

WILLIAMSON

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



NAVAL RO

This Annual Report publicizes to interested stakeholders how Villanova University NROTC serves the community while illustrating our continued commitment to responsible stewardship of the most important resource entrusted to the NROTC staff – our nation’s sons and daughters. Underpinned by an elementary financial audit, the report’s main purpose is to highlight the diverse achievements of our Midshipmen and the tireless efforts of our active duty and civilian staff to set the conditions for our students to thrive. This per annum feedback will help us align with Villanova’s Strategic Plan and the broader officer accessions enterprise that falls under the direction and guidance of Commander, Naval Service Training Command (CNSTC)

DEAR STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF, ALUMNI, UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIT:


You make up our growing family of loyal supporters and we are blessed to have you on board! Proud to say that the state of your Wildcat Battalion is ever stronger, as we continue to successfully execute our training and education mission with a view to develop the very best Midshipmen for our Navy and Marine Corps. In addition to excelling in their scholastic achievements, I’m truly impressed with this next generation of leaders and their willingness to expand their horizons via extracurricular activities both on campus and off. To nurture a sense of civic duty and build relationships, we’ve leveraged host institution resources to affect engagement opportunities across the Philadelphia area and beyond. In this report, you will see evidence of our battalion putting your donations to good use as we traveled to Notre Dame, Tulane, Holy Cross, Penn State, Colorado, and Yale. To be sure, I can point to a wide variety of student involvement ranging from social activities, athletics, service and volunteer-oriented clubs and specialized programs that created ‘strategic’ impacts beyond the normal scope of NROTC. You may also

notice the creativity of our Midshipmen and active-duty staff in finding ways to continue attracting more talent for our program as well as the naval enterprise at large, e.g. our first/best in breed NROTC Summer Seminar program. Additionally, we are extremely thankful to Villanova University for increasing their room and board scholarship to \$5k per year for eligible students living on campus.

As you review our annual report you will most certainly notice the strength of our Wildcat Battalion is, and will forever be, found in the individual Midshipman’s sense of veritas, unitas, caritas. We will always look for ways to maximize our team potential by leveraging their unique personal attributes, while remaining true to unit traditions with an emphasis on our naval services’ core values and warrior spirit. Your donations to the PJ Harrington Fund, other resourcing efforts and overall moral support was instrumental to our success and will set the conditions for increased excellence in the years ahead.

We wish fair winds and following seas to our seniors and look forward to next year, the arrival of a new Commanding Officer and a new freshman class.

Semper Amare,



Colonel V.J. Ciuccoli



VILLANOVA NROTC FAMILY,

The Fall 2023 semester can be best described as “no-nonsense” and was a shift from the leadership styles and organizational approach of the previous academic year. Overall, the Battalion leadership team allowed for a relatively smooth, yet still busy semester with events in and outside of the Villanova sphere of influence. While there were some growing pains initially with new approaches to tasks and new demands, the Battalion worked hard and demonstrated their ability to adapt and overcome challenges as they arose. While numbers in the Battalion have decreased in the past couple of years, the large freshmen class of midshipmen allowed new life and excitement to be breathed into the Battalion. The excitement the underclassmen have demonstrated has given me confidence that the Battalion will be left to dedicated and motivated individuals. This semester was busy with events including the India Company Crucible, Fall Review with ADM Paparo, Penn State Marine Option FEX, the Holy Cross MEC, Army Navy ROTC Flag Football, and the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball. All of these events required a tremendous amount of planning and logistics and the individuals responsible for coordinating them worked tirelessly to ensure that all things were executed properly. The Battalion didn't just do the above listed events they also made sure that Villanova NROTC was represented outside of campus as well, with participation in ultra-marathons, Day of Service, golf charity, Varsity games, leadership seminars, and even a new Villanova TV commercial. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served as the Battalion Commander and I am extremely proud to have worked with such dedicated and hard-working individuals who will lead as officers in the Fleet.

Semper Fidelis,



MIDN 1/C Ryan Wall
Battalion Commanding Officer Fall 2023

As the Battalion transitioned into the Spring under a “softer” style of leadership compared to the Fall command, midshipmen adjusted readily. The spring's winter weather required quick and seamless adjustments from all midshipmen beginning on day one. The Battalion represented at the Notre Dame Leadership Conference, while a Whiskey Co. drill team traveled to and competed in the Tulane MEC. In anticipation of the busier months of the semester, the February “lull” in Battalion activities allowed for midshipmen to involve themselves around the Villanova Campus and to focus on introducing small, but significant, desired changes around John Barry Hall. With the addition of a new mural, bulletin board displaying the National Chain of Command, gym facilities, and Engineering Exam preparatory textbooks to the wardroom, John Barry Hall is taking on an improved look. Rolling into the Gala, the Villanova Battalion hosted Rear Admiral LeClair, who was also able to speak with the greater university community. The springtime offered the Gala to celebrate the seniors, Marine Option FEX, our own MEC, attendance of both the Notre Dame and USNA Conferences, a Papa Company off-campus outing, and Spring Review. Our semester concluded with a Consortium-wide culminating event and finally, the commissioning of our 19 seniors. Having the privilege of leading the Villanova University Battalion of Midshipmen has been one of the proudest moments of my life. This is easy to say when the Battalion is filled with motivated, honorable, prideful, and most importantly, kind people. I have learned just as much from them as I hope they have learned from me. I have no reservations in handing over the command upon commissioning because, within the Villanova Battalion, we possess the greatest future Marines and Sailors.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,



MIDN 1/C Hannah E. Cohen
Battalion Commanding Officer Spring 2024

INDIA COMPANY CRUCIBLE

Each year, 4/C midshipmen go through a four-week indoctrination phase, better known as India Company. India Company is well known for transforming new midshipmen from meeting the minimums needed to join the Naval ROTC program to becoming Villanova Midshipmen. They quickly understand that being a midshipman at Villanova means they will be held to a much higher standard in the classroom, community, and on the PT field. Throughout India Company, although most evolutions were performed like in previous years, there were some notable changes. The most significant being the addition of the culminating event at Valley Forge. With one week left in India Company, this event consisted of a casualty evacuation drill up Mount Misery early in the morning. The midshipmen worked as a team to carry litter, ammo cans, and more up the mountain while facing different obstacles. Once completed, the midshipmen were welcomed into the battalion with a warrior's breakfast and transitioned into the mentorship phase for their last week.

MIDN 2/C Emma Shores, USN



INDIA CO.



NOTRE DAME LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The weekend of February 8th, along with Midshipmen DeWitt, Manning, and McCarthy, I attended the annual Naval Leadership Weekend (NLW) hosted by the University of Notre Dame. There were six symposium speakers present from both the commissioned and enlisted sides of the Navy and Marine Corps, warfare breakout groups, and a keynote speaker. From the presentations given by these men and women, we learned about how to treat one's Sailors and Marines with respect and dignity and how to maintain a reciprocating relationship of guiding them while still learning from them. The first to speak was Captain Chris Cassidy, a retired Navy SEAL and astronaut, who spoke on the value of camaraderie and overcoming formidable circumstances. Next to present was Colonel Reginald McClam, the Commanding Officer of The Basic School for Marine Corps officers. He endowed us with several incredibly priceless lessons that forced us as listeners to reflect on the trajectory of our lives as incumbent military leaders. Col McClam began by positing that the greatest test of a person is how they bounce back from adversity. He defined leadership as "creating an environment in which your people love coming to work" and told us to "continue to plant trees that you may never climb or even sit in their shade" as a reminder to pay it forward. Sergeant Major Al'Kedra Tyler taught us how to set a good example as an officer and be personable while maintaining a professional relationship. To summarize, NLW endowed all those present with admirable perspectives on leadership that will profoundly impact the development of our next generation of Naval and Marine Corps officers.

MIDN 1/C Katie Keane, USN



NOVA MIDN AT HOLY CROSS

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS MEC

It was the first weekend of November 2023 when a select group of Villanova midshipmen assembled at John Barry Hall, loaded up the vans, and made the voyage up north to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts for their MEC (Military Excellence Competition). While some midshipmen competed in drill events, others participated in athletic and physical events such as the Warrior Challenge, the Iron Man, and even a basketball tournament. The midshipmen were unsuccessful in their efforts to secure a first-place finish among the two other schools, but they still knuckled down and put forth a commendable amount of effort during the day. Our first drill squad led by MIDN 2/C Alaimo was phenomenal as they gracefully marched around the field, displaying confidence and rhythm with every step. The same can also be said for the second squad led by MIDN 3/C Dorfler. Following the drill competition, those competing in the basketball tournament made their way to the courts for some competitive fun. Villanova's three teams each experienced varying levels of success, with the standout being team #1. Their motivation and hard work were rewarded by a finals berth experiencing a loss to a talen-

-ted Holy Cross team during a tense and nail-biting championship. Other great efforts included the Iron Man and Iron Woman as both teams conquered their physical challenges to experience victory and rack up many points. Lastly, MIDN 2/C Wood and Cunningham were highly commendable for their achievements in the Warrior Challenge. This event was no simple task as it involved a 3-mile run with a combat load over rugged terrain and varying levels of elevation. Nonetheless, they made this look easy with their first and second-place finishes. It was a great day for all, and Villanova NROTC appreciates Holy Cross for hosting such a pleasurable experience. Looking ahead, Villanova midshipmen eagerly await their next MEC.

MIND 4/C Lynam, USN





On February 9th, Whiskey Company traveled to New Orleans with a ten-midshipman squad to compete in the 50th annual Mardi Gras Military Excellence Competition (MEC) at Tulane University. Whiskey Company competed in the squad basic MIDN 1/C category, with MIDN Young serving as this year's unit leader. We were among the first schools to compete on Friday, and after weeks of training, the squad lived up to the high standards set forth by the legacy of Whiskey Company. The competition embodied what it means to be a Villanovan, and the camaraderie with all the participating schools exemplified the future of Naval service that all midshipmen aspire to. After the competition, Whiskey Company bonded by experiencing all that New Orleans has to offer. The midshipmen visited the famous National World War II Museum, the French Quarter, and experienced traditional New Orleans cuisine. However, the highlight of the trip was the camaraderie shared amongst all members of Whiskey Company, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

MIDN 1/C Dillon Tedesco, USN

TULANE MEC

FALL PARADE

FALL REVIEW WITH SPECIAL GUEST ADMIRAL PAPARO

On 22 September 2023, the Villanova NROTC battalion hosted its annual Fall Review. Having returned from an eventful summer full of enriching experiences—including CORTRAMID, Junior and senior cruises, family vacations, and travel abroad—the battalion was prepared for the event. The review marked the end of India Company—the indoctrination program of first-year Midshipmen candidates into the unit—and recognized the achievements of the standout Midshipmen. The unit was extremely fortunate to welcome back Admiral Paparo, Villanova class of 1987, as the guest of honor. Admiral Paparo, as well as Battalion Commanding Officer Midshipmen 1/C Ryan Wall, addressed those gathered about the importance of good leadership and personal connections with those you serve with. Midshipman 4/C Meghan Haas and Midshipman 4/C Sophie McGee were presented awards by the India Company staff for their demonstrated leadership and courage throughout the indoctrination program. The ceremony was accompanied by the Villanova band playing the National Anthem and ceremonial music.

Their timing and cadence were spectacular which made for a very visually and audibly precise spectacle for the gathered audience to enjoy. Following the dismissal, Midshipmen, visiting family members and friends, and special guests all mingled together at the Oreo.

MIDN 4/C McCarthy, USN



SPRING REVIEW

19 APRIL 2024



On April 19, 2024, the Philadelphia Consortium marched across Mendel Field for their annual Spring Review. Col Ciuccoli gave his final parade speech to Midshipmen and guests. His speech emphasized the importance of love as the motivation behind every service member, no matter how young or old. Guest speaker MajGen Bowers, Command General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, gave a powerful speech to the commissioning seniors saying “and [the Midshipmen] will make mistakes, but we will pick them up, brush them off, and make them outstanding in their future careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.” MajGen Bowers was presented with a plague signed by all senior midshipmen, presented by the UPenn and Villanova Battalion Commanding Officers as well as Colonel Ciuccoli. Swords and other awards were awarded to the seniors for their hard work, excellent academics, and talented leadership over the course of their four years in NROTC.

MIDN 4/C Matthew Maida, USN



Villanova hosted its second annual MEC on April 21, 2024, welcoming six NROTC units from the east coast: College of Holy Cross, University of South Carolina, State University of New York Maritime College consortium, Rutgers University consortium, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (both Navy and Air Force units).

The weekend, led by MEC Officer MIDN 2/C Dailey and Assistant MEC Officer MIDN 3/C Rodriguez, with support from midshipmen and active-duty staff from the Philadelphia Consortium, marked an improvement over its predecessor, drawing both familiar and new NROTC units.

Midshipmen competed in three drill events: Platoon, Squad, and Color Guard, alongside various physical challenges on both the field and in the pool. Familiar events such as the MURPH Challenge, the 200m swim medley relay, and the "Chocolate Milk Mile" made a return, while the "Endurance Race" made its debut.

These events pushed midshipmen to surpass both their competitors and their personal limits. The MEC not only fosters friendly competition but also provides midshipmen with invaluable networking opportunities, allowing them to forge connections with their future shipmates and thereby strengthening



MILITARY COMPETITION



our Navy and Marine Corps team. Villanova NROTC dedicated significant time and effort to prepare for the MEC, and the midshipmen competed with a strong sense of pride in their unit, committed to upholding its traditions of excellence. This pride and dedication served as a powerful motivator, driving them to perform their best and represent their unit with distinction, resulting in Villanova's Midshipmen placing in the top 3 for the majority of the events. Overall, it was a great day to be a midshipman, filled with excellent displays of leadership and commitment.

MIDN 1/C Benjamin George and
MIDN 4/C Adriana Olivas





1 DEC 2023 FALL BALL

On December 1, 2023, the Villanova NROTC battalion of midshipmen held their annual Fall Ball at the Inn at Villanova University. This year, the annual celebration of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps Birthdays commemorated the 248th year since both were founded. The guest of honor was Rear Admiral Michael Donnelly, USN. Before the festivities began, Midshipmen, active duty officers, and the guest of honor had the chance to speak with one another at a social cocktail hour. After ma-



-king their way to the ballroom, the ceremony began with a moment of silence for our fallen sailors and marines, followed by a prayer. A reading of Commandant John A. Lejeune's birthday message as well as the showing of the Navy and Marines' birthday messages kicked off the celebrations. The ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake followed between the oldest and youngest present. Rear Admiral Michael Donnelly gave a short and sweet speech to the battalion. After dinner and a slice of cake, the dancing commenced. Once the CO had done the worm, everyone's shirt pockets were torn off, and the seniors toasted with a shot of whiskey, it was time to wrap up the night. On the way out the door, each guest was gifted a Villanova NROTC highball glass. The Villanova NROTC midshipmen put on an excellent event. What a night!



GALA

23 FEBRUARY 2024

The annual gala is a pivotal event of the year for our first-class midshipmen. They have patiently waited for years to participate in their own gala and celebrate what they have achieved and the beginning of their future careers. Each year, our underclassmen spend time planning and executing this event out of respect for the first-class Midshipmen as they prepare to lead Sailors and Marines in the fleet. In past years, these same future officers volunteered at the event, aspiring to one day partake in its festivities themselves.

This event allowed the Class of 2024 to enjoy a night with each other, loved ones, mentors, and the active-duty staff that has educated and prepared these future officers for what lies ahead. There were many events taking place, such as a delicious dinner with plentiful drinks and an exciting auction with a Top Gun basket and model ships. This event also reminds the midshipmen that their time here is short and to make it count by becoming better people while enjoying it.

Rounding off the night, Rear Admiral Ted LeClair a Villanova NROTC alumnus gave an incredible speech. He motivated the midshipmen to finish their time here strong and to lead the world as proud Villanovans, taking on any challenge they faced.

MIDN 4/C Jonathan Evans, USN



SPOOKY SEASON: HALLOWEEN DODGEBALL

To celebrate the spooky season this year, the Villanova NROTC Midshipmen and active-duty staff dressed up in their best costumes and showed off their arm strength with some Halloween dodgeball. Some of the costumes worn ranged from Buzz Lightyear and Mr. Incredible to Marty McFly and Ted Lasso. Dodgeball started with a battle between the classes and the 2/C midshipmen emerged victorious. The fun-filled morning ended with one last duel between Whiskey Company and Papa Company. Papa Company had the numbers, and it did not appear good for Whiskey Company with just one man left. When all hope was lost, Mr. Incredible (MIDN 2/C Cunningham) saved the day and pulled off an amazing comeback, taking out 6 midshipmen from Papa Company and securing the victory for Whiskey. Overall, it was a great way to have some fun in the battalion while also getting into the Halloween spirit.



NROTC BASEBALL AND BBQ

MIDN 4/C Colton, USN

LETTING LOOSE

VILLANOVA NROTC IN THE WILD



FOOTBALL IN THE SNOW





HALLOWEEN DODGEBALL



"FIRE IN THE HOLE" GOLF

On 7 November, Villanova sent 10 MIDN to attend the Travis Manion "Fire in the Hole" Gold Outing at The Union League of Philadelphia - Liberty Hill. The MIDN set up multiple parts of the event, assisted in registration, and were able to step into empty slots to participate in the event. Fire in the Hole draws inspiration from the book "Knock at the Door," which narrates the firsthand experiences of Gold Star family members who receive the devastating news of losing their loved ones while serving in the line of duty. The objective of Fire in the Hole is to serve as the second knock at the door—a means of offering support and gratitude and distributing the raised funds to help fulfill some of the immediate needs of these families. Proceeds from the event supported the Travis Mannion Foundation, which supports families and future families of military, police, firefighter, and first responder personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

MIDN 2/C Patrick Sams, USN



WHISKEY PAINT BALL OUTING



NROTC AT NOVADANCE



NROTC AT HORSHAM MIRACLE FIELD 5K

SENIOR LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

This year's senior class trip spanned two memorable days, with one day in Newport, RI, and the other in Boston, MA. Beginning with an early start on March 15th, seniors from Villanova, UPenn, Temple, and Drexel embarked on a journey to the Naval War College in Newport. They enjoyed insightful tours, classified briefs, and simulator experiences at the Surface Warfare Officer School (SWOS). After a delightful evening at the Newport Naval Station Officer's Club, they headed to Coast Guard Base Boston to settle in before exploring the vibrant city. The following day, the seniors explored Coast Guard Cutters docked at the base before indulging in self-guided sightseeing around Boston. Then they split into groups and toured historical landmarks like Bunker Hill and the USS Constitution. The weekend ended with a memorable dinner in Boston's Seaport district at Tony C's. The trip fostered leadership development, class bonding, and created cherished memories for all.

MIDN 1/C Sam Weisgerber



BOSTON



MIDN 1/C Dudrear is a model to both her peers and the battalion as a whole. In the past year MIDN Dudrear has received two very distinct awards in the Philadelphia area that set her apart from the average student. Firstly, in the spring of 2023, MIDN Dudrear was awarded the National Defense Industrial Association ROTC Scholarship from the Delaware Valley Chapter of Excellence. MIDN Dudrear got to enjoy a luncheon that celebrated her hard work in excelling in her Computer Engineering Degree on top of her NROTC responsibilities of being the operations officer. MIDN Dudrear was chosen among other Philadelphia ROTC cadets and MIDN because of her unwavering motivation and military quality. The following semester, the fall of her senior year, MIDN Dudrear received another award of recognition from the Valley Forge Chapter of Military Officers Association of America. After fierce competition from other Philadelphia ROTC units, she received the Liberty Bell scholarship which served as a certificate of merit. This award goes out to strongly patriotic individuals who are committed to serve the United States of America with distinction. MIDN Dudrear is an incredibly motivated member of the Villanova Battalion who looks forward to serving as a Surface Warfare officer on DDG 122 John Basilone. Her excellence is reflected in the awards she has received and is sure to continue her hard work and dedication in the fleet.

MIDN 1/C Will Higgins, USN





ABOVE AND BEYOND: MIDN 1/C WILL CLARKIN

At Villanova's core is service to others. The Bryn Mawr Fire Company and Naval NROTC have a long-standing history of having student volunteer firefighters serve the communities of Lower Merion Township and Radnor Township. MIDN 1/C Clarkin is one of those students. He has received nationally recognized training and certifications and responds to emergency calls 24/7. These calls include building fires, rescues, and everything in between. In addition to serving as a firefighter for 20 hours per week, earning his bachelor's in comprehensive science, and participating in NROTC as Papa Company XO, MIDN Clarkin works 40 per week as an Emergency Department Technician at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Natalie Schirmacher

SERVICE



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Villanova University hosted its 35th Fall Fest, welcoming Special Olympic athletes from all over the region. Athletes competed in various games and tournaments throughout the three days of Fall Fest and were awarded based on their accomplishments. Villanova NROTC midshipman volunteered to help present awards to the athletes to celebrate their accomplishments. The midshipmen wore their Khaki uniforms and congratulated the athletes for all their hard work.

From the perspective of the midshipmen who were able to participate, the ceremony was incredibly uplifting, and it resonated deeply with them because the awards had such an enormous impact on the athletes. After handing an award to each athlete, they could not help but smile because the happiness the athletes felt translated into their own happiness. It is not every day that these athletes have the chance to compete; it felt good to be a part of something that had an impact on the lives of others. It was an honor to present the awards to the athletes for their achievements, and they cannot wait to watch them grow and participate in the competitions next year. Villanova NROTC proudly serves the Villanova and surrounding community, and we are so grateful for our involvement within the university's programs throughout the year.

MIDN 4/C Hayes, USN



SMALL ARMS TRAINING AT KIMBERTON



FEX 15-17 APRIL 2024

SUMMER SEMINAR

18-22 JUNE 2023

Summer Seminar was a 4-day program for high school juniors hosted at Villanova that gave them a taste of what life is like as a Midshipman and in the military. Upon arrival they were taught how to march and perform close order drill, as well as make their racks and keep their rooms for the duration of the program. They were exposed to all forms of PT including the Navy PRT, the Marine Corps CFT, and a Casevac drill conducted around the entire campus of Villanova. During the day they received instruction on damage control, platforms and occupations in the Naval Service, and leadership development from Active Duty Officers. The program culminated with a tour of Villanova and group discussion with Villanova professors representing all colleges, and time with admissions directors to prepare their applicati-

-ons. The Summer Seminar program has proved to be a great way for the Villanova Unit to mentor the next generation of NROTC Midshipmen by demonstrating what Villanova has to offer, and what they expect in return.

MIDN 1/C Joe Young, USMC



NURSING CORPS

MIDN 1/C JOHNSON

The NROTC Nurse Corps program, a specialized division of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), is designed for individuals aspiring to embark on a nursing career within the United States Navy. Participants in the NROTC Nurse Corps program undergo comprehensive training that seamlessly integrates academic coursework in nursing with military training. Notably, midshipmen enrolled in this program have the privilege of receiving an exceptional nursing education from the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, a distinguished institution ranked in the top 4% of the nation. This combin-

-ation of top-tier nursing education and military training positions the NROTC Nurse Corps program graduates as well-rounded professionals ready to excel in healthcare and assume leadership roles within the Navy. Upon completing the program, midshipmen may serve at medical centers like Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego or aboard a hospital ship such as the USNS Mercy or the USNS Comfort. The unit currently has three nursing options, notably MIDN 1/C Johnson who will serve at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center after graduation.

MIDN 2/C Allyson Cutter, USN

GYSGT RHODES

A SITDOWN WITH GYSGT RHODES

Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes serves an instrumental role in training here at Villanova's NROTC Unit. From a small town in Arkansas, he enlisted in the Marine Corps to find more meaning and fulfillment in life; however, after years of service, coming to Villanova was a vastly different environment than what was expected. Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes imagined his role at Villanova to be hands-on training but ended up as more of an advisor. As a mentor to Marine-Options, he aims to teach all Villanova Midshipmen how to bridge the gap of communication between officers and enlisted. Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes emphasized the importance of communication through having a good connection and relationship with the enlisted—specifically the senior enlisted personnel. Young officers and Midshipmen have a lot to learn during their years of service and it is important to take criticism and advice from senior enlisted years of service and it is important to take criticism and advice from senior enlisted vice and it is important to take criticism and advice from senior enlisted to gain experience, improve and grow.

Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes believes that Villanova's Unit is particularly unique because of the exacting standards and regard they hold themselves to. Villanova NROTC is known in the community and actively sought out for events such as color guard and other volunteering opportunities. In addition to this, many Midshipmen manage to balance intensive course loads and Division-1 sports while being actively part of the unit. Overall Gunnery Sergeant Rhoads recognizes Villanova NROTC as hard-working; they are fortunate that he is there to help motivate and improve them all.

MIDN. 4/C Friedl, USN

GySgt Rhodes ensures that all drill and parade formations uphold the Villanova standard





This year, the battalion has welcomed three new Marine Corps members. **Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes**, the battalion's new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, hails from a small town in Arkansas and brings with him vast experience. He has embraced his role as an advisor and has helped develop MIDN. As a mentor, he aims to teach all Villanova Midshipmen how to bridge the gap of communication between officers and enlisted personnel. Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes emphasizes the importance of communication through establishing a good connection and relationship with the enlisted, specifically the senior enlisted personnel. He stands out for his approachability and eagerness to mentor and guide MIDN through the rigor of preparing for commissioning. He is heavily involved in many aspects of the battalion such as Fall and Spring Review, the Navy Ball, and our own Military Excellence Competition. Gunnery Sergeant Rhodes believes that Villanova's Unit is particularly unique because of the standards and regard they hold themselves to, and he has helped to raise those standards even higher.

Staff Sergeant Dallape arrived at the beginning of this year to continue his Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program.

Coming from Michigan, he is majoring in Environmental Science. He enjoys his classes at Villanova and is glad to be a part of the motivated Villanova Battalion! He is looking forward to becoming a mentor for Midshipmen and to help bridge the gap between Midshipmen and active-duty officer staff. Having recently graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS), Staff Sergeant Dallape has been a great resource for the battalion's Marine Options who are preparing for OCS themselves. He wants to remind Midshipmen to view OCS as another training opportunity and to build themselves to improve and get better.

Sergeant Gauvin-LaDuke, originally from Hawaii, began MECEP this year. He chose Villanova due to the school's atmosphere and its eagerness to welcome and aid active-duty military members and veterans. During his time in the Marine Corps, he worked in intelligence, and he hopes to fly drones once he is commissioned as an officer. He has fallen in love with the battalion and has embraced his mentorship role. Outside of school and the Battalion, he enjoys making music and powerlifting!

MIDN 3/C Daniel Debartolomeo, USN

2NDLT MICHAEL FRANCHI
USMC GROUND



2NDLT RYAN WALL
USMC GROUND



ENS MADISON GIRARD
SUBMARINE WARFARE

NATALIE
SCHIRMACHER



ENS KATIE KEANE
NAVAL AVIATION

ENS HANNAH COHEN
SUBMARINE WARFARE



ENS BENJAMIN GEORGE
SUBMARINE WARFARE

ENS DILLON TEDESCO
SUBMARINE WARFARE

ENS SAM WEISGERBER
NAVAL AVIATION

FAIR WINDS & FOLLOWING SEAS



ENS WILL HIGGINS
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE
DISPOSAL

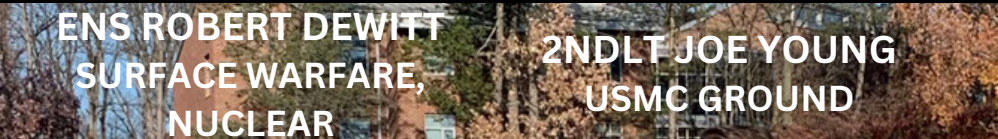
ENS ANNIE DUDREAR
SURFACE WARFARE



ENS WILLIAM CLARKIN
SURFACE WARFARE



ENS ANDREW GRINELL
NAVAL AVIATION



ENS ROBERT DEWITT
SURFACE WARFARE,
NUCLEAR

2NDLT JOE YOUNG
USMC GROUND



ENS JONATHAN FORBES
NAVAL AVIATION



ENS ELLA SCHILLING
SURFACE WARFARE

ENS MARIANA JOHNSON
NAVY NURSING

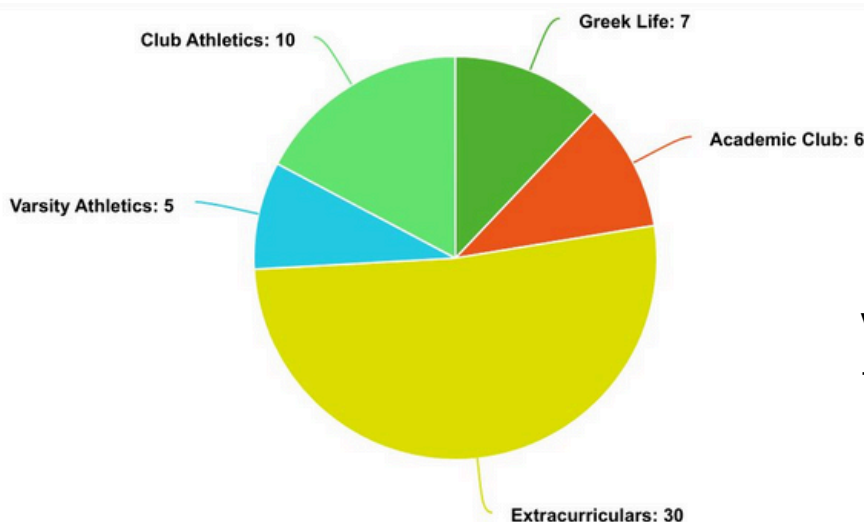
CLASS OF '24

OUTSIDE THE BATTALION



MIDN 3/C Bauer and **MIDN 2/C Gunther** are members of Villanova's men's rowing team. Pictured left is MIDN 3/C Bauer practicing for the annual Clemson meet, where teams from around the country come to South Carolina to compete.

For the past four years **MIDN 1/C Franchi** has served as photographer for NOVA Dance, a community of Villanova students who work to combat childhood cancer. This year, along with **MIDN 1/C Keane** and **MIDN 3/C Sams**, he worked as captain for the NROTC team, helping the program raise a grand total of over \$600,000. MIDN 1/C Franchi is pictured right.



On top of their NROTC responsibilities, Villanova Midshipmen are actively involved in the greater community. Through things such as Greek life, extracurriculars, and even D1 athletics, Villanova Midshipmen continuously make themselves known. The graph pictured to the left represents the battalion's involvement outside of ROTC.

DEPT. OF DEFENSE



ARMY AND NAVY AT VILLANOVA

Villanova is fortunate to have not only Naval ROTC representing our service members on campus, but also Army ROTC cadets based at Widener University. Cadets, like Midshipmen, participate in rigorous physical training, leadership development, and technical expertise to eventually commission as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. The two organizations come together in the fall for the Annual Army-Navy flag football game to celebrate our collective commitment to serve something bigger than ourselves (but most importantly to Beat Army! Go Navy!).

“The Army-Navy game is one of the longest running rivalries in college sports. At Villanova, although it may not be as significant as the real game, being able to replicate that Army vs. Navy tradition is a blast. It is one of the few events that brings our programs together and fosters a lot of camaraderie between us. Especially during a busy time of the semester, it is a great way for the cadets in both programs to put aside all the obligations around us and just enjoy being both a student and cadet here at Villanova.”

CDT Tom Brantley

“The Army-Navy football game is a fun time to have friendly competition between the two programs. We don’t get to interact too often so it’s a fun way to go off into Thanksgiving break. I had a lot of fun competing with my friends in AROTC. Two motivated groups going head to head that are competitive is always fun, even if it gets a little chippy. I think it’s important because once we graduate we will be working so closely towards and for the cause; it’s a good way to see the other side and bond with future colleagues.”

MIDN 3/C Patrick Sams





VILLANOVA NROTC SUMMER SEMINAR

JUNE 23-27, 2024

Are you thinking about joining the military after high school? Would you like the military to pay your college tuition? Maybe the military service academies are not for you? What is NROTC all about anyway?

Join us **June 23-27** to get the answers.



SCAN HERE

To submit your application for this unique experience at Villanova



GOAL: Provide an opportunity for rising high school juniors and seniors a chance to learn about the NROTC program.

WHAT TO EXPECT!

- 4-day program hosted on Villanova University's campus.
- Learn about the USN and USMC mission and career opportunities.
- Meet current Villanova NROTC Midshipman, as well as current Navy and Marine Corps Officers.
- Gain a perspective of life as a NROTC student.
- Participate in workshop and team building events.
- Get a campus tour and informal classroom lectures by Villanova Professors.
- Learn how to apply for a NROTC scholarship.



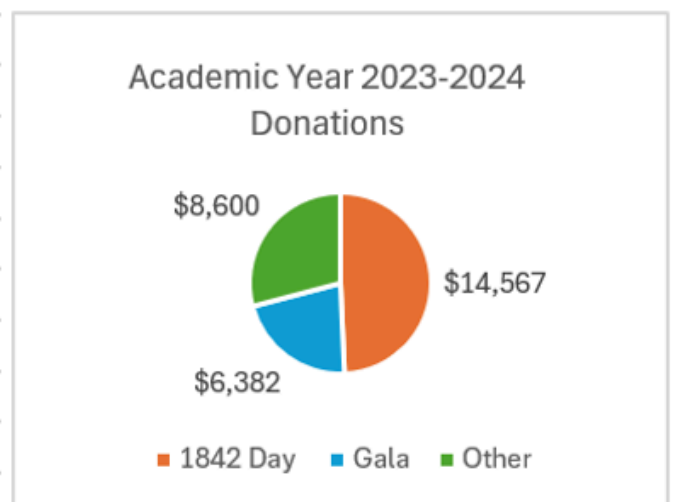
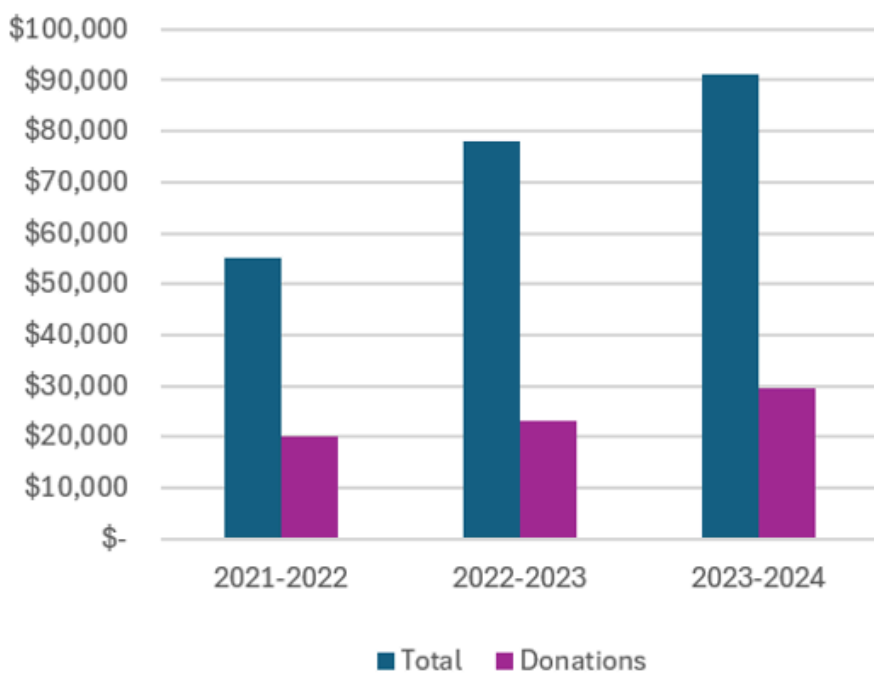
For more information about the U.S. Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, please visit
<https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NROTC/>

PJ HARRINGTON MEMORIAL FUND

Patrick James Harrington of Hollywood, Florida was a Villanova NROTC graduate with a BS in Education. While at Villanova he participated on the drill team, intramural sports, the physics club and served as the Semper Fi president. This unremarkable student—he could have been any of us—became remarkable, sacrificing his life while serving with the Company L, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Third Marine Amphibious Force in the Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. One marine who fought by his side remembers that he attacked the enemy bunkers where they had laid a trap. With his 45 blazing, he bought his Marines valuable time to regroup and take cover, giving them time to call in airstrikes that saved countless lives. To the men by his side and those who have come in his wake, he is a true hero. 2LT Harrington's name and legacy lives on through the memorial fund in his name.

Today, the PJ Harrington Memorial Fund allows current NROTC students to develop their leadership skills inside the classroom and around the community by supporting student initiatives, conferences and more. In the previous pages, events such as the Notre Dame Leadership Conference, Fall Ball and Gala, Tulane and Holy Cross Military Excellence Competitions, firearms training, the senior Boston trip and more. Every day, Villanova's next generation of remarkable leaders benefit from 2LT Harrington's example and the fund named in his honor.

Natalie Schirmacher



WELCOME ABOARD COLONEL GEHRIS



The Philadelphia Consortium is proud to announce our incoming Senior Naval Science Professor and Commanding Officer, Colonel Scott Gehris.

Colonel Scott Gehris enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993 obtaining the rank of Corporal. Commissioned a second lieutenant in 1997 upon graduation from The Pennsylvania State University. After completing the Basic School, he was assigned as an infantry officer and reported to 3D Battalion 7th Marines in 1998. He served as a Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander and Executive Officer for India Company and deployed twice under the Unit Deployment Program. Colonel Gehris was assigned to the Basic School in 2001, where he served as an instructor, a Staff Platoon Commander, and Infantry Officer's Course Instructor. He was selected to attend the Army Infantry Captain's Career Course in Fort Benning Georgia in 2004.

In 2005, Colonel Gehris reported to 2D Battalion 4th Marines, serving as Company Commander, Operations Officer and Executive Officer. He deployed on three MEUs, with one for Operation Iraqi Freedom and two in the Pacific Theatre. In 2008, Colonel Gehris was selected to attend the Naval Command and Staff College in Newport, RI. Colonel Gehris was assigned to Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group in Twentynine Palms, CA, serving as an instructor and lead for the Battle Staff Training program. In 2012, he was assigned to 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Future Plans Officer. Following his deployment, he was assigned as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 5th Marines from 2013-2014. Colonel Gehris commanded 3D Reconnaissance Battalion for two years before being selected to attend the Army War College in Carlisle, PA in 2016. Upon completion of Top Level School, he was selected and assigned to serve as the J35 Division Chief for Joint Special Operations Command, Ft Bragg, NC from 2017-2020.

Following his joint tour, Col Gehris assumed command of Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group from 2020-2022. Col Gehris served as the Director of Tactical Training Exercise Control Group from May 2022 through July 2023 and was selected to be the Chief of Staff, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms in July 2023.

Col Gehris was previously stationed at 29 Palms as the Chief of Staff for MAGTF Training Command Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. He is set to report to Villanova in July 2024

COMMANDER'S INTENT

Mission Statement. To continue to equip midshipmen for the fleet by creating a motivating command environment that is effective and strong through correct use of the Chain of Command, being highly accountable, and above the Villanova NROTC Standard.

Accountability. One of the most important attributes a Midshipman can possess is accountability. In conjunction with the Sgt. Maj., we will begin the semester by making clear expectations for the battalion in detail and having them understand that not only will they need to hold themselves accountable for their actions but will be held responsible by my command and potentially higher staff. Accountability should not be a tool to scare Midshipman into acting the right way but should motivate them to act in a way that sets the right example for those around them and does not deviate from what is expected of them. A way that sets the right example for those around them and does not deviate from what is expected of them.

The Standard. The standard is the expectations and level of performance that members of that organization are expected to follow. Villanova NROTC has one of the greatest histories of any unit, and commands respect nationwide. My command will outline and implement a clear standard for Villanova NROTC. Things like an expectation of outstanding physical fitness, excelling academically, sharper drill, and sweeping the competition at MEC's, all while being the best role model's on and off campus. I believe a clearly understood Standard can take our unit to the next level and set an example for years to come.




Nicholas P. Wood

MIDN 1/C Nicholas Wood

Battalion Commanding Officer, Fall '24





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