



# FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE NO. 8



## CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



We're pleased to share a first look at our new *History of the Center for Academic Excellence* video. This piece highlights the origins of The Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence Endowed by J. Ronald Terwilliger '63 and Classmates, and the lasting impact of the Class of 1963's commitment to supporting midshipman success.

### JOANNA SOHOVICH '93 PAYS FORWARD THE MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

Shaped by time, perspective and gratitude, Sohovich's initial impulse grew into a lasting commitment to advancing elite leadership opportunities at the U.S. Naval Academy.



[Find Out More](#)

### NAVAL ACADEMY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW LACROSSE FACILITY

The Academy celebrated a major milestone with the groundbreaking of its new lacrosse facility—an exciting step forward for the future of Navy men's and women's lacrosse.



[Learn More](#)

### SUSTAINING THE MISSION: ONE FAMILY'S COMMITMENT

The Rintzes' sons graduated in 2013, but their commitment to the U.S. Naval Academy continues. The Academy's leadership experience made a lasting impression on the family.



[Read More](#)



## GREAT CLASS CHALLENGE

The Great Class Challenge returns 4–8 May, bringing alumni and parents together for five fast-paced days of friendly competition in support of the Brigade. Every gift of \$10 or more counts toward class participation totals and helps strengthen academics, athletics and the midshipman experience across the Yard while moving your class up the leaderboard.

[MAKE YOUR GIFT HERE!](#)

## 50 YEARS OF LEGACY: USNA Women's 50 Year Celebration



In honor of the 50th anniversary of women entering the U.S. service academies, USNA Women hosted the *50 Years of Women Celebration* at the Fluegel Alumni Center (Annapolis, MD) from 16 through 19 April—a deeply personal and profoundly historic milestone that honored the past, celebrated the present and empowered the future of women at the Naval Academy and beyond.

Founded in 2018, USNA Women has always been driven by the shared mission of fulfilling the mission of the Naval Academy while creating a network for connection, leadership and support.

[READ MORE](#)

## FIRST FRIDAY FACULTY LECTURE SERIES COMPLETES STRONG SECOND YEAR



The *First Friday Faculty Lecture Series* continued its momentum this year, offering President's Circle donors an inside look at the ideas and research shaping today's Naval Academy.

The fall semester opened with a special hybrid session during President's Circle Weekend in Hopper Hall, where CDR Kenneth Maroon, Col Eric Reid, and CAPT BJ Armstrong explored the role of wargaming in developing strategic thinking and preparing future officers for complex operational environments. In November, Dr. Ellis Fenske and Dr. Joe Hatfield introduced attendees to the Tor network and the Dark Web, providing a practical look at anonymity technologies and their implications for cybersecurity. The fall series concluded with Dr. Joseph P. Smith's presentation on project-based learning in Oceanography, demonstrating how hands-on research strengthens midshipmen's analytical and decision-making skills.

The spring lineup continued the series' strong academic focus. Dr. Bob Fishman, the Jim and Julie Matheson Class of 1987 Director of the Center for Energy Security and Infrastructure Resilience (CESIR), discussed emerging challenges in energy resilience and microgrid systems. Professor Marcus Hedahl followed with a thoughtful session on Stoicism and ethical leadership, exploring how classical philosophy informs decision-making in modern military contexts. The series concluded with a discussion from Dr. Qamar-ul Huda, the Michael E. Paul Chair, Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Affairs on the evolving dynamics in Middle East diplomacy and regional strategy.

Together, these programs highlight the depth of faculty expertise at the Naval Academy and give donors a meaningful window into the academic experiences shaping the Brigade. We look forward to welcoming President's Circle donors back for another year of conversations ahead.

## 2025 DONOR REPORT



With sincere appreciation, we thank our alumni, parents, friends and organizations whose generosity continues to strengthen the Brigade and expand what's possible at the Naval Academy. Your support makes a lasting difference for today's midshipmen and the leaders they will become. The next U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Donor Report, recognizing 2025 giving, is in the works and will be shared this summer alongside our July *Shipmate*. We look forward to celebrating this incredible community—and to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### COMMISSIONING WEEK

16-22 MAY 2026

Celebrating, commemorating, and commissioning. [Details](#)



### INDUCTION DAY

25 JUNE 2026

The U.S. Naval Academy will welcome the Class of 2030! [Details](#)



### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE WEEKEND

8-10 OCTOBER 2026

Learn more about President's Circle! [Details](#)



U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation

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