but support them through those challenges they choose to face on The Hill. We will make sure that each and every cadet that sets foot on our campus has the best chance of going beyond their boundaries and becoming the best version of themselves for our nation.

Additionally, you will find a prime example of the citizen-soldier in Sigmund Borkoski '63, who has spent much

of his time and efforts supporting wounded veterans around his home in South Carolina for more than 10 years; you will read about our hockey programs and what makes them tick; and you will see how students prepare themselves for successful careers through real-world, experiential summer internships, among a host of other Norwich stories.

Returning to Norwich as president has only strengthened my belief in our mission, our students, and our future together. Our history is rich, and our future is bright. Karen and I have enjoyed every second at home here in Northfield. I implore you to find your way back, even if just for a weekend. You will see yourself in these students.

Norwich Forever!

John J. Broadmeadow NU'83
LtGen, USMC (Ret)
President



NEWS FROM THE HILL

Linebacker Shayne Leddy '25 wins Defender of the Nation Award

The Charlotte Touchdown Club awarded Cadet Shayne Leddy '25 the 2024 Defender of the Nation Award, sponsored by Capital Group of Companies. He was honored on Dec. 9 during the club's Bronko Nagurski Awards Banquet, presented by Coca-Cola Consolidated.

The Defender of the Nation Award recognizes exceptional student-athletes from America's service academies, senior military colleges, and leading collegiate ROTC programs. The Charlotte Touchdown Club selects the recipient based on their demonstrated leadership qualities on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. The club ensures that the recipient leads by example and exhibits a high standard of integrity.

"There were three things I looked at," said Capital Group of Companies President and CEO Rick Hughes. "Going through college is one aspect; another is that he's playing a major college sport and much of his time is spoken for; and third is that he's preparing to be a soldier. That's big stuff, a massive commitment."

Cadet Leddy was pinned during the event by retired U.S. Army MG Edward Reeder. "I am honored to be selected for the 2024 Defender of the Nation Award. This award really recognizes my family, my classmates at Norwich, my teammates, and the coaching staff for all the hard work and sacrifices we have made together," said Leddy. "I'm proud to have achieved the things I have, and I could not have accomplished anything without the support of my friends and

family. This award further inspires me to achieve great things for Norwich Football and our nation's Army."

This marks the first time in the award's history that a Division III player has been recognized. "Shayne is the epitome of what we want a Norwich University football player to be," said Cadets Head Coach Bill Russell. "He is a great student, an exemplary member of our campus community, and a terrific leader in our football program. Shayne has been driven to succeed since the minute he arrived on campus as a Rook. His energy is infectious, and he gives maximum effort regardless of the circumstances. It's been a great privilege to coach Shayne, and to say that I am proud of him would be an understatement."

"Norwich and our Corps of Cadets are extremely proud of Shayne's selection to receive this year's Defender of the Nation Award," said Commandant of Cadets and VP of Student Affairs, BG Bill McCollough '91, VSM. "Shayne is tough, smart, dedicated, and sets a superb example of what Cadet athletes should strive to be on and off the field, and in the classroom. We are equally proud of his commitment to serve as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army after he graduates this spring, continuing a long tradition of Norwich Cadet athletes serving our great nation in uniform." **N**



Shayne Leddy (front left) accepts his award, joined by Coach Russell (front center) and University President, LtGen John Broadmeadow '83 (front right). Photograph by Mike Strauss

Women's wrestling added to Cadets' varsity athletics roster



embodies our ongoing dedication to fostering opportunities for all students to compete at the highest levels."

Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing high school sports in the country, is sanctioned in 45 states, and has been designated as an emerging sport on the collegiate level by the NCAA. The sport is growing at a rapid pace and is on track to become a championship-level sport as early as 2026, as the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics voted to recommend legislation to add a national collegiate wrestling championship.

"Women's wrestling is a welcomed addition to our athletic department. This sport is a great fit for Norwich, and we look forward to recruiting talented and dedicated young women who embody our 'I Will Try' motto on the mat, in the classroom, and in their military pursuits," said Norwich University Athletic Director Ed Hockenbury.

The program will become the 10th women's sport at the school when it begins its inaugural season in the 2025-26 academic year. This expands the University's athletic offerings to 23 teams in total, of which 12 are men's, 10 are women's, and one coed. Women's wrestling will be the first sport added since 2022 when men's golf and coed rifle were reinstated to varsity status.

"I am also excited to announce Coach Connor Keating as the inaugural head coach," said Hockenbury. "Connor has been a true asset, both as an assistant wrestling coach and assistant women's rugby coach, to the department since 2013 and we are excited to see him build this program moving forward."

"Norwich University is excited to announce the addition of women's wrestling to our varsity sports roster, making us the first senior military college or federal service academy to take this step," said LtGen John Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret), president of Norwich. "This significant milestone

"First and foremost, I want to express gratitude to LtGen Broadmeadow, Ed Hockenbury, Alex Whitney, and countless members of the wrestling community for their support in establishing a varsity women's wrestling program at Norwich," said Keating. "Wrestling has shaped so much of who I am, and my years of competing at Norwich were the most transformative of my life."

Keating was dominant on the mat before graduating and launching his coaching career. He was team captain and earned Most Valuable Player recognition his senior year, and throughout his collegiate career, Keating was recognized as a two-time All-New England Honoree; a Scholar All-American; and a finalist in the 2009 All-Academy Championships. He finished his career with a program-best 44 victories over his four-year Norwich career and has since continued wrestling on the global stage, winning the 2013 George Kalchev International Invitation in Varna, Bulgaria, and being named a Senior All-American at the 2014 U.S. Open before being recognized as a Masters Finalist at the same event three years later.

In his role as a coach, he has led multiple wrestlers as they have successfully placed in the NCAA Northeast Regional Competition. His efforts were highlighted by Mason Sprinkel '24 and Thoren Berg '25 when each earned All-Conference Honorable Mention. Sprinkel also tied the single-season program record for pins with 26, leading the country.

"To now be in a position where I can help bring this incredible sport to a population that has long been underrepresented is an honor and privilege. This program isn't just about wrestling, it's about creating opportunities for women who embody the same resilience, discipline, and grit that define both successful wrestlers and Norwich students," said Keating. "I firmly believe that the type of young women who excel on the mat are the same ones who thrive in the challenging and unique environment that Norwich offers." **N**

Norwich University Presidential Inauguration set for April 24



LtGen John Broadmeadow '83, USMC (Ret), 25th president of Norwich University, will be inaugurated on April 24. He began his tenure as University president on May 1, 2024, after transitioning from his role on the Board of Trustees.

Since returning to his alma mater as president, LtGen Broadmeadow has noted that in addition to the usual presidential responsibilities like finances and enrollment, connecting himself with the Norwich community has been paramount. "Bringing alumni closer to the University is one of my primary goals right now," he said. "While we want to

expand the community, it is important to me that we bring our existing community closer and strengthen the bonds we already have."

Many of those bonds are formed through the storied Norwich University Corps of Cadets. "My number one recruiting priority is the Corps of Cadets," said LtGen Broadmeadow. "I want to grow the Corps so that we get to a two-thirds, one-third mix of students on campus."

Though growing the Corps is the top priority, ensuring that a complete Norwich experience is fulfilled for civilian students is crucial for his vision of the University. "It's on my mind an awful lot," he said. "They live a very different lifestyle here, but they share the same values and determination to be productive citizens in our free republic. Their belief in our mission does not go unnoticed and they make up a vital part of our community, both on campus and abroad as alumni."

Norwich University has a long history of students who have firmly entrenched

themselves in the long-standing Guiding Values and University mission. Since returning to campus, LtGen Broadmeadow has noticed a unique quality in Norwich people today that highlights their ability to be rooted in tradition and history all while pushing the limits of today's expanding world. "The real impression I have walking around the school now is that we are not looking back and reflecting, but looking forward," said LtGen Broadmeadow. "Norwich University is well-poised to move forward."

While the University is poised to move forward, LtGen Broadmeadow has a unique historical tie to the presidency as a 1983 graduate. University President and retired Air Force Maj Gen W. Russell Todd '50 helmed the University when LtGen Broadmeadow graduated and commissioned, and his inauguration on April 24 will mark the first time an alumnus has led the school as president since Maj Gen Todd left the post in 1992, more than 30 years ago. **N**



Adam Rice, a 1991 Civil Engineering graduate of Norwich University's Corps of Cadets, returned decades later to pursue a 100% online Master of Arts in Strategic Studies in 2024.

Why Norwich?

"As an alumnus, I've stayed involved, and several mentors recommended the graduate programs."

What will you carry most from Norwich?

"Norwich reminds me of the privilege of leading soldiers and airmen."

Anything else to share?

"Norwich has been part of my life since 18, offering opportunities for career growth."



NORWICH
UNIVERSITY
ONLINE

Find the full interview and
apply at online.norwich.edu.

AT HOME IN NORTHFIELD

Brian Hayes '79 has made a habit of attending Homecoming each year. Whether reconnecting with old friends or checking in on his grades from more than four decades ago, he continues to find special moments on The Hill.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"I feel at home when I'm at Norwich," says Brian Hayes '79. "Amongst the people and cadets there is my home away from home. We share something in common because we went through something difficult and came through it. It means a lot to me, and the school means a lot to me."

Returning to The Hill is something that Hayes and his wife, Cathy, Class of 1982, hold dear. "It wasn't always for Homecoming Weekend," he says, remembering his trips to Parents Weekend to see his son, Kevin, Class of 2010. "I always go back because I feel at home alongside my old buddies who show up. There's always some of us and we have a good time."

"I was in the band, so I always visit the chapel because that was a favorite place of mine within Norwich," he says. "We had so many band practices there. Just walking around the campus and seeing places I used to be, thinking, I lived here, I lived there – there are a lot of good memories."

Homecoming has become a yearly trip since Kevin graduated from Norwich. Reliving his memories and even running into people from those memories have kept him coming back. "Frank Vanecek H'10 was my instructor during my senior year computer science. It's wonderful to return to Norwich and see him and be able to talk to him," says Hayes. "He took out his old gradebooks, flipped to my name and saw what I got in his class – I had gotten an A."

"A lot of professors I had are gone. They've retired, some have passed on, but they all meant something," he says. "They were special people."

Hayes came to love Norwich during his time in Northfield, and that sentiment has only grown throughout the years whenever he visits. "You come to love the place. I feel that this is the place for me to be," he says. He knows he is not alone in that thought because of the number of alumni who return, just like he does. "Homecoming Weekend is pretty special. There's nothing like Norwich, nothing like our school."

"I just had my 45th at Norwich and I talked to so many people," he says. "We look back and say, wow, I made it this far. Now let's make it to our 50th."

The thought that so many like-minded graduates feel the same inspires Hayes. "The fact that these people are going out and supporting the school to help keep Norwich going means a lot to me," he says. "Without them, we couldn't exist."

"I give what I can monetarily, but I'm not a big giver," says Hayes. "I try to every year because I think it's important to give. But if I can't contribute financially, I can offer my time to support the school and my classmates."

He says that returning home to Northfield for Homecoming has made an impact on his life and encourages alumni to take the plunge and return to Norwich if they have yet to do so. "It may not be your reunion year but go anyways because it's giving back to the school," he says. "It's a way to give back, right? You know, even if it's just a little bit, even if it's just showing up and being there, you're giving back." **N**

A TRADITION OF GREATNESS

Norwich ice hockey boasts a legacy of success. Today's men's and women's programs aim to continue that tradition.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Ice hockey is a way of life at Norwich University. The Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame is adorned with former Cadet hockey players spanning generations. Today, that tradition has continued on the ice under the tutelage of Coach Sophie Doherty '10, M'12 on the women's side, and Coach Cam Ellsworth on the men's.

Since the pair set foot on The Hill, they have led their teams to 187 total wins prior to the 2024-25 season. That success on the ice has yielded a combined 4 New England Hockey Conference Championships; 5 NCAA Tournament appearances; 9 conference players of the year; 10 All-Americans; 6 Academic All-Americans; and 2 national players of the year.

While the two programs have been bringing back hardware to Norwich on both the team and individual levels, Coach Doherty and Coach Ellsworth realize that there is more to success at Norwich than just winning. "These young players become all-around fantastic people," says Doherty. "They will face adversity here, whether individually or as a group – there is no scenario in which they will not face some form of adversity."

"For people who are looking to be serious about hockey and really invested in a culture, learning service, and being part of something bigger than yourself, Norwich hockey is a really unique opportunity," says Ellsworth. "It does pose challenges, but I think all of those challenges on the front end get paid off on the back end. When those kids become part of this like-minded community in our locker room and realize why they're here, what they can do, and see their abilities working together, you can see them growing through their relationships."

Coaches Doherty and Ellsworth have both found individual successes in the sport. Doherty is a Norwich alumnae and the first-ever women's hockey inductee into the Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame. She set multiple records during her time on the ice and has continued to find success in her sixth year as the head coach of the program she once played for.

Ellsworth is in his seventh season coaching Cadet hockey, and prior to his move to Northfield, he was on the staff of Division I University of Massachusetts Lowell. He began looking for a spot to kick off his head coaching career and eventually made his way to Norwich. "Funny enough, I was offered a Division I job earlier that summer and turned it down. It wasn't a good fit for my family or me," he says. "This job came up and my wife and I drove up and toured the area. It really fit what we were looking for."

"I'm following a legendary coach and leading a historic program, that is not lost on me," he says. "To have over 100 years of hockey, national championships, and the commitment to doing well both personally and athletically is something that's exciting. I want to uphold that legacy of those that came before me."

The players in the hockey programs are committed to that legacy, even though many are not in the Corps. "The main attraction about Norwich for me was the hockey program and the school's history," says Captain Clark Kerner '25 of the men's team. "The academics are great, it's all positive. The main thing around the hockey program for me was the history of great teams and having some of the best facilities and fans in the country. It's a lot of fun to play for a

The Cadets draw their energy from the crowds in Kreitzberg while playing under the lights.



school that's so passionate, that part makes it a little bit more exciting."

Neris Archambault '24, M'26, one of the captains in the women's program, has a legacy connection to the school through multiple relatives. "It's always been a close-knit community," she says. "It's pretty meaningful to be playing here."

"It's a very competitive environment and we have a super strong team culture, even through practices up to competition. The one word I can think of to describe it is rewarding," says Archambault. "It helps you grow as a player and really develop your skills. Focusing on my contribution to the team's success, whether it's aiming for the championship or just improving our overall performance, has always been my personal athletic goal. As a captain, I have to aim for a positive team culture and help the young kids fit in."

Coach Doherty sees players overcoming challenges to chase their goals on a daily basis. "When you see a player that has overcome something big, whether they succeed in a tough spot, or are dealing with a lack of playing time, it is incredibly rewarding to see them succeed," she says. "They go to skill sessions, they're committed, and their mindset shifts. You see it happen; it's the best because they'll have that experience for the rest of their lives."

The commitment to their players has proven to be a recipe for the successes they've seen. "Hockey is the vehicle

that has led us all to be here," says Ellsworth. "Now, I get to be a mentor. I get to be a relational part in these kids' lives and help them navigate their college years. Being able to serve these kids is my favorite part."

Service is a common theme across The Hill, and the environment the hockey programs produce draws the attention of the surrounding community. "Playing for the pride of the local community and the people that are here and care so much about our success and just us as people, it makes it that much more enjoyable," says Kerner. "Sometimes it can be stressful, but to me, it makes home games that much more fun."

"The fans are awesome here and they treat us like celebrities," says Archambault. "Whether they're students, alumni, families, or locals, they have a sense of unity and pride for Norwich hockey, which is really motivating and brings a ton of energy to the arena – that's what we really need, an electric atmosphere."

"The fans play a huge role in our lives," she says, thinking about her hockey career in Northfield as she prepares to graduate for a second time from Norwich. "Their support means everything to us. Every cheer, every chant, every moment we spend with them fuels our passion and drive on the ice and helps us create the huge outcomes." **N**

Finding PURPOSE

Led by their Guiding Values, the historic Norwich University Corps of Cadets has produced a noteworthy community of leaders – today’s cadets want to be a part of it.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT



“Reflecting all the way back to my time here, I didn’t always understand the purpose behind the things that we were doing,” recalls Norwich University President LtGen John Broadmeadow ’83, thinking back to his time as a cadet. “What has been overwhelming to me in watching the Corps of Cadets as president, in particular, is that everybody in the Corps is taught and made to understand right up front the purpose behind it.”

LtGen Broadmeadow’s view of the Corps of Cadets and its purpose is anchored in the University’s mission statement. “What we’re doing is building disciplined people – disciplined citizens – who are ready for the responsibilities of our free republic,” he says. “That part of our mission statement is something that I have come to appreciate more and more as I look at the students on campus today.”

Commandant of Cadets and Vice President of Student Affairs, BG Bill McCollough ’91, VSM, is deeply involved with the cadets and sees how they are being developed into Captain Alden Partridge’s timeless vision of the citizen-soldier. “The fundamentals haven’t changed,” he says. “They have to learn the Guiding Values and they live by the Honor Code.”

In addition to the Guiding Values and Honor Code, the Norwich Cadet’s Creed has remained foundational for cadets since it was penned by K.R.B. Flint, Class of 1903. It has affected generations of cadets and continues to do so today. “I realized a lot of my service was predicated on the foundation that I got from my family and what I learned here as a student,” says BG McCollough. “The guidance in the Cadet’s Creed can carry you through a lot of life’s opportunities and challenges.”

Regimental Commander C/COL Sophia M. Righthouse ’25 sees these core tenets of a Norwich life on display every day in the Corps

“Going to a school that has really strict guiding values and a strict honor code is really unique...”

of Cadets. “Going to a school that has really strict guiding values and a strict honor code is really unique because it means that you have a group of people who are all living with the same values every single day, and they all honor the same traditions and same ideas,” she says. “Even though you can be so different from your peers, your subordinates, and those who are above you, everyone knows that you’re all following the same idea and concept that Norwich is trying to produce, and you are trying to become the leaders of tomorrow.”

Embracing your community is a key facet of the Norwich life.



“It’s great to think about that,” she says. “It kind of creates a familial bond because you’re all following the same idea and learning from people who have done it before you. You’re working as a team to build each other up and being able to

flourish through Norwich's concept and model of a school, I think, is really beneficial."

Mentorship from the community who shares those bonds has long been a fact of life in the Corps of Cadets. BG McCollough finds inspiration in the commandants who displayed leadership during his time at Norwich and realizes that he is in that role today. "The things I learned here and the mentorship that I got, many times from the commandants that I had here like COL Tim Donovan '62 and COL Tony Carbone '58, boy, did that make a difference in the decisions I made later in life," he says. "They helped me understand what's expected out of an officer, and you really can't put a value on those kinds of things."

He sees his role as a mentor to cadets as crucial to their development. "When people don't have that in their background, they're at a disadvantage," he says. "They're not well equipped for some of the challenges that will come their way, especially on the battlefield. If you've had good mentors, and you were trained in a tough environment that held you to good standards while being guided by a mentor, you'll be ready for whatever challenges life sends your way."

Cadre, like C/SFC Elena Vargas '26, have seen the value stemming from such involved leadership. "It's amazing learning from President Broadmeadow and Commandant McCollough," she says. "It helps when the people leading you are people who have been through so much and had so much leadership experience. They're able to tell us meaningful things about leadership and teaching the Rooks so that we can continue instilling the Guiding Values into them."

Vargas says she remembers being a Rook and how her cadre motivated her. She found a sense of purpose in the Corps and was surrounded by others who did as well. "You can't just tell Rooks,

'Do that, don't do that,'" she says. "It really comes down to giving them a why, because without knowing the purpose, thoughts of 'Why am I doing this?' start to creep in."

"Sometimes in the beginning you might have the thought that some little things don't matter, like standing with my heels on the wall," she says. "As peers, you show them that respect and give them a reason why they do everything."

"Everything that they've said to us has come two-fold, and we can see the values and lifestyle they're trying to instill in us."

One of the former Rooks under Vargas in Bravo Company, C/PVT Jordan Dustin '28, says that he has even learned to appreciate making his bed. "Making your bed every day is something that I thought was so minute and wouldn't make any difference," he says. "I did it at home sometimes, but when they make you do it every day, it highlights that every single thing we're doing here has a purpose. Everything that they've said to us has come two-fold, and we can see the values and lifestyle they're trying to instill in us."

Vargas notes that, at a certain point, the Guiding Values begin seeping into every aspect of a cadet's life. "Thinking about when I was a Rook, whenever we were given a why, it always came back to a Guiding Value," she says. "You get to a point where every time you're doing something or thinking about how hard something is, you just have the Guiding Values playing in the back



Doing hard things like the Dog River Run alongside a cadet's Norwich brothers and sisters forges lifelong bonds.

of your head. We all have a similar attitude in life and you're always looking for ways to help others better themselves."

"Even just the first Guiding Value, that we don't tolerate those who lie, cheat, or steal, that's not like any other college where you can slip under the tiles and get away with stuff," says Dustin. "The accountability part not only surrounds saying 'Okay, I messed up,' but realizing that other people will feel the effects if we don't own the situation. We call them our brothers and sisters and we really feel like that."

"The first half of Rookdom was instilling in us these values and absorbing the information – studying your Rook book, coming down to the minute with you've got five minutes to do this or that," he says. "The second half was them really mentoring us and teaching us the values."

Leading by example, particularly when no one is looking, is a trait that LtGen Broadmeadow has seen on display throughout the Norwich campus since he was a cadet. "I wasn't cadre, and I didn't lead freshmen, but through working with upperclassmen is where I learned peer

leadership,” he says, highlighting the fact that the environment on The Hill is constantly shaping leaders, whether cadets are in formal leadership positions or not. Cadets grow into the Norwich way of life, fostered by the University’s community.

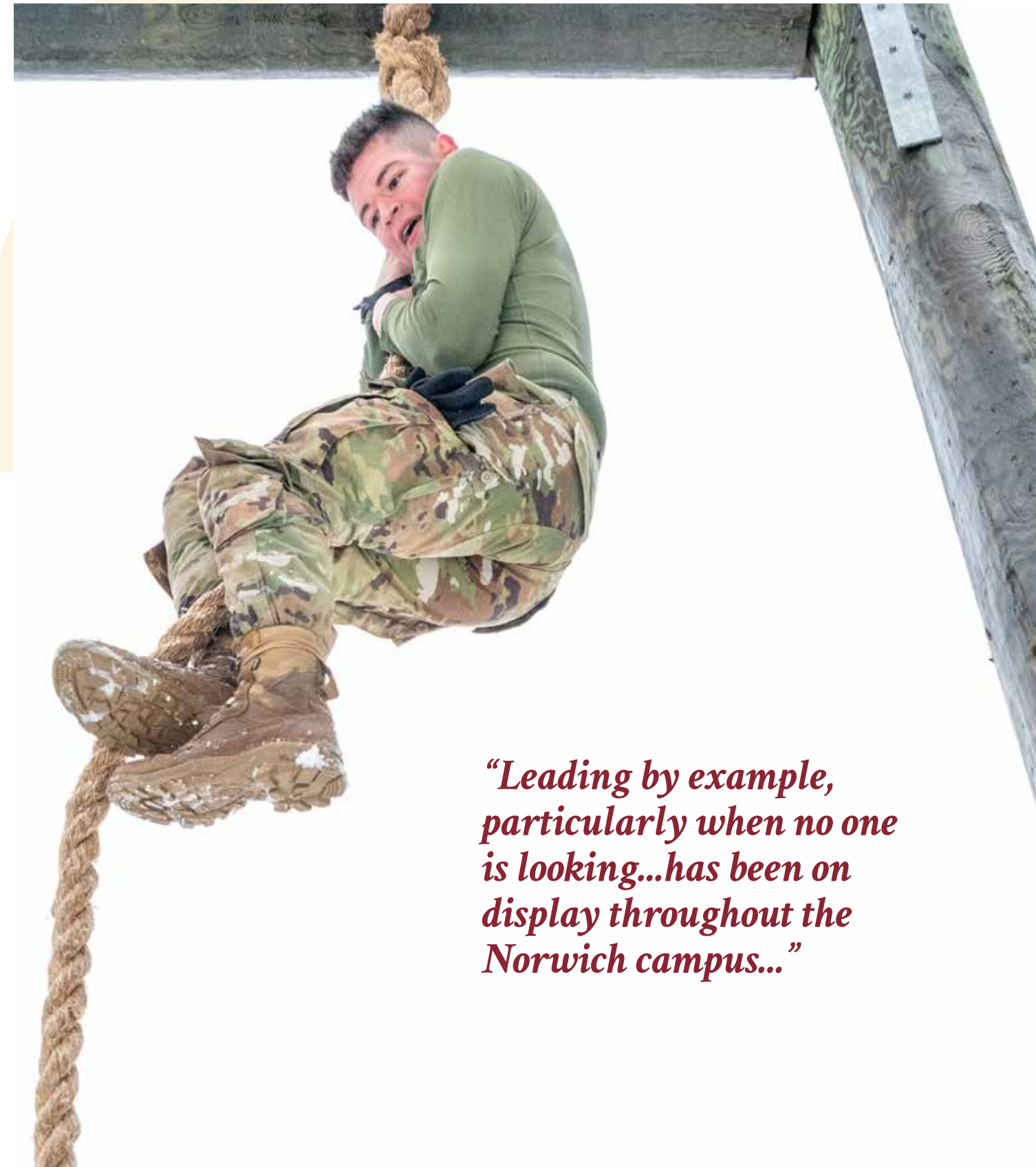
“I think that’s something I realized as a Rook while looking at the cadre,” says Vargas, reflecting upon her time seeing Norwich peer leaders for the first time when she arrived on The Hill. “I thought that they were so professional, and they were only two years older than me. I didn’t really get it until I was in this position, but I realized as cadre that you can bring back your experiences from Rookdom. We’re all going through this together and have common goals as part of this community of people who are so similar to you.” She sees this quality as a crucial piece of a young cadet’s development and realizes the importance of surrounding yourself with like-minded individuals who want to see you succeed.

“I value every person that I’ve talked to here, whether they’re cadre, a cadet private, or even a teacher that I’ve never talked to before,” says Dustin. “I know what they’ve gone through, or at least know they value the things I’ve gone through as a Rook. We can have a mutual respect for each other without even knowing each other’s name.”

While the sentiment rings true throughout the Norwich community, it is particularly true when thinking about fellow cadets new and old. “The Cadet’s Creed binds us together in a really unique way,” says BG McCollough. “We have our way of doing things, and we’re very proud of our way of doing things; but we’re not afraid to try new things.”

That mutual understanding and respect provides young cadets like Dustin the opportunity to live the University’s motto, “I Will Try,” and face new challenges and succeed. “I’ve already learned that I have the ability to access a part of myself that I didn’t know I had before, and I think

Working and learning together offers cadets unique opportunities to both lead and be led by their peers.



“Leading by example, particularly when no one is looking...has been on display throughout the Norwich campus...”

a big part of that was going out for a specialty unit,” he says, reflecting on his early experiences with the Mountain Cold Weather Company (MCW) before he had to make a decision on how to allocate his already scarce time. “I only had the chance to do two trainings with them until I found out I had to pick between golf or the MCW,” says Dustin. “But, the big point for me here is that those two days I did it, I was pushed further than I ever have been before. I found a part of myself that I didn’t know I had.”

Dustin may be finding this for the first time – like many Rooks – but those like Vargas who have been around for a while have seen how this quality is displayed through Norwich people in a variety of ways. “I’ve just never been a part of a community like this before where everybody is so much like me, but also so different,” she says. “We all find ourselves here with a similar goal. Even if you might not know someone, you can start talking to anybody and find something in common.”

“I know a lot of my friends who go to big state schools or other military academies, and it’s just where they go to school for nine months out of the year. Then they go back to their parents and home,” says Righthouse. “But I think when you ask a lot of Norwich cadets about home and where their family is, they’re all at Norwich. We spend a lot of time together and go through really hard things outside of just academics. There are specialty units, clubs, sports, and everything else. You make lifelong friends that you wouldn’t have made by staying at home or going to a normal college.”

“I feel like we all kind of have a similar attitude towards life,” says Vargas. “Things are going to get you down, but you just keep going and pushing yourself – but even if you feel like you’re on top, there’s always something to improve. You never get complacent and you’re always looking for a new challenge.”

BG McCollough sees the grit in all who choose the Norwich challenge. “They’re not easily taken off their path,” he says. “Norwich grads will keep going back until they achieve what it is that they set out to achieve, regardless of the obstacles that come their way.” He has seen the type of people that Norwich produces and notices that the cadets on campus today are a reflection of the greater Norwich community. “The people here attempt hard things together and achieve them together. That’s a unique bond and it extends throughout their life,” he says. “These are folks

“I value every person that I’ve talked to here, whether they’re cadre, a cadet private, or even a teacher that I’ve never talked to before...”

who will drop everything at a moment’s notice and go assist one of their Norwich brothers or sisters simply because that’s a Norwich person and they need help.”

Righthouse has interacted with alumni and students alike in her role as regimental commander and realizes that the connection to the Norwich community and way of life runs deep. “Norwich has taught me that it’s okay to say yes and try something new outside of your comfort zone,” she says. “It’s okay to not be the best in the room; there’s probably a Norwich grad or cadet in the room with you who’s willing to help you.”

Knowing the reputation of the Norwich community was one of the driving factors that



Cadets fully immerse themselves in the traditions of the Corps, like sounding the bugle on the Upper Parade Ground.

led Dustin to choose Norwich, even though he plans on returning home to Concord, New Hampshire, as a police officer following graduation rather than serving in the military like Righthouse or Vargas. “The people that have come from Norwich was a big, big pull for me,” he says. “It’s really humbling to be learning under such great leadership.”

“I’m solely coming to Norwich University to absorb everything that comes with the Corps: the discipline, the responsibility, and being part of something that’s bigger than yourself,” he says. “I saw something in Norwich that would give me way more than a normal college.”

He thinks about life if he might have gone to Plymouth State University just north of his hometown. “It wouldn’t be a bad drive, and I could’ve commuted if I wanted to,” says Dustin. “Taking this extra step of coming to Norwich, I’m looking down the line realizing that everything has its own purpose and way of working out, and I’m a true believer of that. I’m doing this for my future. It may suck now, but it’s been instilled in my brain that whatever I’m going through now, I’ll come out better on the other side.”

BG McCollough often sees this determination to lead a fulfilling Norwich life in cadets. “We will often host some

Cadets on The Hill understand the challenges that await them following graduation, and many choose to take those challenges head on in the United States Armed Forces.



students down at Garrison House and we'll have some alumni that we know come by. It's just unstructured time for them to talk," says BG McCollough. "I see them wondering about the possibilities for life, what might they do with their time as a student preparing to graduate, and considering what they should think about as it approaches."

Alumni and current students are kindred spirits, even though they may be generations apart. Bonds between students and alumni are a crucial part of the Norwich experience, and they are fostered at the commandant's home. "It's great to see these connections forged," he says. "I'm in a unique position to link them up. I wouldn't say I know all the students' desires, but a really big chunk of the students, after I've gotten to know them for a while, I understand that they are seeking that first challenge in their life outside of Norwich."

"If I see these students and know that they want to do a certain thing after graduation, and I know alumni in the field, it's my job to make that connection and make these two folks realize they need to know each other," says BG McCollough. "Then, the Norwich magic happens. Having been a student and being back here as commandant, it's great to see the connection of familiar spirits."

Cadets like Righthouse, Vargas, and Dustin will one day be alumni like LtGen Broadmeadow and BG McCollough. Their connections formed while beginning their Norwich life alongside their Rook brothers and sisters are just the beginning of a life surrounded by a like-minded community. "Every reunion, we seem to connect deeper and deeper with each other, and the school tends to mean more and more," says LtGen Broadmeadow.

"At Norwich, we found out what our developmental path was, and what we were

trying to get from this experience. We found out where our passions lied," says BG McCollough. "Now, we help students achieve a balance of discovering this in themselves

"I'm solely coming to Norwich University to absorb everything that comes with the Corps: the discipline, the responsibility, and being part of something that's bigger than yourself."

while exploring the number of opportunities that they have here on campus and beyond. That's something I didn't really have to think as much about as a student."

As a Rook-turned-cadet, Dustin has seen the passion that drives the Norwich alumni community and wants to ensure that he is part of it one day. "What so many of them have done at and for Norwich, or in their own personal lives and careers, is truly humbling," he says. "You'll talk with people, and they'll be super personable, but the second they put their uniforms on with all the ribbons and rank patches, it hits you. These people earned their spots in life. My OCPs were blank, I didn't even have a rank. I think the best word to describe it is humbling."

Though Dustin is only beginning his Norwich journey, Righthouse is approaching life after The Hill and will soon become part

of the Norwich alumni community. "I don't think that when I came in as a freshman that I would have just thrown myself into a new job or opportunity like I would now," says Righthouse. "After experiencing Norwich for four years, I have no problem saying yes to something new, even though I might have a little voice in the back of my mind that says, 'You don't know what you're doing, you might fail.'"

"Our students in the Corps today realize that they are part of a deep heritage built on our foundational Guiding Values and they have a strong desire to reflect that," says LtGen Broadmeadow when thinking about the qualities he has seen on display in the Corps since returning as president. The world has changed since Captain Alden Partridge founded the University in 1819, and so has the Corps of Cadets – but LtGen Broadmeadow sees it as a positive. "These students are more poised to take their places as citizens – and leaders – of this republic than I ever was when I left The Hill." **N**



Embracing life at Norwich as a cadet provides a sense of inspiration and purpose in students.

BUILDING GRIT AND RESILIENCY

Norwich University's Counselor Embed Program yields results two years in, as Rooks succeed at a higher rate.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"When we saw how many crisis calls the Counseling and Wellness Program received during Rook Orientation Week a couple years ago, we knew we needed to try something different," says Commandant and Vice President of Student Affairs, BG Bill McCollough '91, VSM. "We needed to build a plan that would build grit and prevent crisis instead of just responding to it."

Ensuring Rooks are put in the best possible position to succeed is paramount, especially during their first week on The Hill. BG McCollough and Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center, Nicole Krotinger, agreed that there was an opportunity to efficiently and effectively address the stresses that inevitably arise during Rook Week. "So, Nicole and I got our people together and we built a framework for the Counselor Embed Program," says BG McCollough.

The framework of the program followed the model put into America's very own military, supported by research and expert opinion surrounding the effective integration of mental health professionals into military training. This entailed embedding therapists into military training programs, rather than working with cadets behind closed office doors.

"Coming out of COVID-19, we had deficiencies in students' ability to deal with adversity," says Company Mentor CSM Paul Putney '13, VSM, who saw Rooks struggling to adapt to Corps life firsthand. "In order to maximize the results from training, we needed to bring the counselors closer."

"Four of our mental health counselors partner with Norwich company mentors in each of the four Rook companies during their Rook Week

"In order to maximize the results from training, we needed to bring the counselors closer."

experience out in the field," says Krotinger. "Our counselors are introduced as part of the company and are on-hand during the training exercises to support the incoming freshman, as well as the Corps leadership, in having a successful week."

The embedded therapists work to identify and address mental health issues in their early stages. The goal is to prevent them from becoming more severe, as early intervention can lead to quicker

Rooks are faced with an entirely new world of challenges from day one on The Hill.



recoveries and a reduction in the long-term psychological impact in the face of adversity. “We are getting them out of that fight-or-flight mentality when they’re faced with tough situations,” says CSM Putney. “Previously, we wanted them to simply deal with it and they just didn’t have that skill set. These counselors teach them skills to handle the stress that they didn’t have when they arrived.”

“One of the intentions of this embedded model was to make sure our services were directly accessible to Rooks, but to also aim to create less



Rooks are succeeding at higher rates and conquering Rookdom together.

wait times for the queue of students both in the civilian and Corps lifestyles that, historically, would quickly develop in those first stressful couple weeks of a new school year,” says Senior Mental Health Counselor Will Kraman.

Having resources directly embedded into the companies allows Rooks to address issues as they arise and prevent them from turning into something more. “It’s a little bit like an athletic trainer,” says BG McCollough. “We wouldn’t try to run the football team without athletic trainers who can notice that a person’s stride is a bit off, or that they’ve got a strain and something’s not right. Let’s pull them aside before they do some damage and can’t play for the rest of the season.”

“We wouldn’t want to have it where you pull someone off Sabine Field, have them spend 15 minutes walking to an office to set up an appointment for an hour and a half later. That would be terrible, we just wouldn’t do that,” he says. “We have a Counseling and Wellness Center with trained assets, I wanted to get them closer to the point of friction where people are tasting stress for the first time. Let’s get them used to the taste and give them the tools to get through it.”

Clinical Director Melissa Marcellino has seen Rook Week evolve during her time on The Hill but says one thing has remained consistent. “There have always been Rooks experiencing mental health crises and utilizing our after-hours services.”

During the initial implementation of the program in 2023, she saw immediate improvement. “I was delighted to find that we did not receive a single after-hours crisis call that week,” she says. “It is my belief that supporting the cadre and Rooks in the field helped to mitigate the effects of stress on the new recruits and may have contributed to higher levels of self-regulation for student leaders, allowing them to more effectively do their jobs.”

BG McCollough noticed the same, and says he saw it beneficial for the building of grit and resiliency. “Those things can be difficult to build, but they are a primary ingredient for long-term success.”

Building those personality traits can be an arduous process. Ensuring the cadets are healthy mentally as well as physically allows them to perform well in the face of stress when they may not have been exposed to such situations previously. Results have shown that these efforts have helped the cadets maintain focus, make better decisions, and reduce errors, ultimately enhancing the overall health and effectiveness of the group. Company mentors reported experiencing less stress, allowing them to focus on training and being present. “Instead of simply pulling people out of the water, we are concentrating on teaching them to swim,” says BG McCollough.

CSM Putney has seen those lessons come to life during his time as a company mentor. “I see cadets consistently becoming adults. They’re understanding that adversity is not bad, and that it makes you stronger,” he says. “They’re able to cope with the stress and adversity in a better way than they were before. This gives us the tools to fight through the adversity and avoid the fight-or-flight state they were getting into.”

That consistency allows for Corps leadership to maximize the results of training. “It’s not that they’re training any easier, it’s the simple fact that it’s more efficient,” says CSM Putney. “We have the right resources, at the right place, at the right time. We’re able to retain people who need help and ensure that they come out a Norwich cadet on the other side.”

Having embedded therapists as part of the team allows a sense of normalcy to surround receiving support. Students seek help when needed, ultimately reducing any perceived stigma associated with

mental health support. “A particularly important intention is to have a shared and collaborative message with company mentors that addresses the historical stigma attached to seeking mental health support as a sign of ‘weakness’ in the military,” says Kraman. “Normalizing the process of counseling is not only a matter of compassion, but also a strategic imperative to ensure that those students that seek military service remove the barriers that stand in the way of accessing the mental healthcare they require to thrive in both their military and personal lives.”

Prior to having counselors immediately accessible alongside training, some cadets were hesitant to seek help at all considering it involved lengthy, and often noticeable, absences from training. “That’s not the case anymore,” says CSM Putney. “Now, they’re not gone long enough for anybody to even know why or where they went. There’s no stigma, and even the cadre themselves go to the counselors when they start getting stressed at the end of the week because they haven’t been sleeping.”



The Counselor Embed Program supports rooks through a challenging time, putting them in the best position to succeed as a group.

“Overall, the demand for counseling has been steadily increasing, but the crises and the acuity of the need has been less severe,” says Krotinger. “I see this as a positive because students are seeking help before they are at their lowest point and feel comfortable doing so. The connections that are made early on can help students persist when things get hard later in the semester.”

Their efforts have proven fruitful. Since it was implemented, the Counselor Embed Program has led to a significant reduction in Rooks transitioning to the civilian lifestyle or other programs, or even dropping out of school all together. James Greely '24, a former Bravo Company commander, noticed the effects of the program immediately upon implementation. “Without access during Rook Orientation Week, future leaders who deserve to be in the Corps of Cadets would not be here today,” he says. “Early intervention and crisis prevention were critical tools for molding young men and women into the citizen-soldiers this school aims to create.”

CSM Putney even noticed cadre seeing the results in the midst of molding the young men and women. “When they’re doing the yelling, screaming, and all that stuff that makes life stressful, they’re seeing that the Rooks aren’t



Rooks are responding to challenges and conquering them on their way to becoming cadets.

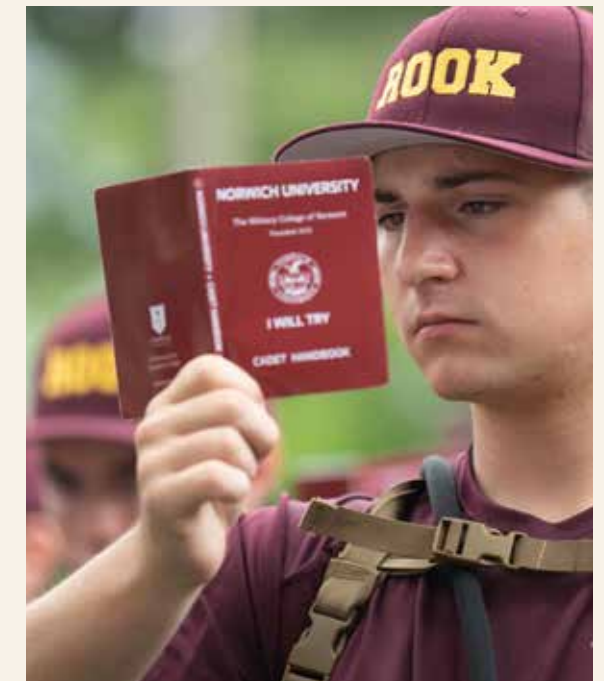
tapping out,” he says. “Cadre has seen the execution of this program, and when we execute it with each class, then the Rooks know they can handle this.”

In addition to the Counselor Embed Program, a course entitled Resilient Bodies has proven successful. This course is offered to all students, though it focuses on the freshman class. Students take a hands-on approach and learn how to optimize their strengths while learning about real-world, scientifically proven examples of creating behavioral and psychological change. “I find that students who engage in this course develop a more concrete understanding of skills that improve their resilience and how to apply them to their life, which helps them to implement and practice these skills more effectively,” says Assistant Professor of Health Science Kylie Blodgett, Ph.D., who teaches the course. “Students often come in with skills that have been developed based on what they have seen modeled in others. Providing meaningful background for things we can do to become more resilient and how those skills are helping seems to give them reasons to engage with those skills intentionally.”

“My major goal in Resilient Bodies is to encourage students to grow by giving them knowledge, social support, and appropriate models, resources and opportunities to practice,” she says. “The hope is that they focus internally on who they want to be and how they want to move through the world, and then building their own understanding of how they can show up and ‘bounce forward’ in the face of stress in a way that helps them to succeed and to continue to move in the direction of their purpose.”

Handling stress, successfully managing that stress, and “bouncing forward,” are key to avoiding setbacks and helping guide Rooks through such an adverse time. “This program helps create a healthier culture around help-seeking that provides necessary support for Rooks in a time of increased experiences of crisis,” says Blodgett. “It may take some time to see, but I anticipate that

Dedication to the Norwich lifestyle provides a strong foundation to overcome challenge.



when upperclassmen who have received support from embedded counselors are beginning to take on leadership roles, we will start to see a more widespread culture shift and understanding of the value of mental health and seeking support.”

The Counselor Embed Program combined with the Resilient Bodies course has had a positive impact throughout the Norwich community on campus. “A benefit of this model is the significant increase in collaboration between clinicians, commandant staff, and student leaders,” says Marcellino. “Being able to see the training exercises, observe dynamics in the barracks, and even share meals with Rook companies, we are better able to understand the multiple perspectives of those involved.”

The efforts surrounding the Counselor Embed Program and Resilient Bodies are continuously expanding as faculty and staff alike work to put cadets in the best possible position to succeed. Krotinger and Blodgett were awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

“Early intervention and crisis prevention were critical tools for molding young men and women...”

(SAMHSA) grant for “The Front Line: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Preventing Suicide and Improving Mental Health Through Education, Leadership, and Peer Empowerment.” This grant supplies \$102,000 per year for three years and requires a one-to-one match from Norwich, which totals \$204,000 per year of the three years following Norwich contributions. This is the first SAMHSA grant in Norwich University’s history and will run through Sept. 30, 2027.

This grant will allow the implementation of three inter-related and collaborative project goals to address issues in access and capacity of mental health services: developing and delivering a suicide-

prevention and trauma-informed leadership training program for staff, faculty, and students every semester; expanding the delivery of the Resilient Bodies course; and developing, implementing, and evaluating a student-led, community-based substance abuse program on campus.

Norwich University has consistently put young men and women in positions to succeed throughout its history. Today, that tradition continues by ensuring that Rooks are supported and afforded the opportunity to be the best version of themselves for the benefit of the nation. “This has allowed us to enhance relationships across the board and feel as though we were all coming together for a common goal,” says Marcellino. “There is no question that this model sets the stage for a more cohesive experience for Rooks, student leaders, and staff members alike.” **N**

Women on The Hill

From their first steps on campus, through graduation, and returning to The Hill as alumnae, women experience the life of a citizen-soldier at Norwich.

Norwich University began accepting women when University President Loring Hart embraced Title IX. In the 50 years since, women have left their mark not only on Norwich University, but the world. Norwich women have flown in combat, helmed Fortune 500 companies, and laid the groundwork for others following their path at the University.

The University has a storied history, and women have been an integral part of it since their arrival on The Hill in the 1970s. While most alumni are familiar with Norwich's history throughout the last half-century, fewer may know that Captain Alden Partridge championed the idea of a coed institution nearly 200 years ago when he offered his support to the Middletown Female Seminary of Middletown, Connecticut, during a time when women's education was considered controversial. Ever the forward-thinker, Captain Partridge continued advocating for women's education, and in 1835, published a prospectus surrounding a women's seminary in Norwich, Vermont. The enrolled women would be allowed to take part in some of the classes and lectures that cadets attended, but unfortunately, the proposal did not generate enough interest and the plans were abandoned.

His once unfulfilled vision is realized on campus today. Norwich women are not only integral to the University as students, but to their local communities, all branches of the United States Armed Forces, and the

entire nation as graduates. These women have positively impacted the military and both the private and public sectors through their determination, grit, resilience, and Norwich spirit that was built upon The Hill.

Approximately 30% of undergraduate students today are women, and nearly 20% of the Corps' ranks are filled with women. These students are taking full advantage of all that Norwich has to offer; the Corps of Cadets is led by Regimental Commander C/COL Sophia M. Righthouse '25, and each of the two most recent Richard S. Schultz '60 Symposium fellows are women – one in the Corps, one civilian. The constant evolution of Norwich University – all while being rooted in Captain Partridge's vision – has proven successful and provided a population with the desire for the Norwich education and lifestyle the opportunity to pursue it.

Their experiences are the Norwich experience. Women on The Hill turn into leaders and the best version of themselves that is possible. Norwich women choose to embrace challenge when they arrive as both Rooks and civilians, but most of all, they choose the University's way of life. Through their years on The Hill, they embed themselves on campus and experience the full breadth of a Norwich life before entering the world as alumnae. Upon their graduation, the world is one Norwich graduate closer to a better place. **N**



THE RIGHT DECISION

Jehric Hackney '24, M'25 and Henri Bourque M'25 explore their Norwich experience as digital student-athletes in the College of Continuing and Graduate Studies (CGCS).

BY JOSHUA LEONARD

JEHRIC HACKNEY #35 **RUNNING BACK AND TEAM CAPTAIN**

"I took a different route than a lot of my peers in high school. I was really involved in athletics, but I was unsure of where I wanted to go," says Hackney. "After high school, I was looking at colleges and the head coach at Norwich came and talked with me. I was stuck between the mindset of being a Vermont resident, staying close to home, and wanting the experience of going beyond state lines. I ended up going to prep school for half a year in Massachusetts."

The football coach at the time, Mark Murnyack, kept in touch with Hackney during his time in prep school. "He showed me what Norwich was about. The culture, the standards to which they hold their student-athletes, and everything that he was telling me fit all my checkmarks," says Hackney. "I hadn't realized what Norwich stood for while doing my own research."

Hackney felt a bond forming between himself and the Norwich staff. "The coach told me how I could be one of 'those players,' a success from Vermont. It really fit," he says. "Looking back at it now, it really fit what I was looking for. It's close to home, so I'm well known in this community, and it was also a very, very huge fit for me financially."

Though he was recruited for football, the classroom was just as important to him as Saturdays on the field. "There's an attitude of striving for excellence by all students, not just the Corps of Cadets. Having these attributes around campus really shaped me as an individual, made me think of discipline, and helped me hold myself accountable to do what

I need to do to the best of my ability," says Hackney. "It's just a great environment here."

Continued off-the-field support from one of his coaches drove Hackney to reach new heights during his undergraduate education's culminating internship. "I really excelled from that," he says. "It was an amazing experience and involved being close to athletic programs here that I'll never forget." He sees the multitude of opportunities at Norwich as a benefit of the networking that takes place through the school's community. "He was an amazing coach on the football field and then he helped me to get involved in play-by-play broadcasting, collecting hockey stats, and recording stats for softball games," says Hackney. "That internship was a requirement for my sports management minor and communications major to graduate last year, so that was a really big help."

Hackney took advantage of all that Norwich had to offer and graduated last spring with a degree in communications and a minor in athletic sports management. Although he had just graduated from the University, his Norwich story would continue much the same way it started: a coach and former teammate on the football staff recruited him into the Master of Science in Leadership program through the CGCS. "He's in the second or third semester of the same program now. He introduced it to me, told me the route, and showed me how it would be manageable for me," says Hackney. "Knowing what kind of person I was, he said I could definitely succeed. I was happy to get that information from a former teammate, and I trusted him."



Henri Bourque M'25

Now in his master's program, Hackney continues to see how the seemingly different worlds of athletics and academics go hand in hand. "I use my motivation on the football field to help me pursue my academics, and vice versa; it's rigorous," he says. Sharing that rigorous environment alongside others motivates him in a unique way. "I think that being here and integrating that culture of needing to push myself to be the best that I can has really helped me to navigate through my academic challenges. I want to be great in my academics because of football," he says. "The culture of the football has been pushing for that standard ever since day one. Norwich is a very demanding school. You know they're going to push you and expect you to demonstrate excellence and to be a leader because everyone here is a leader in their own way."

Learning about leadership on a personal level has come natural to Hackney, and he enjoys learning more about what is expected of those in leadership positions. "I've been a captain and a leader for the football team for two years here, and back in high school I was a three-year captain, so I've always had a leadership role in athletics," he says. "The deep dive was very important to me. I can always strive to be a better leader, better captain, and better individual every day."

"Every day there's always an example of excellence. You walk through campus, and you see the Corps of Cadets

lined up, and then you see students from foreign countries excelling in all types of departments. Even students that are local are so surprised that there are so many people from all over the world here that work very hard, are dedicated, and very driven in what they do," says Hackney. "The idea of just surrounding yourself with these kinds of people pushes me and motivates me to look deeper and know what I want to do when I leave here."

Hackney has spent most of his life around athletics and hopes that he can continue down that path in his career. "I had that communications internship last semester, and I really love the game of football. I would love to try and get involved with coaching or something close to athletics like an athletic director. The impact athletics has had on my life motivates me to stay in that field."

HENRI BOURQUE #7 **WIDE RECEIVER AND GRADUATE TRANSFER**

"I chose Norwich because of its strong reputation both academically and athletically, as well as the flexibility it gave me," says Bourque. "The online program allows me to balance my studies with football effectively."

Bourque found himself in Norwich's CGCS by way of transfer following his graduation from Merrimack College



Jehric Hackney (#35, center) prepares to run onto Sabine Field.

with a degree in business administration. “The online format gives me flexibility to manage my schedule effectively, allowing me to complete coursework at times that fit around my football commitments,” he says. “I knew it would challenge me but also that I would be able to do the work when I could.”

“Time management is key,” says Bourque of his workload. “I think it can be challenging to be a full-time student and an athlete, but you find ways to balance both and manage it. Setting goals on a weekly basis during the season, ensuring that I get enough rest at night, and then focusing on nutrition keeps me mentally sharp for games, practices, and class.”

While his schedule is jam-packed, Bourque benefits from both an athletic and academic support system. “The coaches are very understanding and supportive of my academic

goals. They set time aside for academics and they understand what’s important and why you’re at Norwich,” he says. As a graduate student, Bourque is in class alongside many working professionals. Their schedules may be hectic for different reasons, but they all share a commitment to completing their Norwich education. “My instructors know that we also have demanding schedules, and because of that, I don’t think the professors overwhelm us with work. They understand that people have other responsibilities outside of the academic realm.”

“I think Norwich, in general, fosters a strong community of encouraging academic success alongside athletic performance,” says Bourque. Through his online program, he sees that partnership create flexibility as a student-athlete. “I

can work around my athletic schedule and the online platform allows me to learn at my own pace without sacrificing other commitments. I can use my time on the bus or on the way to games to complete some of my classwork.”

Bourque has spent much of his life playing football and sees many parallels and intersections with Norwich academics. “Being part of a sports team for so long has really sharpened my teamwork and leadership skills, both of which are essential in group course work,” he says. “Finding ways to adapt and get everyone working together is essential even in different settings.”

Upon graduation, Bourque plans to implement the lessons learned through sports and the classroom in the business world, “First in operations, and then eventually as

a proprietor,” he says. “My father has worked 33 years in the painting business, so I want to learn from him as well. I can take what I learned from the MBA and combine it with what I learned from my father.”

Though he has only spent a year at Norwich, Bourque values his education and experience on the football team. “Being a part of Alumni Weekend, it really confirmed what I’ve known about Norwich. The sense of pride that people have in this University, both academically and athletically, is special,” he says. “It’s clear that the Norwich community deeply values its traditions and achievements, and that pride is what fuels its strong reputation. Being part of that kind of environment only reinforced that I made the right decision.” **N**

FORGING A NORWICH FUTURE

Board of Fellows member Paul Fousek '01, principal and founder of Horizon Wealth Management, sees the Partridge Society as the best way to support both current and future students on The Hill.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT



"I always think back to how Norwich prepares you for the real world," says Paul Fousek '01. "Being on time, trying hard, and no excuses were expected – I had professors who were certainly willing to

help, but they treated you like adults. It wasn't this sort of coddled experience where you were shocked that there were expectations in the real world."

When Fousek graduated high school, he spent his next few years in the real-world workforce before deciding on a Norwich education. "I graduated from Montpelier High School and took a couple years to run a restaurant," he says, though family ties would eventually sway him to enroll at Norwich. "My brother attended; my mother worked there, earned her undergraduate and master's degrees. It felt like the right place for me."

As a civilian student, Fousek saw the Norwich Corps of Cadets' attitude towards life as a benefit that rubs off on the greater community. "They have quite a bit of responsibility in the Corps, sometimes you would wonder how they handle so many responsibilities," he says.

"They've all committed themselves to a totally different lifestyle that makes it a lot harder to have excuses."

He credits the Norwich lifestyle with preparing him for the challenges that would await him in the real world. In thanks, his family decided to support the school through the Partridge Society all these years later. "My wife went to Harvard University and we're not giving money there; our money might as well be worthless to them," says Fousek. "Learning more about the need and the mission at Norwich made us think we should support it where we can. Having the opportunity to support something where the money would go to a good use was important to us."

"The people involved with the University are very passionate about the mission," he says. "The Partridge Society is important for a place like Norwich to continue and thrive. Every university cannot be a liberal arts university. Our people are different, and there has to be a place like this for students who want a different experience."

He knows that Norwich people are committed to the experience that the school provides. "It's a mindset that is oftentimes lacking and we have to make sure that places like this don't disappear," he says. "I think that's where you get the passion on both sides, civilian and Corps. There's a certain amount of kinship there that you just can't duplicate."



Students from all walks of life choose Norwich University; the Partridge Society offers a direct line of support.

His support of the Partridge Society has allowed Fousek the opportunity to expand his role with the school and work towards the future of those invested in Norwich. "I've met some great people and been able to accomplish some great things like the Bloomberg Lab, tied in with my service on the Board of Fellows," he says. "It's something you can really put your hands on. Looking at what we were able to do for a small school in Central Vermont that doesn't have a billion-dollar endowment makes me feel like money is being used for the right reasons."

"The opportunity to meet students and talk with them, especially Corps kids who are going to be commissioned, makes it hard not to support them,"

says Fousek. "Seeing how the funds help them with their education and finding their launching point is important. They'll be in the service for at least four years, and making sure they have a career path following their service is important."

Fousek knows what Norwich students are looking for in life and wants to do his part to secure that future. "You don't go here without looking for this way of life," he says. "You're looking for that bond, you're looking for that commitment. There are only a few serious institutions in the region that you could attend, so it's important that Norwich University is there and that we support it how we can." **N**

Committed TO SERVICE

Class of 1963 graduate Sigmund Borkoski's volunteer efforts offer a shining example of Captain Partridge's citizen-soldier.



STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Sig Borkoski '63 graduated high school in 1958 and immediately began working in an insurance company's mail room. If you had told him then that he would end up going to college, joining the military, and eventually spending the past decade-plus as a volunteer with the Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes, he would have hardly believed you.

"I'm in the mailroom, high school degree, and this one man pulls me over. He says, 'You seem pretty sharp and bright. Why don't you go to college?'" recalls Borkoski, who remembers thinking that it was a good idea. His sister, Marie, had gone to Douglas College in New Jersey, and told him that it was indeed a good idea and "pushed me to go to college."

Now that the wheels were turning around this idea, he connected with a friend in a nearby town who had family that attended Norwich. "I talked to him, and he said it's tough, but you come out a better person," says

Borkoski. "Somehow I got the application on my own at 17 and sent it in – and the funny part is, I never applied to any other schools."

His lone application was accepted and now he needed to get himself to Northfield. "My father said he couldn't take off from his work at the butcher shop, so I paid a high school friend to drive me up there in his old beater truck," says Borkoski. "He dropped me off and said, 'I have to go back now.'" Borkoski handed him his \$10 in gas money, and his friend began his return trip.

"I'll never forget," says Borkoski, "My friend who drove me up to school had a beard, and the first thing I got asked was, 'What are you, a hippie?' I said, no, that I wasn't a hippie, but that got me off on a bad foot – and I was assigned to their company!" His life at Norwich moved quickly, as he ascended through the ranks of cadet corporal, sergeant, and cadet captain of E Company prior to graduating as a Distinguished Military Student.

A helicopter flies above the golf course during the foundation's event honoring veterans.

NORWICH STORIES



Before he knew it, Borkoski was commissioned into the Army as a first lieutenant. He made his way around the globe during his time in the Army while he was assigned to the European Command at the Berlin Brigade in Germany. After three years there, he rotated home to the United States where he served seven more years in the U.S. Army Reserves as he began to find his civilian life and career, mainly in sales and human resources.

Borkoski and his family eventually found himself at home in the Bluffton, South Carolina, community of Hampton Hall as life moved along. Here, he would meet a handful of people who would share his spirit of service and form bonds that would last for years; one of which would be Russ Spicer, the future CEO of the Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes.

The Spicer family moved to Bluffton in 2008. "Shortly after we moved here, General Weisman and his wife who were friends of ours from Virginia came down to visit," says Spicer. He and retired Army Lieutenant General David Weisman, like many in the local community, spent much of their time on the golf course. Throughout their conversations between swings, LTG Weisman encouraged Spicer to do something productive during retirement. "He said, 'You can only play so much golf. We need to make sure that the veterans in this generation receive more support

than we did when we returned from Vietnam.'"

The idea was fresh in their minds when things started falling into place. "Believe it or not, later that day, we ran into a friend named Jim Miller, and his son, MSG Todd Nelson," says Spicer. "And Todd, at that time, had about 30 surgeries as a result of his military service."

Nelson's wellbeing became the spark that lit the kindling. The flame grew quickly, and before long, Borkoski was attending a meeting in the neighborhood's clubhouse to smooth out details and source volunteers. "I said, 'Hell, I was an officer, a lieutenant,'" says Borkoski. "And more than that, I understand wounded heroes; I didn't serve in combat, but even I have seen enough or heard enough through my service. I was committed to help." The very next year marked the foundation's inaugural golf tournament.

"Sig has been a volunteer with us for a long time, from the very beginning. He has been an instrumental volunteer," says Spicer. "We take pride in the fact that we are an all-volunteer organization; nobody in our organization has ever received a check or payment for anything." The group is growing by the year and helmed by a seven-person board of directors and nine committees led by 14 volunteer committee chairs, ranging from auctions, to donations, to media relations, and beyond.

“And then we have folks like Sig who are not committee leaders, but volunteers nonetheless,” says Spicer. “Our volunteers probably number, conservatively, about 150 people. They stuff golf goodie bags, escort veterans for the day, or whatever else is needed.”

Borkoski has consistently volunteered his services the past 13 years by serving as an escort for the wounded heroes through their day out. Upon the heroes’ arrival, he is found alongside a group of other volunteers



Sig Borkoski (center) alongside two of the Marines he recruited for the event's celebration.

awaiting them at the entrance. “As they show up, each of us greets them, serves them coffee, and all that kind of stuff,” he says. “We get them in a golf cart, and at the assigned time, we pack up and take them to the driving range where they can – if they want to – start playing golf. We want this to be a fun day, not just sitting around and hearing speeches; we want to do something for them.”

Spicer echoes his sentiment. “The kickoff and national anthem start the day around 11:30, but we have our speakers and everything at the end,” he says,

highlighting that the foundation aims to serve the heroes, not just recognize them. “I would classify our group of volunteers as people who want to serve rather than be served,” says Spicer. “That’s the one common thread within our community.”

Around 10 years ago, the foundation added a clinic to the event that is administered by students from a local golf college, the Professional Golfers Career College. “They’re seniors at this golf college and are going to be Professional Golf Association (PGA) pros,” says Spicer. “We take the heroes back for an hour of instruction because some folks have never swung a golf club before, while others are accomplished golfers.”

Once the heroes have gotten some swings out of their system, Borkoski and the crew of escorts load up into the golf carts and begin driving to the front of the community’s golf facility for opening ceremonies. “The highlight of the opening ceremonies is that each year over these past 13 golf events is that we’ve had the Special Forces Association Parachute Team jump in,” says Spicer. “That usually includes one active-duty guy, but a lot of them are already retired and still jump. They pop smoke and jump from about 10,000 feet, and the last jumper has an American flag that is huge.”

Borkoski has recently enhanced the ceremony by recruiting a bagpiper and two drummers to join. “They drummed back to where the wounded heroes were just finishing some golf, and then we had a procession led back to the opening ceremonies by the piper and drummers,” says Borkoski, adding that the combination of the piper, drummers, and parachutists lining a fairway green provides a unique sense of “atmosphere and tension.”

The ceremony moves quickly, keeping the foundation’s promise of giving the heroes a day of golf and fellowship. “We don’t play golf as escorts, they play golf,” says Borkoski. “They have a nice time playing 18 holes, trading stories with each other, and what have you.”

The golfers are usually done in a few hours. Through his years of escorting the heroes, Borkoski has developed a consistent schedule to fill the time between golf and the evening’s activities. “I escort them back to

my house and treat them to a beverage if they’d like one and offer them a shower,” he says. “After that, we reconvene at the clubhouse.”

Once at the clubhouse, supporters like the involved charities and keynote speaker have a chance to address everyone in attendance. “Sometimes we’ll have a presentation about a mortgage-free home or a scholarship if the recipient is there playing golf that day,” says Spicer. “The most important part of the mission is to ensure our special guests, the wounded heroes, that their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

“The most important part of the mission is to ensure our special guests, the wounded heroes, that their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

Offering visible support for the heroes has been a crucial part of the organization’s mission. Though, they could not offer support to the heroes without finding supporters of their mission. “Bullet point number two is raising funds through our sponsors and donors,” says Spicer. “An auction is part of the night, but it is not the focal part. The focal part will always be ensuring these servicemen and servicewomen that attend are comfortable and confident that their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

Behind the scenes, volunteers like Borkoski have spent time procuring items to be sold in the fundraising auction. The foundation’s event has made a name for itself in the local community, and the auction plays host to supportive community members who bid on a variety of items. “This is part of how we raise money,” he says. “It’s not just ‘Oh, here’s a donation of \$1,000.’ We generate enthusiasm; golfers and community members are putting their hands up and buying things.”

“We give 100% of what we collect,” says Borkoski, highlighting that the organization tries to cut down on overhead costs to ensure sizeable donations to their causes. “If we need food, we contact local grocery stores. They donate the lunch, which is very expensive to do.”

“We once had a lofty goal of trying to raise \$25,000 to support combat wounded service men and women,” says Spicer of their very first event, but what was once a lofty goal has become a drop in the bucket. “Our upcoming golf event will be our 14th that we’ve held in our years of existence, and we have now donated \$2,289,000.”

The Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Heroes has worked alongside the PGA Tour’s military outreach program, Birdies for the Brave, since it was born in the neighborhood clubhouse all those years ago. The foundation has raised and donated more than \$2 million in that time, in which these donations have been passed on to individual charities tied to Birdies for the Brave and the Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Heroes. All parties involved have agreed to target the donations to Wounded Heroes located in, or connected to, the South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry area.

Additionally, the group has sponsored 33 dogs through K9s for Warriors as their largest supporter, offered seven scholarships through the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, and sponsored 11 homes through the Military Warrior Support Foundation; all three groups are associated with Birdies for the Brave.

Borkoski has fostered a strong affinity for the foundation for nearly a decade and a half now. “Russ came back from Vietnam as a chopper pilot. We should imagine he saw lots of stuff; we know wars,” he says. “We all see this. Todd was the family member of someone who lived here. We looked at him and said, ‘He needs help.’”

“When people see that, you realize that there are those out there that really have a hard time acclimating physically and mentally once they come home from combat,” says Borkoski. “They have a problem – PTSD, one leg or arm, or have a situation because of combat. When I see these soldiers, it bangs on my heart and I want to keep doing this.” **N**

To learn more about the Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes, visit www.lfwmh.org or contact Sig Borkoski at sborkoski@gmail.com.

A REAL-WORLD ADVENTURE

Meet the first-ever recipients of the Internship Accessibility Scholarship and learn about their summer of experiential learning.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Experiential learning has been a central tenant to Norwich University's educational system since Captain Alden Partridge founded the school in 1819. While educational trends have changed throughout the years, the University's commitment to preparing students for real-world success has remained steadfast. In that spirit, the Center for Career Readiness has been focusing on ways to increase equity and accessibility to these experiences for all students.

"We have seen increased need for internship support for both domestic and international students," says Director of the Center for Career Readiness, Meghan Oliver. "An internship is a privilege, and we are committed to breaking down barriers that keep certain students from accepting an opportunity that could set them up for career success in the future. We started the Internship Accessibility Scholarship to address some of the barriers students face, which can include unpaid opportunities, transportation challenges, clothing, housing, or a combination of these, which can lead to them not being able to accept an opportunity."

This past summer, the Center for Career Readiness was able to provide three scholarships by using a small percentage of their on-campus recruiting revenue. "Over the last few years, the Center for Career Readiness has developed cost-savings strategies for our on-campus recruiting events, while not impacting the cost or the experience for our employers," says Oliver. Through these efforts they have been able to earmark 10% of every employer registration to help support a student internship. "This will benefit both our students and our

employers, who otherwise may not have been able to hire an intern."

These challenges are compounded when faced by international students who might be living on campus through the summer. "Our food services are not consistently available throughout the summer so students who opt to stay on campus often don't have an easy way to cook or shop for basic needs" says Oliver. "Most of our international students do not have a license or access to a car or reliable public transportation, so that adds another layer to accessibility." International students are required to receive credit for their internship as a part of their visa requirements, adding an extra financial burden on top of the housing, food, and transportation costs. For many international students, it can cost upwards of \$8,000 to \$10,000 to pursue a summer internship in the United States.

Kwame Amo '25, Spencer Rada '25, and Samriddhi Manandhar '27 made up the first-ever cohort to benefit from this scholarship. "I am very thankful for the scholarship money I received, as it helped me afford food and groceries throughout the summer, especially in those initial phases of the research experience before I received my stipend," says Manandhar.

"I thought summer would be a carefree time for me, but that was not true," says Manandhar, remembering her difficulties as an international student staying on campus during summer. "I was preparing my own meals every day. That left me thinking about what to eat each day and how to buy it."



Spencer Rada in the nation's capital.

Certain majors are more fortunate than others to have consistently paid internships. "Historically, criminal justice-related internships and many federal internships have been unpaid or underpaid, making it more difficult for a student to accept a position that they would have otherwise taken," says Associate Director of Academic Internships, Jim Graves. "We wanted to do something to support our students in a meaningful way."

Amo, Rada, and Manandhar took full advantage of the scholarship, and each took a unique route for their summer of experiential learning: Amo took an internship at the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineering firm DuBois & King just a short drive away in Vermont; Rada explored the inner-workings of the federal government as an intern on Capitol Hill; and Manandhar stayed on The Hill and participated in research surrounding serial killers and mass murderers alongside Dr. Elizabeth Gurian, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice.

Kwame Amo '25

"My internship was a transformative experience, both personally and professionally," says Amo. "As an electrical engineering major, I was excited to dive into the practical applications of what I had learned in the classroom, and working at an MEP engineering firm allowed me to gain a well-rounded understanding of how engineering fits into broader construction and infrastructure projects."

Amo was able to put his Norwich education into practice and saw immediate growth in his "hard" skills by working on real-world projects. He was able to design electrical systems, conduct load calculations, and learned how to use industry-standard software like AutoCAD and Revit. "These tools were essential in translating engineering concepts into detailed, actionable plans for construction," he says. "While I had exposure to such software in my academic courses, the hands-on experience during the internship allowed me to fully grasp its importance in professional settings fully."

While academia exposed Amo to many of the concepts he further explored during his internship, learning how to collaborate in a real-world, interdisciplinary environment was particularly valuable. “I frequently interacted with mechanical and plumbing engineers, architects, and project managers,” says Amo. “It became clear to me that while technical expertise is crucial, the ability to work seamlessly with professionals from other disciplines is just as important for the success of a project.”

“I am now more confident in my abilities as an engineer and am more certain about the direction I want to take in my career.”

“Moreover, I honed my problem-solving skills in a real-world context,” he added. “Unlike academic projects where problems tend to be well defined, the challenges I faced during my internship were often open-ended. This required me to think critically, adapt to new information, and develop creative solutions and skills that are essential in any engineering role.”

The internship expanded Amo’s understanding of engineering in the workforce and allowed him to envision himself as an engineer after graduation. “The experience solidified my interest in pursuing a career in MEP engineering,” he says. “I found that I really enjoyed the collaborative, interdisciplinary nature of MEP work. I am now more confident in my abilities as an engineer and am more certain about the direction I want to take in my career.”

Spencer Rada ’25

“Coming into this internship, I was nervous because I have never spent more than two or three days in a city, as I had always lived in a very rural area,” says

Rada. “Moving into a big city like Washington D.C. was my biggest concern and truly the only part of the experience I was nervous about.”

Although he was used to living in rural Vermont, Rada felt comfortable stepping into his new role in the nation’s capital because of his background working in state government. “Most of the work in the congressman’s office was very similar to what I did in state politics,” he says. “I responded to emails, conducted legislative research, created memos for legislation and for recent articles in the news, sent out mailers, ran errands to other offices, and answered phone calls.”

The biggest difference between his two positions was the types of communication he received from constituents. While in state politics, Rada noticed that “most, if not all,” of the calls he received were asking for help with the state. “A lot of the phone calls I received in the congressman’s office were either about legislation or were calling to yell at you for working for the specific congressman you work for,” he says, but adds that “I wanted to get better with constituent calls, and I was able to foster my capabilities in that regard.”

Rada continued filling out his political toolbelt by shadowing senior staffers. The four main sectors, managerial, scheduling, legislative, and communications, are each led by one of these individuals and he was able to gain a broader understanding of how all sectors work together. “My objective was to learn more about their positions not only to take experience and lessons from them, but to also see what I would like the most,” he says. “After shadowing all four of the senior staffers, I definitely enjoyed the managerial work and scheduling the most and, in my future, I want to work directly in these sectors.”

Prior to his time at Norwich, he was “truly eager” to run for political office. “Somewhere along the line I began to consider other options for good reason. You lose all of your privacy as an elected official, and you are verbally – and in some cases, physically – assaulted, and that just doesn’t seem like an enticing job application,” he says. When he compares that to his work as a staffer, he appreciates the potential for stability and longevity in his career. “This is a much more enticing job description, and one that I, as a more private person who wants to work in politics, seem more fit for.”

Samridhi Manandhar presents her work.



Rada has plenty to think about when he soon chooses where to begin his career following graduation. “Comparing my years in state politics to my internship on Capitol Hill, I did enjoy my work in state politics better because I felt we were doing work that actually made a bigger difference in people’s lives,” he says. “I want to be doing work where I can physically see my impact because of the work I am doing.”

Samridhi Manandhar ’27

“This is the work I had dreamed of doing even before I came to the states,” says Manandhar, who came to Norwich from Nepal. “I had always wanted to be involved in research related to serial killers. It is also one of the main reasons why I chose to come to Norwich. I was so happy that I was able to do it as a freshman! It was a dream come true.”

Although this is Manandhar’s dream field of work, studying serial killers can be mentally draining. “My professor made me start out with the 90 female serial killers first because they were the least gruesome and she wanted me to slowly acclimate to the contents,” she says. “I gave a short presentation about the female serial killers at the undergraduate research weekly meeting, and I got a lot of praise for my work.”

Now that she had her feet wet, she was ready to dive in. “I decided to get into the 426 partnered cases, as there are a lot of people involved in these types of cases, and I wanted to get it done during summer – and I did,” she says. “I found it challenging to read the gruesome details, but I slowly started getting used to it, like my professor said.”

Manandhar has shifted her focus to male serial killers since finishing the previous cases. Fortunately, she has had plenty of time to work on these hundreds of cases since her summer research-based internship was extended through the academic year.

“My first summer in the United States was much more challenging than I thought it was going to be,” she says. “But as much as it was challenging, it was also very encouraging. It not only made me grow academically by helping me know the ways of research, but also helped me grow and mature in terms of finances.”

“It helped me be more responsible by making me face the challenges of the real world,” says Manandhar of the scholarship. “I will always be thankful to the team of people who made this possible for me. I have been called to attend many meetings because of the research I am doing, and it motivates me to keep doing better and to keep making myself and the people around me proud.” **N**

CLASS NOTES



Norwich University cadets raise the flag on the Upper Parade Ground, c. 1916.

2022 & 2021

Since graduating from the MAH program with Norwich in 2022, Christopher Marty M'22 submitted articles to the Coast Defense Journal and On Point: The Journal of Army History, both published within the last year. Additionally, Chris used his successful experience and applied to the Defence Studies Program of King's College London, where he is researching the American Expeditionary Forces' effectiveness with intelligence-related concepts during the Great War.



Two Norwich alumni, Madison Bettis '21 and Gregory Bettis '22, recently married. Madison is working as a surgical assistant and ATC for The Steadman Clinic and Gregory is the superintendent for Habitat for Humanity.

2018

Cullen Acheson '18 and Rebecca Acheson '18 of Maine announce the birth of their son, Gavin Acheson. Gavin was born on Aug. 11, 2024, in Maine, and is his parents' second child.



2016 & 2015

Tyler Noyes '16, M'21 and Austin Soule '15 were recognized by Vermont State Police for their promotions to SGT at the Annual VSP Awards and Promotion Ceremony at the Vermont State House on Sept. 13, 2024. Tyler is assigned to Troop B Westminster barracks and Austin is assigned to Troop B Royalton barracks.



2014

Ryan C. Mitiguy '14 obtained his juris doctor from Campbell Law School in May 2024. Ryan successfully passed the North Carolina Bar Exam and has secured employment at a law firm predominately practicing employment law in North Carolina.

2013

Rob Kumpf '13 (middle) was selected as the 30th district commodore for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Ninth District - Western Region in September. Rob will assume this role in January, and will oversee Auxiliarists across Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The Ninth Coast Guard District - Western Region provides operational and administrative support to eighteen Coast Guard small boat stations, two aids to navigation stations, two seasonal aviation detachments, one marine safety unit, one sector field office, and one marine safety detachment under the command of Sector Lake Michigan in the Ninth Coast Guard District.



2012

SGT Daniel G. Kemp, USA M'12 has continued his side career writing military historical fiction. His latest short story appeared in Raconteur Press's *The Big Ones*, an anthology of WWII alternate histories that can be found on Amazon. The project's assistant editor at Raconteur was Col Christopher DiNote, USAF, who was also MMH '12 even if the exigencies of wartime service delayed his Capstone by a year or three. Now that that story's done, it's back to work on the third "Athenaeum, Incorporated" military-espionage novel.

2011

CPT Matthew D. Marfongelli, USA M'11 retired from the Army after 22 years of commissioned service in June 2024. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas while serving as an assistant professor of tactics at the Command and General Staff College.



2008

Major (ret) Timothy S. Cooke MMH'08 has been named Chieftain of the Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games for 2025. The Hawaiian Festival is a two-day event, traditionally held the first weekend of April, concluding a month of Celtic-themed parades, pub crawls, and whiskey tastings around Honolulu.



2000

On Oct. 11, with family, friends, and colleagues in attendance, BG Shaun P. Miller '00 was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army at Houston, Texas. Since July 2024, BG Miller has been assigned as the Deputy Commanding General of the 76th Operational Response Command (ORC) located in Salt Lake City, Utah. In his civilian capacity, BG Miller is an assistant chief for the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), responsible for the delivery of the state's emergency management programs for Southeast Texas.

PARTRIDGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KEY

CHAIRMAN'S SIX DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$10,000,000 or more

CHAIRMAN'S FIVE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$8,000,000–\$9,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S FOUR DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$6,000,000–\$7,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S THREE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$4,000,000–\$5,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S TWO DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$2,000,000–\$3,999,999

CHAIRMAN'S ONE DIAMOND CLUB
cumulative lifetime giving of \$1,000,000–\$1,999,999

FIVE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$750,000–\$999,999

FOUR-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$500,000–\$749,999

THREE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$250,000–\$499,999

TWO-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$100,000–\$249,999

ONE-STAR GENERAL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$50,000–\$99,999

LIFETIME LEVEL
cumulative lifetime giving of \$20,000–\$49,999

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
fiscal year gift of \$1,000 or more

1819 CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP
planned or deferred gift to the university

GARRISON ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP
consecutive annual giving in five-year increments

PARTRIDGE SOCIETY

The mission of the Partridge Society is to encourage alumni, parents, and friends of Norwich University to help the University achieve its financial goals and to formally recognize those who do so.

The Partridge Society Board of Directors welcomes the following new and promoted Lifetime and 1819 Circle Members and acknowledges new levels achieved between June 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024.

CHAIRMAN'S ONE DIAMOND CLUB (\$1,000,000-\$1,999,999)
Robert MacDuff '60

FIVE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS (\$750,000-\$999,999)

Mark '59, H'17 & Polly Kisiel Blair '84 & Barb Lavoie P'20 LTC Eugene W. Ward, USA (Ret.) '49

FOUR-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS (\$500,000-\$749,000)

Alan '75 & Cynthia '75 DeForest P'01 & P'19 Mr. Harold P. Grout '59 & P'84 Tina E. Judd-Christianio '84

THREE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS (\$250,000-\$499,999)

Joseph E. MacLeod '84 Robert A. '69 & Elizabeth C. Williams P'11

TWO-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS (\$100,000-\$249,999)

Anthony '84 & Marietta '84 Agnitti John '83 & Karen (Rowe) '83 Broadmeadow Ms. Dorothy Byrne Mr. & Mrs. John P. Collins '90 Anthony Paen Mr. Fred B. Roedel, III '85 Carol (Decker) Trihy '84 Fred E. '67 & Linda VanAlstyne COL & Mrs. Barry E. Wright, USA (Ret.) '70

ONE-STAR GENERAL MEMBERS (\$50,000-\$99,999)
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Fuehr Stewart '72 & Lindi Ives Col & Mrs. Jeffrey Katz, USAF (Ret) '73 Nancy A. Kinder M'04 Joan LaFrance '79 Paul Madden '88 & Maureen Clark Karl '84 & Susan '84 Moisan David '74 & Susan Plank Richard '76 & Mary Ellen Prevost Corydon L. Thurston '74

LIFETIME MEMBERS (\$20,000-\$49,999)

Calvin & Karen Bowie '72 John Buzby, Jr. '84, M'04 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Dearlove '63 Albert '70 & Denise Dugas Mr. & Mrs. John D. Fritz '74 John F. Hackett '70 Thomas '70 & Lynn Henry Francis '71 & Nancy Kobylenski Robert W. McAllister '64 William & Caroline McCollough '91 Gordon L. Page '59 COL Donald Paquin, USA '93 Robert Perkin Hon Earl A. Rinker, III '57 LTC & Mrs. Dean H. Seitz USA (Ret.) '73 LtCol James P. Sinnott, USMC (Ret.) '82 Edward Sullivan, Jr. '91 Corey P. Touchette '23 & P'22

1819 CIRCLE MEMBERS
Jim '69 & Penny Gilles Corydon L. Thurston '74

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

ROLL OF HONOR

The following list reflects notifications of deceased Norwich family members received by the University from July 22, 2024 to November 14, 2024. Full obituaries, when available, can be viewed online at alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries. To inform the University of the passing of a member of the Norwich family, please contact the Alumni Office at (802) 485-2300 or nualumni.norwich.edu/obituaries

1946: Harry Page, 10/27/2024, 100 – BIL to Gordon R. Haslam '50

1951: Donald Clark, 8/3/2024, 98

1952: Addison Minott, 9/1/2024, 94 – Cousin of William Steele '59

1954: Edward Brown, 8/10/2024, 92 – Parent of Timothy Brown '80, Grandparent of Seth Brown '12

1954: Bruce Wilcox, 9/20/2021, 89 – Brother of Keith Wilcox '62

1955: Robert Cunningham, 10/14/2024, 91 – Brother of Paul Cunningham '52

1955: Henri Erkelens, 9/8/2024, 90

1955: Donald Lewis, 11/11/2024, 90 – Parent of D. Palmer Lewis '84

1955: Paul Potvin, 7/20/2024, 91 – Brother of Robert Potvin '62

1956: William Denton, 10/8/2024, 89 – Parent of Susan Kirkby '01

1958: Stephen Gaw, 9/13/2024, 89 – Brother of Michael Gaw '63

1958: Robert Schultz, 11/8/2024, 88

1959: Donald DeBlieux, 8/9/2024, 87

1960: Peter Romano, 8/20/2024, 85 – Son of Ralph Romano Sr. '30, Brother of Ralph Romano Jr. '56, Uncle of Patricia Leavenworth '89 & Gary Leavenworth '10, and Cousin of Albert Romano '56

1961: Ronald Howard, 9/24/2023, 84

1961: Elliott Speers, 10/7/2024, 85

1962: George Gass, 10/24/2024, 86

1962: John Jorgensen, 4/20/2024, 83

1963: Carole Crosby, 10/3/2024, 83 – Widow of Charles Crosby '63

1963: Boyd Jones, 9/4/2024, 83

1963: Leonard Palmer, 10/3/2024, 82

1964: Douglas De Ruisseau, 8/21/2024, 81

1965: Eugene Cozzi, 10/7/2024, 81

1965: Julian Vitali, 8/23/2024, 80 – Cousin of George Blake '75

1965: Peter Ward, 9/8/2024, 81 – Husband of June Ward '64

1965: Bruce Battel, 8/30/2024, 79

1966: Raymond Larson, 8/6/2024, 80

1966: Nancy Brecher, 7/18/2024, 77, Vermont College

1966: Timothy Jay Noonan, 8/15/2024, 81

1966: Richard Temple, 10/28/2024, 80

1967: Fred Baker, 8/14/2024, 80

1968: Susan Dixon, 8/15/2024 – Wife of Joseph C. Urciuoli '68

1972: Matt Perno, 10/28/2024, 74

1974: Frank Giudici, 8/26/2024, 71 – Brother of Gina Oakes '88

1974: Linda Stewart, 4/30/2022, 69 – Wife of Bernard Stewart '74

1975: Sean Moran, 11/27/2012, 59 – Husband of Lindsay Moran '77, BIL to Jeffrey Katz '73, CIL to I. Pete Katz '44

1977: John Garrity, 9/17/2024, 70

1981: James Larson, 6/25/2024, 65

1984: Brian Hutchins, 8/12/2024, 63

1986: David Shaw, 8/12/2024, 61 – Son of Donald Shaw '51, Husband of Susan Shaw '84, , Brother of Peter Shaw '84

2006: Joshua Mahoney, 9/28/2024, 40

2011: Lisa Rees, M'11, 7/20/2024, 58

Gary Atwood, 10/15/2024, 85 – Former Faculty Member, Parent to Nicole Cook '96

CORRECTIONS:

The September 2024 issue of *The Record* erroneously listed the following alumni as deceased. We are pleased to report these graduates are still with us and sincerely apologize for the errors.

Joseph M. Beaver '53

Suzanne P. Berrier '79

James J. Nagle '00

Pack your bags!

Norwich is launching a new Alumni Travel Program!



Discover, learn, and connect as you travel the world with NU alumni, and friends!



If you're looking for meaningful experiences in destinations around the globe, you'll love the small group tours we are curating for Norwich alumni, family, and friends.

Partnering with renowned leaders in educational travel, Norwich's Alumni Travel trips will journey internationally and within the United States. Our partners will handle all the logistics so you can focus on what matters: experience adventures together. The list of trips for 2026 will be posted in March of 2025.

Gather your classmates and friends and make plans to experience the world together. We look forward to traveling, experiencing, and connecting with you!

Subscribe to the NU Travel Program to receive notifications of upcoming travel opportunities.

Add me to the NU Alumni Travel Mailing List: Scan code



NORWICH UNIVERSITY

A Winning Scenario



"Are you contemplating donating to Norwich in the near future? Recently, I invested in a Charitable Gift Annuity with Norwich University at a rate of 7.8%, paid to me quarterly, over my lifetime. I used appreciated stock to fund the CGA, so **no capital gains tax was required**. Your return will be based upon your age. A CGA is a winning scenario for both the school and the giver!!"

—Jack Bergquist '67,
Current Trustee

Check out Norwich's CGA rate calculator on www.norwichgiftplans.org or call Norwich's Planned Giving Office today! Rates are based on guidelines provided by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA).



NORWICH UNIVERSITY



To learn more about this type of gift, please call Megann O'Malley, Director of Planned Giving, at (802) 485-2282, or email at Momalley@norwich.edu.

Norwichgiftplans.org



NORWICH
UNIVERSITY

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
Norwich University
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield, Vermont 05663

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Northfield, VT
Permit #35

