

# REVEILLE

A PUBLICATION FOR THE ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY COMMUNITY

WINTER 2015



2015-16 Regimental Commander Brooke Liu '16  
and other members of the Regiment.

## a word from development

### A tradition to be proud of

After over 30 years of active duty in the Navy and 17 years as the Director of Naval Science at Admiral Farragut Academy, I have decided to hang up my uniform, put on a bow tie, and become a Development Officer on the Advancement Team at Farragut. I thoroughly loved my time in the Navy flying airplanes, driving or captaining ships and travelling all over the world, but the last 17 years working with cadets at Farragut has been equally as rewarding. I have seen over 1,000 cadets graduate and I, along with the rest of the faculty, am proud to have had a part in their success.



This edition of *Reveille* is devoted to Farragut's naval tradition. Particularly, we have focused a portion of this issue to an alumni base who has not received the amount of recognition they rightly deserve -- our female cadets who have gone on to become officers in the armed forces. When you see the accomplishments of our female graduates, I think you will be amazed at their success. Our very first female cadet -- Megan Malia Leilani McClung '91 -- joined the Marine Corps in May 1995 after graduating from the Naval Academy, eventually becoming a high ranking public affairs officer assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters at Camp Pendleton. After years of providing PA support to a Special Operations Training Group, Megan deployed with the Marine Expeditionary Force in February 2006 for one year in Al Anbar Province in Iraq. Sadly, she was killed when her Humvee struck an improvised explosive device after escorting a FOX News crew to the Governance Center, and while bringing two Newsweek reporters to a Coalition outpost in the city of Ramadi. Megan was the first female Marine officer to be killed in the Iraq war, as well as the first female graduate of the United States Naval Academy to be killed in action since women began attending the institution in 1976. Megan's legacy has been emboldened with each Farragut alumna who chooses to carve her path in the military.

Our first female Battalion Commander was Keri Graham in 1996. Since then, we have had seven more females leading our Corps of Cadets, including this year's Commander, Brooke Liu from Sichuan, China. During my time at Farragut, out of the 41 Academy Appointments and 101 ROTC Scholarships earned by our cadets, our females have received 14 appointments and 29 scholarships; 19 of them are currently serving as officers or are in training to become one in the Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines or Army. As decisions regarding the role of women in the military are being made in Congress and at the Pentagon, our female graduates are helping pave the way to change while making us proud of their accomplishments. Please enjoy reading about their impressive careers and be proud that they represent Admiral Farragut Academy around the world.

CAPT Tom McClelland, USN (Ret)

*Development Officer and former Naval Science Director*

*Reveille is designed to give all members of our community a quick glimpse of what Farragut is today, including highlights of students, alumni, faculty and staff, past and upcoming events, and other important initiatives.*

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### Read it? Love it?

Tell us your thoughts on this edition of *Reveille*. Share your stories and pictures with us for the next edition. (*We reserve the right to edit your letters for length and clarity.*) Please email [alumni@farragut.org](mailto:alumni@farragut.org)!

### Write to Us

Admiral Farragut Academy

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# farragut today

## Wallingford and Worthy team up to reshape the Office of the Commandant



CDR Todd Wallingford

*“The leader can never close the gap between himself and the group. If he does, he is no longer what he must be. He must walk a tightrope between the consent he must win and the control he must exert.”*

*-- Vince Lombardi, the legendary Green Bay Packers coach who led the Packers to two Super Bowl trophies and is widely recognized as one of the greatest coaches – and teachers – of all time.*

When reading a quote about leadership from Vince Lombardi, it is easy to understand why Admiral Farragut Academy's Commandant, Todd Wallingford, lists the Packers as one of his favorite sports teams.

“Admiral Farragut Academy is a unique place,” said Wallingford, who joined Farragut at the beginning of the 2014-15 school year after being in a similar role at Culver Military Academy in Indiana for 16 years. “We recognize the importance of the balance between

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“We recognize the importance of the balance between military structure and college preparedness. This is not a boot camp. This is a place to prepare kids for college and ultimately for life.”

”

- CDR Todd Wallingford, Commandant

military structure and college preparedness. This is not a boot camp. This is a place to prepare kids for college and ultimately for life.”

Yet, Wallingford and the two other men hired to re-invigorate the Office of the Commandant – United States Marine Corps 1st Sgt. David Worthy, who began last year with Wallingford, and the Senior Naval Science Commander Rick Schock, who started at the beginning of the 2015-16 year – respect the fact that Farragut was built on a military structure and the people within it have thrived because of such structure.

“Everyone involved has a vision to return Farragut in some way to its roots in regard to a military structure and attitude,” said Wallingford, whose office is responsible for naval science, residential life, security and safety, student discipline, operations, and the well-being of the corps of cadets. “The alumni

look at the tradition and they have a sense of pride with regard to Farragut’s foundation. The feedback I’ve received has been incredibly positive.”

Since joining Farragut last year, Commandant Wallingford and 1st Sgt. Worthy have had a major impact on the school. In a short amount of time, they have consolidated departments, assembled a new staff, instilled a new sense of pride in the cadets, established a new discipline system, played a large role in updating the dorms from a tangible and cultural standpoint, and implemented new policies and procedures.

“We knew as soon as we met each other we’d be on the same page,” Wallingford said. Both men served in the military – Wallingford in the Navy for 10 years and Worthy in the Marine



*1st Sgt. Worthy*

Corps for 20 years – and they bring a certain type of leadership that is similar in origin with both men being positively affected by mentors who demonstrated effective guidance.

As Worthy puts it, that leadership style equates to being “firm, but fair with the proper amount of dignity and compassion.”



*CDR Wallingford with Ethan Lipsky '18 (L) and Michael Cooney '16 (R) during the Alumni Homecoming Dinner this past October 2015.*

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## farragut today

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"If you don't understand that, then you don't understand people well enough," said Worthy, who served as a drill instructor for seven-plus years for the Marines at Parris Island, South Carolina and as a Naval Science Instructor at a public high school in North Carolina before joining Farragut. "We have a different type of community here. You have to understand the people if you're going to lead them correctly."

Both men left stable careers where they were well-established because they saw an opportunity to impact people in much the same way they were impacted early on in life. For Worthy, it started with influence from a Marine Corps Master Sergeant when Worthy was in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"This guy literally pulled me into his classroom one day and told me I was headed down the wrong path and that I had more to give to life than that," said Worthy, who is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. "His words of advice are why I joined the Marine Corps and the reason I am who I am today." For Wallingford, it began with Ted Sanana.

"When I first started boot camp, we had this drill commander who was hard as nails, using expletives right and left, throwing trash cans around to try and make a point," said Wallingford, whose southern twang adds more spice to the story when told. "He would just yell for the sake of yelling and treated people horribly. One day on a run, he tore his leg muscles. He soon was replaced with Ted Sanana,

who we originally thought was going to be the same type. He wasn't. The first thing he told us was if we do our best and we help him by working hard, he would help us. 'Respect me and I'll respect you back' is what he told us. He made an impact on me to treat people the right way."

Under the guidance of Wallingford and Worthy, Farragut's Regimental Officers reported to school a week early and went through rigorous and comprehensive training. The emphasis of their training was on "Servant Leadership," focusing on the operational aspects of the regiment and the dorms.

"They are front and center and proactive in interacting with our cadets in every facet of their academy life," Wallingford said. "The Regimental Staff meets at least weekly with Naval Science to debrief and to be briefed. Their leadership educational process is ongoing. Our cadet



*During Boarder Check-In, 1st Sgt. Worthy shows the cadets how to properly make their beds.*

“

**We have a different type of community here. You have to understand the people if you're going to lead them correctly.**

”

- 1st Sgt. David Worthy

officers have stepped up, and their presence in all aspects of academy life is evident and significant.”

Commandant Wallingford also addressed the boarding cadets during their first evening on campus, reviewing policies, procedures, and expectations. He then spoke to the corps of cadets in a combined assembly of day students and boarders on the first day of school. For the first time in two decades, the regiment was in uniform on the first day of classes.

In addition, physical training activities have now become a part of the norm with Worthy leading the different battalions on orchestrated runs around campus, complete with military cadence.

“I’m really excited about the change,” said Kollyne Thomas ‘16, who is the Battalion Commander of the Delta Battalion of the 2015-16 Regiment staff. “There has been a lot more structure and more organization. It’s brought back our military flair. We’ve been given a lot more responsibility to the incoming cadets and taking ownership on how to shape our character and being accountable for our actions.”

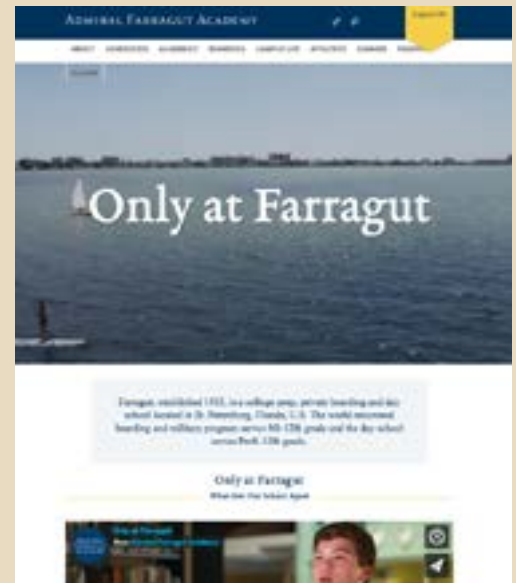
Another element of change brought about by the Office of the Commandant has included the proper wear and appearance of the military uniform, including keeping a cover on while outside.

“The uniform sets the tone from day one. This is the expectation. When you set the tone, it resonates through the entire student body,” said Worthy, who requested to have top quality uniforms available for the 2015-16 student body. “Understanding the proper way to wear a uniform translates to success in many other ways. Wearing it properly and wearing it the correct way makes them feel good about themselves and then they carry themselves in a certain way. They treat it with respect and dignity and then the way they walk and talk changes. You can see them carry themselves with more confidence. They see themselves in a certain way.”

Finally, just like the Green Bay Packers, respecting the nature of teamwork has been integral in how Wallingford and Worthy have operated since arriving at Farragut.

“I don’t think you can be effective without the team concept,” Worthy said. “Everyone wants and needs to buy in and they have. The Commandant sets the pace and we make his job easier by getting the things done that need to get done. Ultimately, though, it comes down to the cadets taking the task and being leaders themselves. They’ve done a great job in respecting what we’ve asked of them and we envision them continuing to build on what they’ve done so far.”

## New responsive website goes live



It is with great enthusiasm that we share the new design of Admiral Farragut Academy’s website led by the Advancement Team. The new website is responsive to all mobile and tablet devices which will provide a better user experience.

The new website aims to cater to the interests of our prospective families, current parents and students, as well as alumni and friends of Farragut. Visit our new website at: [www.farragut.org](http://www.farragut.org)

We have also recently created a featured video called “Only at Farragut” which gives others a glimpse into our school culture and student opportunities. You can watch this video on our website’s home page.



### Upper School students reinvigorate the Student Government Association

Early in the fall semester Farragut students experienced what many United States citizens will be going through in 2016 when they elect a new president, except there is no Donald Trump to contend with in the Farragut Corps of Cadets. On Sept. 23rd, 2015, the Student Government Association (SGA), celebrated the election of seven members to the council, which is advised by Mark Panuthos, Upper School instructor for Advanced Placement classes for US History, Economics, and American Government.

"I think it is important for students to learn the political process from a participatory standpoint," said Panuthos, who is in his 19th year teaching at Farragut. "I am only an adviser. They will ultimately determine what gets accomplished. They may do nothing. They may do incredible things. Whatever they do, though, sets the tone for years to come. Of course, I hope they leave some type of legacy."

The main requirement for consideration included, among other elements, preparing and delivering a speech in front of the student body, faculty and staff. As stipulated by Mr. Panuthos, the student council would have two representatives from each Upper School class, if applicable.

The Class of 2016 had six students run as candidates – Ashaunti Brown, Michael Cooney, George Dyche, Elizabeth Gaskins, Hannah Hartung and Siran Polchin. After the group presented speeches in front of their peers, faculty, and administration on September 22, votes were taken throughout the rest of the day.

"It's inspiring," said George, who also serves as the Bravo Battalion Commander and participates in a number of different clubs and sports. "I've already talked to a number of different students about



what we can do to make the school better and to create more school spirit. Talking to freshmen, sophomores and juniors, as well as other seniors, has given me and the others on the SGA a lot of inspiration for what we can do.

Ashaunti Brown, Michael Cooney and George Dyche were elected by the Upper School student body to represent the Class of 2016 as delegates on the SGA, along with four underclassmen. George will serve as president, Michael will serve as vice-president, and Ashaunti will serve as secretary.

The rest of the council includes:

- George Hamilton '18  
*10th grade representative*
- Zach Nasr '19 and Evan Schlifstein '19  
*9th grade representatives*
- Fernando Robalino '20  
*8th grade representative*

Fernando and George ran unopposed while the junior class did not have any interested participant.



## Changes to the Board of Directors

Last spring, Admiral Farragut Academy announced that George Michel '49 had stepped down as chairman of the Board of Directors. Christian Wagner '82, who is the President at Penn Investment Group, was elected as chairman by the Board.



Mr. Michel's work on the Board was instrumental in bringing financial stability to Admiral Farragut Academy. During his tenure at Farragut he was able to make many improvements. He formed the Admiral Farragut Academy Foundation, implemented sound financial policies and procedures, emphasized academics and college placement, and oversaw many renovations and improvements to the plant and facility. Due to Michel's commitment, the Academy has showed profits, built enrollment, and is on an upward trend in all measurable success indicators. "George's shoes will be extremely large shoes to fill, but I hope we, as a Board, continue to build on what George started," said Wagner, who formerly served as vice chairman and who has assisted George in many of the advances including serving as President of the Foundation in the past.

Wagner, who received his bachelor's degree in finance from Rutgers University, has

held executive positions with Commerce Capital Markets, Inc., Commerce Wealth Advisors, Bank of America Private Bank, Fisher Investments, and Longview Capital Management, LLC.

Retired General Lee Salomon will serve as Vice Chair, along with Art Musicaro '73 as Treasurer and Terry Hirsch as Secretary. The Board of Directors also added two new Board members: Tonjua Williams, Ph.D., the Vice President of St. Petersburg College, and Mirella James, the owner of Pasadena Marina, who is also a parent of three Farragut alumnae.

"The Board agenda is full this year, with strategic planning, master site planning, Foundation growth support, and global initiatives" said Headmaster Robert J. Fine, Jr. Fine added that he is looking forward to the work ahead and believes our Board is rich with talent.

## Financial Snapshot

### Admiral Farragut Academy 2014-2015 School Year Unaudited

#### INCOME

Net Tuition	\$10,006,466
Auxiliary	\$1,575,975
Other	\$588,650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,171,091</b>

#### EXPENSE

Administrative	\$3,410,629
Instructional	\$3,631,615
Auxiliary	\$3,781,842
Other	\$958,961
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,783,047</b>

**NET INCOME \$388,044**

### Admiral Farragut Academy Foundation as of June 30, 2015

#### FOUNDERS FUND \$1,115,890

*(Supplements the need for Cadets' Financial Assistance)*

#### ENDOWED CHAIRS \$813,963

Board of Directors - Physical Sciences	\$281,751
Dr. Rossignol - Science	\$280,742
Frank P. Wendt '42N - Musical Arts	\$251,470

#### ENDOWED PROGRAM FUNDS \$999,571

*(Does not include all Endowed Funds)*

Coaches Slaby & Nicholson Athletic Endowment  
William R. Masciangelo, Sr. Student Enrichment Fund  
CAPT Crosley & Moore Waterfront & Naval Science Fund  
Endowed Drill Team Fund  
Endowed Band Fund

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS \$649,435

*(Does not include all Individual Donor or Donor Directed Funds)*

Maj. Megan McClung '91N Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Vic Siatta '63N Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Southwest Florida Scholarship Fund

# Faculty & Staff

## ∞ MILITARY TIES ∞

By: Chris Girandola



### STEPHEN MIKELL

A little over a year ago, the U.S. Navy celebrated six decades of a nuclear navy with the 60th anniversary of the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. The creation of such a vehicle – a byproduct of the Submarine Thermal Reactor Mark I nuclear experimental facility in southern Idaho under the guidance of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover – was a test of courage, will, judgment and resourcefulness and more so, a win over man's constant battle with nature.

As Commander E.E. Kintner explains in his account, "Admiral Rickover's Gamble," published in the 1959 edition of *The Atlantic*, "A nuclear submarine, not requiring air for combustion of fuel in its engines, would be able to divorce itself from

the earth's atmosphere and thus would be a true submarine rather than a surface ship which could submerge only for short periods. It would be an "underwater satellite."

Today, the Navy has a fleet of approximately 272 active duty ships; within that fleet, all of the submarines and aircraft carriers are nuclear-powered. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, which is one of the most difficult programs in the Navy to enter, provides effective military technology to nuclear powered vessels that comprise about 40 percent of the U.S. Navy's combatant fleet.

Stephen Mikell, who teaches honors and advanced placement physics at Farragut, spent two years in the Navy Propulsion Program as a nuclear reactor operator on a couple different submarines. His experience working in this elite program translates well in the classroom.

**"When I start up a new physics class (August beginning of the school year), it does remind me of starting up the reactor getting ready to go to sea."**

Mikell, who graduated from Regents College in New York with a degree in nuclear technology while on active duty service with the US Navy, uses his experience in the industry to help students understand concepts better within

the classroom so they can translate them into real world knowledge. "The language of physics -- and emphasis -- is units. Learning what a unit describes and how to convert between units is key to understanding all concepts. It must be done before entering into the first topic, motion in one dimension. The student's mind must be put into a physics thinking frame. It is much similar to pulling the control rods and bring the reactor to life, or how we called making the reactor critical."

There's the concept of "motion in one dimension" in which "a train goes from point A to B and you add acceleration, gravity, and another train." There's "motion in two dimensions which is projectile motion," which involves the concept of firing cannonballs at particular angles, initial velocities, off of a cliff or on level ground.

Mr. Mikell's course load over the first semester finishes with covering vectors and the basis of all mechanical interactions, Newton's Laws of Motion and finally, force and acceleration and the last new unit for months, mass (kilograms).

"At this point, the students have three out of four units that describe how matter and energy interact, which is the definition of physics," Mr. Mikell said. "The basis of physics happens in the first few weeks much akin to the submarine's mission is to the reactor startup. At this point, the students are ready to learn the rest, or cast off lines, leave the pier and go to sea."

## ALISON LESCARBEAU

Midway through Alison Lescarbeau's Officer Training School (OTS) in 1990, she was called into her Training Instructor's office. "If she fails, I'm failing you," her instructor firmly stated. The person in question was her roommate at the time. "She was not doing well in the class and my instructor told me to get our entire class together and help her – and anyone else struggling – succeed," recalled Lescarbeau, who received a bachelor's degree in Media & Communications from Framingham State University. Lieutenant (at the time) Lescarbeau graduated as the madam president of her OTS class that consisted of 58 men and 11 other women.

The value of teamwork and cooperative success stuck with Capt. Lescarbeau – who enlisted four days after graduation from high school at the age of 17 – throughout her 15-year career in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. Better yet, it has defined her leadership style, first as a Public Affairs Officer for the 104th Fighter Wing, then as a commercial property manager in Boston, and now as the Advancement Director at Farragut.

"My Commander told us how everyone's role is vitally important to a successful mission, from the cook to the mechanics to the pilots."

"I will always remember our commander telling us how every person in an organization is just as valued as the next," said Lescarbeau. Lescarbeau and her husband, John, selected Farragut for their children, Julia '13 and Jack '16, when the family moved in 2004 from Boston to St. Petersburg. "My husband loved the way the school had older students as role models," said Lescarbeau, who has served as a committee member and twice co-chair of the PARC Black Tie Ball, CASA Gala committee, and Queen of Hearts Ball committee. She also served as the Vice-President and President of the Farragut Parents' Group prior to her employment at the school. "Having Julia and Jack go to school here has been amazing. The biggest benefit for my children has

been gaining confidence and self-reliance. I love how all the kids are on the same playing field and everyone has the opportunity to succeed."

Julia, who graduated as co-valedictorian, is attending Elon University as an Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow, and is majoring in Strategic Communications. Jack, a senior, has truly become a leader on campus. He has been on the varsity golf, wrestling and baseball teams, he is the 4th Company Commander and is very involved in the Scuba program at Farragut. Jack has set his sights on the military with hopes of either going to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Naval Academy or a large university through a ROTC program.



has ties to MacDill Air Force Base through her husband Roy's role as the Business Financial Manager for Special Operations Forces (SOF) there. She was able to work with Roy to start a tradition for the summer camp she runs here called "Little Captains" by bringing SOF soldiers to campus for a demonstration. The demonstration was a part of a community outreach program of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) which is intended to strengthen its ties within the community.

Campers were thrilled with the opportunity to see the SOF team land their helicopter on the football field at Farragut. The campers were also able to interact with the soldiers and learn what it's like to be in the military.

They operated a drone, used night vision goggles, and climbed aboard the helicopter to learn the inner workings of a cockpit. The soldiers even spent time to talk one on one with the kids.

"To have camp attendees get a hands on experience like that is priceless, especially with the special forces."

Reynolds said she again will have the "Special Forces" week for her Little Captains camp in the summer of 2016.

## MARILYN REYNOLDS

Marilyn Reynolds has been a teacher in the Lower School since 2011 and







## CDR RICK SCHOCK

Schock who began his career in the educational field as the Senior Naval Science Instructor at Dunedin High School in January 2010 before taking on the same duties at Admiral Farragut Academy this past August, fully understands what the naval tradition embodies, considering his 20 years of active duty in the Navy. His resume is replete with exceptional achievements, most notably as an Aviation Officer flying the P-3C in three deployments to the Mediterranean Sea region and north Atlantic Ocean area. Following his time in the Navy, Schock worked as a production test naval flight officer and flight line coordinator with the Lockheed Corporation in Los Angeles, California.

**Why did you decide to leave the professional sector for the education field?** I left the private sector mainly because when my children grew up and took flight on their own I missed being around young people. The opportunity to not only teach but to be a more visible representative of the Navy I love so much was very attractive to me. The globally aware students of today can teach us so very much if we listen and develop relationships with them. I'm thrilled to have made the career change.

**What are the most endearing moments from your years in the Navy?** The most endearing moments I have had in the Navy were visiting hallowed ground while on active duty. Visiting places such as Omaha Beach, Point du Hoc, Gettysburg, Dachau, the Pearl Harbor Memorial and the American Cemetery in Normandy to name a few are experiences I will never forget.

### How did the Navy most impact your life?

The Navy most impacted my life by exposing me to and then accepting me into a family like no other. The camaraderie, teamwork and sense of pride and professionalism that exists in the community I know as Naval Aviation is like no other. All of my experiences helped shape me into the man I am today - at least the good parts of what I am!

### How do you hope to translate your experience in the Navy to the helping guide the young men and women at Farragut?

I am convinced that the lessons I learned in leadership, citizenship and patriotism in the Navy can not be learned outside of the military as well as they can by someone who has served.

“The Navy environment provided through our NJROTC training at Farragut gives us the most productive means to develop the character and leadership so important to a student’s ultimate success.”

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, “intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.”

**What are your hobbies/interests?** My hobbies are boating, enjoying the beach, jogging and reading. I am very interested in railroading, particularly the old narrow gauge steam lines of the Rockies. I'm also a college basketball and football junkie who probably spends more time than I should watching games on TV when I really should spend more time reading! Maybe I'll do that after North Carolina wins its 6th college basketball title this March!



## Tyler Turner '22 sets sights on the skies

**T**yler Turner has it set in his mind to continue the military legacy of his family, a history that includes a lineage traced back to Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Whereas his grandfather, James, served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army – including two tours in Vietnam – and his father, Jefferson, is beginning his 23rd year as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force. Tyler, who is in the sixth grade at Farragut, leans more towards the Navy.

“It’s just something that appeals to me, for whatever reason,” said Tyler, whose favorite movies include *Top Gun* and *Battleship*. “I look up to my father and my grandfather, but for some reason, I want to be in the Navy. I guess it has to do with me loving the water.”

He is inspired to serve due primarily to his conversations with his grandfather and his father about the different adventures they have encountered. His father’s stints

as an intelligence officer have taken him across the globe to several countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

“Early on, he wanted to be a naval aviator and fly planes like Tom Cruise’s character does in *Top Gun*,” Jefferson said. “Since being at Farragut, though, he has shifted back and forth from wanting to be an astronaut to possibly designing or operating ships.”

In addition, Tyler has been influenced by his mother’s side of the family -- which includes her grandfather serving in the Merchant Marines and her great-uncle serving in the Army during World War II along with the incredible ancestry of Grant and Lee -- and it’s easy to see why Tyler is geared for the military. When Jefferson took on an assignment at MacDill Air Force Base in 2009, Tyler chose Farragut over other schools because of its naval tradition. “The funny thing is he wishes it was even more military, if that’s possible” said his mother,



*Tyler and his dad during Lower School’s “Pancakes with Pops” breakfast.*

Diedre. “When we were making a decision on where he would go to school, Tyler instantly chose Farragut once he saw it online because of the military structure. Then, we visited the school and took a tour, he said, ‘That’s where I want to go to school.’”

Tyler is somewhat impatient to get to Upper School, where students are called cadets and are required to wear military uniforms.



“I look around and see the cadets walking from class to class and I can’t wait to be doing that,” said Tyler, who has been heavily involved in the Lower School extracurricular club called Naval Pride and Traditions. “That’s one of the coolest things about this school. We also get to interact with the older students who help us in sports and academics.”

Pancakes with Pops



*More pictures at [www.farragut.smugmug.com](http://www.farragut.smugmug.com)*

Spirit Week Patriotic Day



Thanksgiving Night

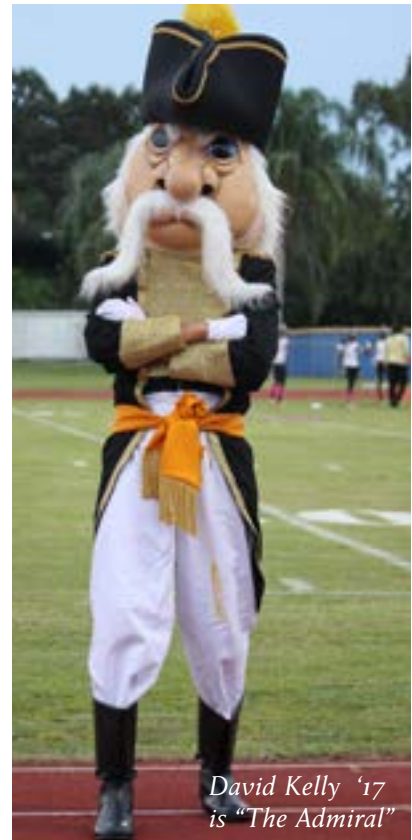


Donor Breakfast "Thanks a Brunch"





## New Cheerleading Squad and Mascot “The Admiral”



*David Kelly '17  
is "The Admiral"*

## Parents' Group Golf Tournament Fundraiser



*L to R: Carlos Bonilla, Mike Lewis, Maxton Lewis '17, Kyle Smith '20.*



*Ivan Clare with his son Ivan '16.*

# STUDENT

## >> Rachel Goldstein '16

When it came time for Rachel Goldstein '16 to create her Girl Scout Gold Award project, the choice was easy.

"When I was in the hospital as a little kid, I was given a dolphin stuffed animal to calm me down," said Rachel, who is in her 12th year with the Girl Scouts. "I decided to create the Toys for Toddlers to Teens project. It felt good to be able to give back like that."

Rachel collected stuffed animals and toys for Guardian ad Litem, a legal program that appoints volunteers to speak on behalf of children who would not necessarily have a voice in court. In addition, she created an online public service announcement which was displayed on the Guardian ad Litem website and YouTube to bring awareness to

the program.

While Rachel was well involved with doing charity work through her involvement with the Girl Scouts, her leadership acumen truly came into fruition when she transferred from Robinson High School in Tampa to Farragut. "I got really involved in everything once I arrived," said Rachel, who started at Farragut her freshman year. "The world completely changed. At Robinson, I was focused strictly on the dance team. Here you are able to explore so many different opportunities and thrive in them as well." Part of the reason exists in the close-knit culture created through the boarding program.

"We're learning calculus, physics, and history in a group setting," said Rachel, who is a five-day boarder. "We're studying together at night and during the day we're constantly talking about what's going on. This is basically people's homes, and even the day students are a part of the family."

Rachel's accolades include being the co-captain of cross country, track, sailing and soccer as well as a member of the Student Advisory Committee, the Mu Alpha Theta math club and the National Honor Society. During her senior year, she has taken on the roles of secretary for the Key Club and company commander of the 2nd Company of the Regiment.

Most importantly, Rachel, who was a counselor for the Leadership Academy, was one of five students from Farragut selected for the USNA Summer Seminar in Annapolis, MD. The program, which introduces prospective Naval Academy applicants to the unique challenges of life as a midshipman, typically has approximately 7,000 worldwide applicants each year with 2,500 chosen.

"That's what pushed me to want to go to the Naval Academy or the Coast Guard Academy," Rachel said. "Having been at Farragut has opened my eyes to the possibilities and probabilities of accomplishing goals. Attending the seminar at the Naval Academy made me realize how similar a place it is to Farragut, just on a bigger scale."





# SPOTLIGHT

By: Chris Girandola

## >> Michael Cooney '16

Saturday mornings for most teenagers are usually reserved for snoring extra sleep. For Michael Cooney, the day has been devoted to helping with the Challenger League, which is for players with physical or mental disabilities.

Since coming to Farragut at the beginning of his sophomore year, Michael – along with his teammates on the Farragut baseball team – have jumped on a school van and headed over to Azalea Little League to assist the Challenger League, which has players with ages that range from 4 to mid 30s.

**“It’s rewarding to see how much they enjoy us being there,”** said Michael, who is vice president of the local chapter of the Key Club. “It reminds you how much of a difference you can make if you decide to give back in some way.”

Michael, who is the president of the Farragut chapter of the National Honor Society and the vice president of the Student Government Association, said his growth as a leader wouldn’t have come about if it hadn’t been for his time at Farragut. His volunteer work also includes serving breakfast to the military veterans at American Legion Post 125, working as a mentor at TASCO (Teen Arts, Sports & Cultural Opportunities), and helping to feed the homeless at various centers throughout Pinellas County.

“Before I came here, I only knew of Farragut, or at least what I thought it was, as a military school where you sent bad kids,” said Michael, who transferred from Osceola High School.

“I tell my friends now how that perception is completely wrong. Farragut is a place where leaders are made and strengthened. All the leadership opportunities I’ve undertaken are because of me being here.”

For example, Michael, who plays the lead trumpet in the Admiral’s Band, took it upon himself to re-arrange the band room last year so it was more conducive to an orchestra formation. He also rearranged the back room of the band room so sections of the band can practice there or lessons can be taught there.

**“The leadership characteristics I’ve been able to develop here have helped me immensely,”**

said Michael, who is in charge of organizing the band for performances as well as making sure all his peer’s instruments are in tune. “Thinking back to who I was and who I would have been is amazing. I’ve been able to do so many different things here where at other schools, you get one club

or one sport to choose.”

Furthermore, Michael – along with Myles Beach '16, Rachel Goldstein '16, and Jack Lescarbeau '16, and former Farragut student



Sara Graves – was one of the accomplished few from Farragut to attend the USNA Summer Seminar in Annapolis, MD. The program, which introduces prospective Naval Academy applicants to the unique challenges of life as a midshipman, typically has approximately 7,000 worldwide applicants each year with 2,500 chosen.

“Being at Farragut first gave me the thought of possibly attending the Naval Academy,” said Michael, who was a counselor for Leadership Academy during this past summer. “Now, it’s definitely a reality that I want to attend.”



## >> George Dyche '16

This past summer, George Dyche '16 -- whose parents are engineers for ExxonMobil -- spent a majority of his summer working alongside petroleum engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, and geoscientists. That was not necessarily a normal activity for teenagers, but for George, it was a head start on his future.

"I want to attend the University of Texas in Austin as a part of the ROTC and then serve in the Navy for five years," said George, who is the Student Government Association President, the Bravo Battalion Commander and the Student Advisory Committee vice president. "I want to major in mechanical engineering and I want to get my Master's of Business Administration and then I want to be a project manager."

Since arriving at Farragut as a freshman, George, whose family has lived in New Orleans (his birthplace), Houston, Angola, France, and Nigeria, has grown from a "nervous kid" to a person with a clear path.

"I think back to my freshman year and it's interesting to think who I was and who I am now," said George, who

is a seven-day boarder. "I personally chose Farragut because of the diversity, the people who were from all over the world. Knowing I would be around people who could relate to my life was important. Being here, being at a small school, I've been able to flourish. I never would have thought of going into the Navy had I not come here. **I never would have pushed myself as hard as I have if I hadn't gone to school here.**"

After getting through the first "blurry" year where he was just trying to figure out the structure, George gradually sought out leadership roles.

First came soccer and eventually cross country, where he was able to interact with students who shared like-minded interests. Then came the Regimental Staff and ultimately his participation in Leadership Academy in the summer of 2014, when he truly found himself.

"The first two days, you're mentally pressured in a way



you've never been pressured before," said George, who served as a counselor this past summer at the strict military-style boot camp for students in JROTC programs throughout Florida. The program is held on Farragut's campus. "From guys walking up and down the hall banging pots and pans to the amount of physical training you have to do to the 'de-eyes' portion where you're pressured not to look at a sergeant to the 'get in the grass' portion, the mental pressure prepares you for dealing with a whole lot in your life. There's no greater satisfaction than graduating from Leadership Academy, knowing you got through that."



## >> Sasha DeSilva '16

For the past two years, Saturday mornings for Sasha DeSilva have been filled with visits to Freedom Square Continuing Care Retirement Community in Seminole. Her role as a volunteer has allowed her to interact with elderly people who have given her lifelong lessons.

Sasha describes “this one lady in her nineties who has an impressive academic resume and taught as a professor at Columbia University who said the one thing that keeps her going in life is reflecting on her accomplishments. She encouraged me to make the most of my younger years because those will ultimately define your legacy.”

Thus, Sasha, who is currently working with a St. Petersburg College professor on research for a microbiological project, has mapped out a plan to become an academic oncologist where she can combine her love of writing with her passion for medicine. The antithesis of this focus stemmed from her discovery of the New York Times’ best-selling book “The Emperor of All Maladies,” a powerful history of cancer and its treatment that won the Pulitzer Prize.

Sasha, who has won several regional and national short story awards including the Scholastic Writing Gold Medal in 2015, credits her development as a writer to Mrs. Heather Ewing, who has taught Upper School

English since arriving at Farragut in 2008.

**“I have learned an incredible amount from the impressive faculty at Farragut, but Mrs. Ewing has guided me the most in regard to my writing,”** said Sasha, who has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking Advanced Placement classes since 10th grade. “Farragut as a whole, though, has prepared me for the next stage in life because of the structure. It also has helped me see the world from a global perspective because of the diverse student body. Meeting and becoming friends with people from all over the world has given me a perspective I would never have received anywhere else.”

Sasha, who is co-captain of the varsity tennis team, also has benefited from the many different leadership opportunities at Farragut, participating in the Student Advisory Committee, Teen Science Cafe, the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor

Society. In addition, Sasha, who is a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship, created and led a community service project during the summer of 2015 in her home country of Sri Lanka.

**“Above all, Farragut builds your confidence as a leader and helps you realize you can accomplish anything you envision,”** said Sasha, who was selected along with Melissa Brizzi '15 as two of 20 finalists out of 150 applicants for the Junior Sungoddess (JSG) Leadership Program finals held in St. Petersburg last year.

Sasha hopes to attend Brown University -- “my dream school.” Other schools high on her interest list include UC Berkeley and the University of Florida.





### TEACHER, SARI DEITCHE, RECOGNIZED WITH SCIENCE AWARD

The \$10,000 “Barrett Family Foundation’s Excellence in Science and Mathematics Award”, honors teachers who share a passion for teaching science and mathematics with creative and innovative methods and who cultivate student interest in these two fields. “It is very humbling,” said Mrs. Deitche, who is in her 14th year as a science instructor at Farragut. “I am very appreciative of how Farragut has helped me grow as a teacher. Every department has given me the support to succeed. In addition, the students have helped me develop my teaching style.”



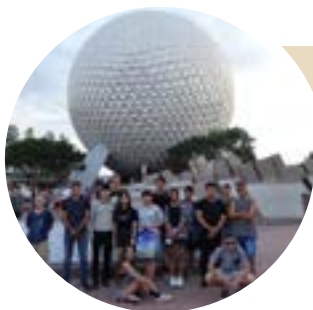
### ENTERPRISE VILLAGE INSPIRES 5TH GRADE

Fifth grade students spent the day at Enterprise Village run by the Stavros Institute. Enterprise Village is a self-contained economic education program that provides a hands-on learning experience unlike any other. Our students spent 6 weeks in the classroom studying economic education objectives and learned about writing checks, using a debit card, keeping a checkbook register, applying for a job and working in a group. They spent the day using these skills in a mock setting.



### SCUBA DIVE CLUB REEF AND WRECK DIVE IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

Our Dive Club traveled to the beautiful waters in the Florida Keys to enjoy two days of reef and wreck diving. Overall conditions were a bit rougher than the students had experienced in the past, but all did a fantastic job. The boat captain said that it was the best group he has ever taken out, not only in dive skills but also in overall manners.



### BOARDERS VISIT EPCOT

Fourteen boarding students spent their Saturday in Orlando at Disney World’s Epcot which features exciting Future World attractions and a World Showcase.





## **DAY AND BOARDING CAMPS AT FARRAGUT: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Day camps offer a variety of options, including: Engineering/STEM, Enrichment, Sports, and Education and are open to children entering PreK4-8th grade. Camps encompass hands-on learning, sports, and other recreational activities.

Boarding camp, Summer@Farragut is a unique two-, four-, or six-week summer boarding experience for teens entering 8th-12th grade. Attendees take academic courses, some for high school credit, and fun elective courses during the day. At night and on weekends they do fun activities like game night, kayaking and paddleboarding at the waterfront, or swimming at the pool. Weekly all-day excursions include trips to theme parks, zipline courses, white water rafting, and more.

Visit [www.farragut.org/summer](http://www.farragut.org/summer) to learn more about Farragut's Summer Camps and Programs!

# **FARRAGUT BLUE JACKETS**

## Fall Season Highlights

Photo credit: Lindsey Porter



### **Hunter McCann caps Senior season with top 3 finish at Regions and top 10 finish at States**

Hunter McCann '16 finished third at the Class A cross country regionals, seventh at the state finals in Tallahassee, and will continue onto Southeast regionals in North Carolina (visit [farragut.org](http://farragut.org) for update).

### **BlueJackets swim into new waters**

The swim team had a great season, thanks to Head Coach Jan Browning and Assistant Coach Adam Deisley. With 14 swimmers on the team, the girls record for the season was 3-4 and the boys record was 5-2. Although they did not qualify for the State Final, the experience at Regionals will drive the boys to take that next step in 2016!

Congratulations to our Regional Competitors:

Captain Saran Polchan, Emiliano Quijano, Dylan Daughtry, Dan Zavhorodnii, and Dylan Rice.



### **Volleyball recap**

Once again, the volleyball program – from varsity to middle school – had another impressive campaign in terms of participation with a little over 40 girls playing, which represents nearly 40 percent of the total female population (6 grade to 12th) at Farragut. Playing for first-year coach Cookie

Mitchell, a core group of six seniors – Hope Bledsoe, Ashaunti Brown, Maiya Fudge, Elizabeth Gaskins, Kollyne Thomas and Anastasha Worlds – helped create a foundation of excellence and stability that the underclassmen will be able to follow.

## BlueJackets run, pass, kick their way into Region Final

The BlueJackets football team, behind key transfers like former Gibbs defensive back Craig Watts '16, former St. Petersburg quarterback Austyn Causey '17, and former Lakewood wide receiver Matt Landers '16, made it to the region finals for the second time in school history. The team finished with an impressive 10-2 record, eventually bowing out of the playoffs in a heartbreaking 36-32 loss to Cambridge Christian in the Class 2A region final.



*Photo credit: Danielle Antonucci*

Austin passed for 245 yards a game while tossing 19 touchdowns over seven games to lead the team while 10 players scored at least one rushing touchdown. O'Shon Allen '16 led the team in rushing with 584 yards from scrimmage while adding three touchdowns.

In addition, Craig verbally agree to attend the University of Colorado. The National Letter of Intent signing day is in March.

## Corynn Miner signs with University of Tampa



Corynn Miner '16, who has attended Farragut since her freshman year, made history this fall when she became the first Farragut female student to sign a scholarship offer to play softball in college. Corynn, who was selected to the Third Team for the Tampa Bay Times all-Tampa Bay softball team last season, signed to play for the University of Tampa.

## Golf team recap

BlueJackets golf coach Doug Erb is excited about how the team can develop over the next few years considering the squad only had one senior, Jack Lescarbeau. Erb is particularly impressed with Jared Arizi '20 and Clayton Brody '19. While Jared "can hit on the green from 100 yards like he's throwing darts," Clayton "can really launch it off the

tee, although it might start off in one zip code and land in another." Erb believes Ariza and Brody have the potential to be the first All-County players out of Farragut since Troy Sidabras, who first made the All-County team when he was in eighth grade in 2002 and ended up playing at Ole Miss after graduating from Holy Trinity Academy







*Upper School students use acrylic paint to draw an image of choice during art class.*



*Lower School students go to music one time a week to learn or practice an instrument of their choice.*



*Lower School students use a combination of pastel and watercolor techniques to paint pyramids.*



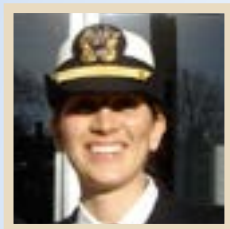
*Kindergarten presents a skit on turtles nesting during one of Lower School's monthly assemblies.*



*The Admiral's Own Band is a staple in every school parade and is comprised of students in Upper School and some students in 6th and 7th grade.*



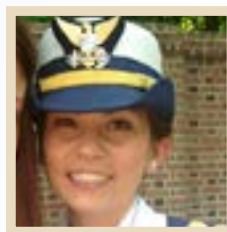
*Stephanie Haseman  
(Schuyler) '01  
LCDR NFO*



*Andrea Alvord '99  
LCDR Navy Reserve*



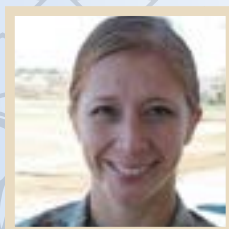
*Nicola Robinson  
(Alvord) '01  
LT Naval Aviation  
Physiologist*



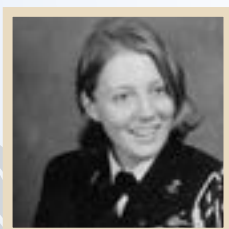
*Laura Lou Brooks  
(Ladd) '05  
LT Coast Guard*



*Michele Grant  
(Gisoni) '06  
LT Navy*



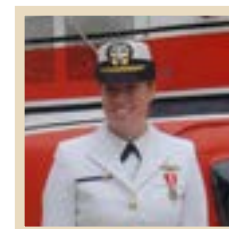
*Megan McClung '91N  
MAJ USMC*



*Shannon Banks '97  
SSgt USAF*



*Jennifer Wells '04  
LT USNR*

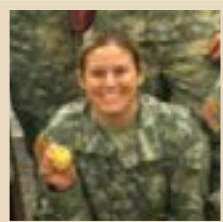


*Margot Gates-George '07  
LT Naval Aviator*

# Female Military







*Brittany Cross '08  
1st LT Army*



*Amanda Puckett '12  
NROTC UF*



*Kathryn Thomas '08  
LT, JG Navy*



*Veronica Yambrovich '09  
1st LT Army Reserves*



*Taylor Scott '12  
NROTC UF  
Nurse Corps*



*Natalia Widulinski '08  
LT, JG Navy*



*Rachel Cone '09  
1st LT Army*



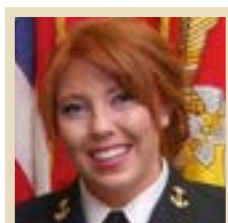
*Katryna Thomas '12  
Army Health Professions Scholarship*



*Fallon Arnold '14  
Naval Academy*



*Melissa Brizzi '15  
Coast Guard Academy*



*Alex Neuzil '11  
NROTC UNM Nurse Corps*

# & Naval Timeline

During the second semester of the 1989-90 academic calendar, Admiral Farragut Academy became a coeducational school with the first admittance of females to its student body. Over the past 25 years, our corps of cadets has improved with the addition of female students. Since 1999, they have received over 30% of all the service academy appointments and ROTC scholarships earned by Farragut cadets.

# A Band of Sisters

A tribute to Farragut women in the military

By: Chris Girandola



*A winged steed, unwearying in flight,  
Sweeping through the air swift as a gale of wind.*

-- HESIOD, The Catalogue of Women

**I**magine being strapped in a chair, fastened with a seatbelt across both shoulders while immersed chest-deep in water of a swimming pool. You wear opaque goggles and the “window” next to you is closed, essentially simulating a murky scenario.

Now, imagine escaping this contraption after it is flipped backwards in a gentle whoosh sending you into the water upside down. This exercise is just one of many tests the Navy requires its pilots, and those who fly with them, to endure to prepare them for an ejection and parachute descent or crash landing into water.

"I can't think of any person I know who anticipates doing these tests, but they are life savers," said Nicky Alvord Robinson, a 2001 Admiral Farragut Academy alumna who is one of three Navy aviation physiologists at the Navy Survival Training Center in Norfolk, Virginia. "The training is very valuable. It's not something that pilots look forward to, but it's something that helps them feel secure if anything were to happen while in flight."

Nicky is part of the Medical Service Corps in charge of physically preparing pilots for the rigors of flight and survival at the Naval base, where pilots are required to take a two-day course every four years. During the course, students must pass the Modular Shallow Water Egress Trainer (the test with the chair being flipped upside down), a swim test while wearing boots, flight suit and helmet; demonstrate that they could inflate a life preserver with a breathing tube while treading water; and complete several situational exercises; and escape the dunker, a test similar to the egress trainer except pilots and crew members are strapped in an actual cockpit of a helicopter or plane.

More importantly, Nicky is part of an alumni base that have been pioneers of sorts, including LCDR Stefanie J. Haseman (Schuyler) '01, LT Jennifer Kearns (Wells) '04, 1st Lieutenant (1LT) Brittany Cross '08, and LTJG Natalia Widulinski '08. In the early 1990s, Farragut welcomed its first female students and graduates, including the late Megan McClung '91N – who was the first female United States Marine Corps officer killed in combat during the Iraq War.

Over the years, Farragut has helped shape the lives of young women in a way other schools could not, just as much as the women have helped transform Farragut into an institution unlike any other. They all credit Farragut as an incredible starting point.

For Nicky, the journey from Farragut to Vanderbilt to her eight-year career as a Naval Flight Officer to her current stint as a Navy physiologist has swept through the air like the wind.

"I know it sounds like a cliché, but it literally seems like yesterday when I was in Pensacola for my training," said Nicky, who originally had gone to Vanderbilt on a NROTC scholarship for medical school before switching to a career in flight. "I now

look at my students and I think of me back in 2006. They have that bright-eyed, bushy-tailed look about them. They have their whole career in front of them."

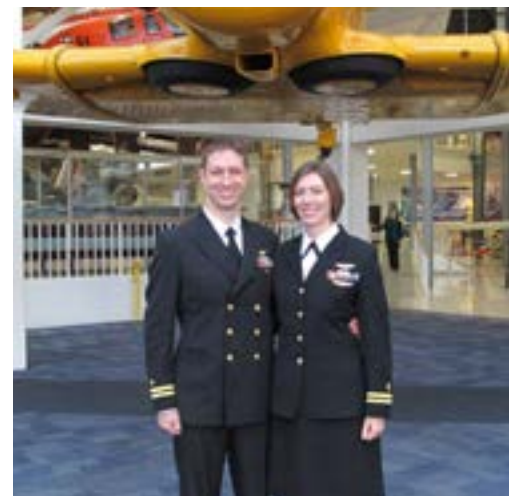
Nicky's path in the Navy admittedly began when she first stepped onto the campus at Farragut where her father, Gregory,

worked as a science teacher and her mom, Deborah, worked in residential life. She already had some structure ingrained in her having grown up in Zimbabwe, where her father served in the police force and her grandfather served in World War II, but her time at Farragut became a life changer.

"The influence of Farragut and the naval tradition, wearing a uniform, understanding the rank structure, marching during drill, becoming a qualified boat handler -- all of it helped with my confidence and ultimately helped guide me into a career as a Naval officer," said Nicky, who attended Farragut eight years.

"During my first summer of CORTAMID (Career Orientation Training of Midshipmen), I had a sense of comfort and confidence because I had a good idea of what to expect."

Nicky's sister, Andrea Alvord, echoes this







sentiment.

"I am not sure that I would have thought about a career in the Navy if I had not been exposed to the Navy heritage and customs through Farragut," said

Andrea, who graduated from Farragut in 1999 and also attended Vanderbilt on a NROTC scholarship where she attained her bachelor's in English.

Nicky and Andrea are happy to have been a part of a Navy – and a military – that has significantly evolved over the past two decades, especially in the past five years with the rise of Robin Braun as the first female commander of the Navy Reserve, Michelle Howard as the first female four-star admiral and Nora Tyson as the first woman to lead a Navy ship fleet.

In fact, Andrea – who was featured on a video for Wired magazine's website – was one of the first women to join the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FOUR TWO (HSL-42) unit as a qualified pilot for the SH60B Seahawk helicopter. During her tour with the "Proud Warriors," she was deployed to the Arabian Gulf and the Eastern Pacific but had her **"best moment when she landed the helicopter on the football field at Farragut for a demonstration."**

With a Navy that currently has a little more than 50,000 women serving in active duty in some capacity, possibly the most remarkable development occurred in 2013 when Leon Panetta removed the U.S. Military's ban on women serving in combat (the services have until the end of 2015 to draw up a plan to implement it or seek special exceptions to keep it closed).

**"Of course, all the developments are considerable, but I am proud whenever I put on the uniform, no matter who I am standing next to,"** said Nicky, who spent three years with the E-2 squadron in Atsugi, Japan. "Being a woman in the

Navy and having been a flight officer has been incredible, but at the end of the day, I am most proud to be one of the women AND men in the United States Navy. The people that you meet, the bond of being in a squadron together, those are the most endearing moments of my naval career."



## ***Other notable female graduates from Farragut who are currently serving our country in the United States Armed Forces:***



### **LCDR STEFANIE J. HASEMAN (SCHUYLER)**

-- daughter of Farragut's own William Schuyler -- graduated from Farragut in 2001 and accepted an NROTC Scholarship through Jacksonville University, where she received a degree in Psychology. She was commissioned as a Naval flight officer, completed her fleet readiness training for the P-3C Orion in Jacksonville and joined the "Golden Swordsmen" of Patrol Squadron Four Seven, deploying to Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in 2007 and to Japan in 2009. In May 2010, Stefanie reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1) at NAS Patuxent River, MD. In 2013, Stefanie returned to Hawaii to join the "Wizards" of Special Projects Patrol Squadron Two. In March 2016, Stefanie will transfer to NAS Jacksonville to begin her Department Head tour.

**LT JENNIFER KEARNS (WELLS) USNR** graduated from Farragut in 2004 and attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, where she received a degree in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation, a U.S. Coast Guard Deck Officer License (unlimited tonnage), and a commission in the U.S. Navy Reserve. From 2008-2011, she sailed with Military Sealift Command (MSC) as the ship's navigator, delivering supplies to the U.S. Navy and its U.S. allies around the world. In 2011, she transferred to MSC's headquarters in Washington DC as a Marine Transportation Specialist for all Combat Logistics Force vessels. In 2014, she transferred to National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) as a maritime analyst.



**LTJG NATALIA WIDULINSKI** graduated from Farragut in 2008 and was commissioned through the Boston College Consortium NROTC program and subsequently attended Northeastern University in 2013, where she received a degree in Environmental Sciences. Following graduation, she reported to her first Navy command aboard the USS Milius (DDG-69) in San Diego, CA where she served as the Strike Officer and Ordnance Officer. In October 2014, she departed with the Milius for an 8 1/2 month Ballistic Missile Defense deployment to the Fifth Fleet (Middle East) Area of Responsibility. As Ordnance Officer, she maintained accountability for the ship's ammunition stock. While on Milius, LTJG Widulinski qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) which included achieving qualifications such as Combat Information Center Watch Officer, Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer and Officer of the Deck. After 2 1/2 years onboard Milius, LTJG Widulinski will be moving on to her next command, USS Anchorage (LPD-23) as the Assistant First Lieutenant.



**1LT BRITTANY CROSS** graduated from Farragut in 2008 and then attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where she received her degree in Aerospace Studies. While at Embry, she competed in the NCAA as a part of the cross country and track and field teams. She was commissioned into the United States Army upon graduation and is currently serving as an Ordnance Officer for 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado. Over her past three years in the service she has served as a Distribution Platoon Leader deployed to Kuwait, a Battalion Maintenance Control Officer, and is currently running the Brigade Unit Maintained Equipment program for 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team at Fort Carson.



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 23- Benjamin H. Troemel '73S  
 24- Rob Hailey '76S  
 25- CAPT Tom McClelland, USN (Ret)  
 26- Donald Doornbos '63S  
 27- Carol M. Doornbos  
 28- Joe Sloan  
 29- Phillip Hurt '38N  
 30- Lona Hurt  
 39- Bailey Norton '39N  
 41- John Gardella '41N  
 43- Stan Slaby  
 44- Matt Sokolowski '92S  
 45- Don Baker '45N  
 46- Stewart D. Wooley '44N  
 47- Al Ferrante '64N  
 49- Pete Musser '44N  
 52- Bjorn Nielsen '43N  
 58- Rudy Kohler '58S  
 59- A.F. "Ron" Krantz '59N  
 61- Eric Engler '61N  
 63- Phil Pratt '63N  
 64- Bill Siebel '64S  
 65- Richard J. DeWitt '65S  
 66- William Butler '64S  
 67- Robert Matthies '67N  
 73- Art Musicaro '73N  
 71- Robert Hudson '71S  
 78- Mike Nicholson  
 79- Murray Fine '54N  
 80- Margaret Fine  
 81- George Goldstein M.D. '50N  
 87- CAPT David Arms '61S, USNR (Ret.)  
 100- Jyri Palm '87S

**HERITAGE SOCIETY**

A Heritage Society membership indicates that Admiral Farragut Academy and/or the Foundation is included in the estate plans of a donor. Some will give through a simple bequest by way of their will, others will transfer the ownership of life insurance or a percentage of their IRA, while others will elect to use one of the many options available through various trust arrangements. The method is not as important as the decision to become a member.



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# alumni news

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## Ewing, Schwarm honored at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

### Rob Ewing

*Aviation Academy Director  
Class of 1994 Embry-Riddle*



Ewing received the Alumni Service Award from Embry-Riddle on October 9, 2015 during the university's Homecoming event in Daytona Beach. The award is given to an individual who continuously demonstrates an extraordinary level of selfless commitment and endless enthusiasm for the university through, but not limited to, service, support, leadership and recruitment, according to the school's website.

Ewing is responsible for the establishment of the Aviation Academy at Farragut in 2008, developing the curriculum for grades 8-12 and recently partnering with Embry-Riddle's dual enrollment program. "It was a great weekend," said Ewing, who graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Science and is currently enrolled in the Master of Aeronautical Science program at Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus.

"It was nice to talk and interact with the Farragut alumni who are in the program at Embry." Currently there are eight Farragut students studying at Embry-Riddle.

### Lt. Col. Chad Schwarm

*U.S. Marine Corps (ret.)  
Class of 1992 Farragut  
Class of 1997 Embry-Riddle*



A week earlier, Schwarm received the Military Achievement Award during the Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet on Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus, in Prescott, Arizona.

The award is given to an alumnus who has achieved outstanding success in the military, according to the school's website. Schwarm, who graduated from the Prescott campus in 1997, has flown over 2,300 military flight hours in five types of aircraft: T-37B Tweet, T-2C Buckeye, T-45C Goshawk, T-34C Turbo Mentor and the F/A-18 Hornet (A, A+, B, C & D variants).

In his 17 years of service to his country, he flew more than 200 combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan and traveled to more than 40 foreign countries. He holds a B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle. His personal decorations and awards include the Single Mission Air Medal with Combat "V" for Valor, 11 Strike Flight Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon. He retired from the military in 2014 and is currently a pilot for GoJet.

### The Thomas Family has thrived at Farragut

When Peggy Thomas was helping her daughter, Kathryn, move onto the USS Bataan in 2014, the realization hit her like a ton of bricks. Her “baby girl was grown up.” Mind you, this wasn’t just some new gig as a manager at some coffeehouse down the street. This was an assignment as a division officer aboard a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship -- a metallic behemoth that weighs 40,000 tons and stretches 844 feet with a crew of about 2,000 marines, 1,000 enlisted men and women, and approximately 100 officers.

“It was an eye-opening experience,” said Mrs. Thomas, whose children include Kathryn ‘08, Donald ‘11, Katryna ‘12, and Kollyne ‘16. “I was helping her move onto the ship because she was doing her deployment. As we’re walking down the passageways of the ship, all of these men and women who are 10 to 20 years older are moving things back and forth. As soon as we entered the passageway, they all put their stuff down, put their backs against the wall, stood at attention to salute her and then let her pass. For me, this is my little girl. I still think of her playing out in the yard, getting mud all over her, running through the mangroves.”

Going from the mangroves to the management of sailors on a

ship transpired largely because of Kathryn’s adamant stance about attending Farragut. When Kathryn’s father, Dr. Donald Thomas, moved the family from California to Florida in the summer before Kathryn’s fifth-grade year, it was a no-brainer.

“Kathryn always wanted to go here,” said Mrs. Thomas, who is a nurse in Farragut’s infirmary. “Her grandfather was a Tuskegee airman. She spent a lot of time with her grandfather, listening to stories. Her father’s side of the family was in the Air Force and we always told her, ‘If you can go to the military and that’s what you want to do, go military. It doesn’t matter if it’s the Army, Navy or Air Force.’ It helped pave the way for a financial future for her grandfather and his brothers and we told her it would help do the same for her.”

Kathryn has since moved on to the USS Antietam, which is deployed in Yokosuka, Japan from 2015-16. Over the next several months, she will perform the duties of Training Officer on the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, a much smaller vessel than the Bataan.

While her first few weeks have included a rough 10-hour day at sea replete with 15-foot waves -- “the longest 10 hours of her life,” Mrs. Thomas knows Kathryn will



*L to R: Dr. Thomas, Donald ‘11, Katryna ‘12 and Mrs. Thomas.*

continue her nautical journey confidently, or as Admiral David Farragut would say, “full speed ahead.”

“She’s always put her mind to something,” Mrs. Thomas said. “I will always remember when I took Katie over (to Montessori by the Sea school in St. Pete Beach) for her first day of kindergarten. I was expecting to park the car, walk her to class, hugs, tears, the whole first day of school emotions. That first day, she got out of the van, and I said, ‘I will walk you up.’ She said, ‘No, I’m okay. I’ll walk by myself.’ She got out of the car and walked up the sidewalk without turning back, in full confidence. She’s been like that ever since.”

### In Perspective: Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby discusses how his education at Farragut paved the way for leadership in the Navy

**T**he U.S. Merchant Marine Academy has a motto, “Acta non Verba,” which is Latin for “Deeds, not Words.” At the 2014 commencement, Vice Admiral Michelle J. Howard, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Plans and Strategy, gave the commencement address and emphasized how this motto has played a pivotal role in the way the Academy has trained “leaders for careers at sea while instilling the values that allow them to become outstanding leaders in the maritime industry, the military, and their communities.”

Mark H. Buzby – a 1975 graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy, a 1979 graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy epitomizes “Acta non Verba.” His 34-year career in the Navy has taken him around the world as a Surface Warfare Officer where he made numerous deployments aboard

cruisers and destroyers. His command tours include the destroyer USS Carney (DDG-64), Destroyer Squadron 31 and the Surface Warfare Officers School.

Admiral Farragut Academy was honored when Buzby chose to hold his Flag Officer promotion ceremony on our campus. After serving in several important positions including Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, he was selected as the first Merchant Marine Academy graduate to become Commander of the Military Sealift Command where he served from 2009 until his retirement in 2013. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (five awards) and various unit and campaign awards.



But according to Buzby, all of his successes, all of his adventures, all of his opportunities to lead would not have come about had it not been for the foundation which was laid at Farragut.

“Farragut puts you in an environment to lead, where you learn what it’s like to lead and what it takes to lead,” said Buzby, who retired from the Navy in 2008.

### Time is everything -- five minutes makes the difference between victory and defeat

Admiral Farragut Academy is in the process of building a secure display for a valuable historical artifact: the treasured gold pocket watch of Admiral Horatio Nelson worn at the time of his death at the Battle of Trafalgar, the greatest Naval victory in British history. The watch is owned by Dr. D. Bruce McMahan, the father of 8th grade cadet, Vladimir. Dr. McMahan, a businessman, philanthropist, and a lover of history, purchased the watch at a Southeby’s auction. For the past several years, the watch has been

displayed in Greenwich England at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Dr. McMahan has graciously loaned the watch to Farragut for the next several years. The watch will be in a special brass and leather carrying case along with a large print of a painting produced by the famous artist Lawrence Supino. *The painting depicts the night before the Battle of Trafalgar when all 27 captains of the British Fleet met with Nelson aboard the HMS Victory to discuss his plans and strategy for the upcoming battle. At the meeting, it is a certainty that all of*



*the captains synchronized their watches to Nelson’s pocket watch so they could know precisely how many minutes should elapse before a given maneuver and effectively execute the battle plan.*



## Two Class Agents honored at Alumni Homecoming 2015

*By: Jeff Ogden*

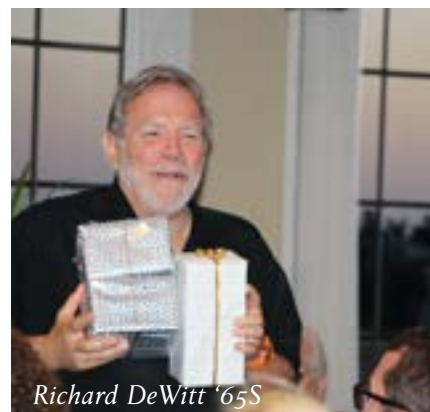
A school such as ours spans many generations and our alumni are spread around the world. No matter what, one element that can keep a class together for years is the Class Agent. The job of Class Agent is simple. This individual is tasked with keeping his or her class engaged, connected to each other as well as the school. Over the years, we have used our Homecoming weekend to recognize our Class Agents as the leaders that make this weekend something special.

We would like to honor, congratulate, and most of all thank Richard DeWitt '65S and Ian David Lipsky '75N for their dedication, commitment and brotherhood. Both played a tremendous role in making our Homecoming 2015 weekend a success and on behalf of their class, we would like to recognize them for their efforts.

While our two recipients this year come from classes ten years apart, representing both campuses, and literally live across the country from one each other, their hearts are filled with the Farragut spirit many of us can be proud of. Both have been active in events in the past and both have played a role in our Board of Directors or Foundation Board of Trustees. Without the help and guidance of these gentlemen, Homecoming 2015 would not have been a success.



*Ian David Lipsky '75N*



*Richard DeWitt '65S*



*Over 125 alumni and friends joined us at this year's Alumni Homecoming Weekend in St. Petersburg. Friday events included campus tours led by our Upper School Regimental Staff, a boat tour of Boca Ciega Bay, the Regiment Homecoming Parade, performance by the Exhibition Drill Team, State of the School Address by Headmaster Robert J. Fine Jr., and a tailgate followed by the Homecoming Football Game. Saturday events included class visits and the formal Alumni Dinner hosted this year at the Club at Treasure Island.*

## Q&A with Lt. Col.(USMC, Ret.) Rob Irvine, Class of 1970

**R**ob Irvine, who graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy's Pine Beach campus in 1970, recently announced his retirement after putting in over 30 years of counterintelligence and human intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces. His most recent assignment came as the Defense Intelligence Senior Leader (DISL), Strategic Advisor to Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Intelligence, which he took over in January 2015. Previously, he served as the founding Director of the Coast Guard Counterintelligence Service from November 2004 to January 2015.

**REVEILLE:** As the great proverb goes, the journey begins with the first step. In looking back on your journey, how integral was your first step? How important of a role did Farragut play in your journey?

**IRVINE:** "Farragut deeply ingrained in me the importance of self-discipline, education, teamwork, and leadership which I would eventually come to know as the (Marine) Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment."

**REVEILLE:** At what point did you decide you wanted to join the Marine Corps? What did you dream of being before making this decision?

**IRVINE:** "I actually was leaning towards the Marine Corps while attending Farragut. My cousin was a Marine and was killed in Vietnam during my sophomore year. Also, I was the anchor at Farragut (class standing of 53 out of 53) and found it a little challenging to gain admission to college. I thought I wanted to be a pilot but didn't have any immediate plans. I met my future wife, LuAnn Lawless, and worked for her father who was a contractor before enlisting in the Marine Corps. I attended boot camp at Parris Island in July of 1971.

**REVEILLE:** Why is the naval tradition at Farragut so important to the growth and development of young men and women? How does it effectively capture this tradition? How important was this tradition to your character?

**IRVINE:** "Farragut played a critical role in the successes I achieved throughout my career both as an active duty Marine and as a civilian with the Coast Guard. As a Farragut Midshipman, a Marine, and a Coastie, I came to understand the importance of taking care of people and their families and the role they play in our successes. More importantly I had been privileged to serve alongside the finest men and women our country has to offer. Their



professionalism and dedication were directly responsible, along with my wife who has been my toughest critic and my staunchest supporter, for my achievements.

**REVEILLE:** What was your most endearing moment at Farragut and then in the field?

**IRVINE:** "At Farragut: the mutual trust and friendship fostered with classmates like Ed Bartle and teachers during my three years. I also have many fond memories of Coaches Stan Slaby and Bob Hunt. In the field: having a chance encounter with two classmates. I reconnected with Rick Koch, Class of 1969 and a also a Marine, in Okinawa, Japan and with Rusty Acree, Class of 1970, football teammate and naval officer, at the ECAC Football Officials Clinic in Virginia."

# alumni news



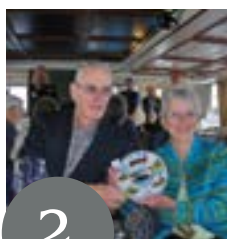
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## GEORGE MCELVY '47N

"Go for it as long as you can" is my motto. I'm now 87 years old and my Farragut experience was the start of the turning point of my life. I spent most of my senior year as Chief Petty Officer of 1st Co., then toward the end after a shake up of the ranking file, was the LT. JG. - Commander of Junior School. After Farragut, I went to UF and graduated in Architecture, then at the request of the local draft board went into the Army. I got into Engineering OCS, at Ft Belvoir, VA and graduated in Engineering, Surveying & Map Making. My next stop was Korea -- that was an experience. I was there when they signed the Armistice. The war was bad enough, but the cold weather was a killer. I made it through and it turned out to be an awesome experience. From there, I got a job with an architectural firm in Tampa (my home town) where I worked for five years, passed the Florida State Board of Architecture exams, got licensed as an Architect, and opened my own shop. I ran a firm in Tampa for 40 years, retired, and moved to Crystal River. I lived there 25 years, sold our house there last December, and bought a villa in Homosassa, FL. I still have my BUCCANEER 1947 and every so often I look it over. It brings back great memories.

## M. DAVID RAFKIN '48N

*"Reveille Summer 2015 - I read it and I love it! Best issue ever."*



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## CHARLES RUEBEL '49N

For the past eight years I have headed the Community Dinner Mission at the First Presbyterian Church, which serves meals every Saturday evening to those in need of a meal.

## JOSEPH ETTINGER '50N

For the last five years I have been faculty member of Skills Training at Tulane Law School. In May 2015 Tulane Law School created the Joseph Ettinger Award to honor my career as an attorney and educator. The award is conferred on a student in the criminal law program who excelled in litigation skilled as determined by the program faculty. Previously I was in private practice in Chicago, on faculty of Kent College of Law, and a supervising attorney in the Arizona Justice Project at ASU Law School. I have been rated "AV Preeminent" by Lexis Nexis for over 25 years.

1 Skills Training class at Tulane Law School.

## GEORGE RUBIN '50N

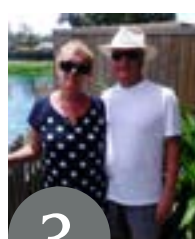
If any 1950 North alumni are still alive and well, give us a call/visit. It is cool in NH in the summer and fall. Hope all are ok and well.

## EDWARD HANNA '51S

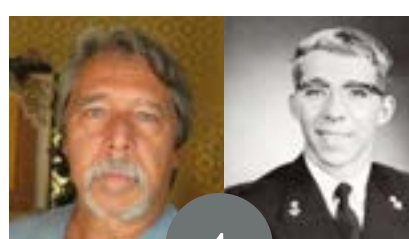
I enjoyed attending the alumni reunion for the 1951 graduates.

## CHESTER DAVIS '54S

Thoroughly enjoying retirement at



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Fleet Landing a CCRC in Atlantic Beach, FL. One of the best decisions we have ever made. Got to visit the USS Farragut and attend recent Change of Command. I retired from the US Navy in 1980 and then worked for several companies in the DC area in the intelligence business. 2 Traveling on Russian Rivers.

## JON ARCUNI '58S

I have been living in Panama for 8 years, fishing the Hannibal Bank, and enjoying life in the cool mountains.

## LUIS GIRON-MOREL '61S

I am a proud Vietnam Veteran working for the Veterans Healthcare Administration caring for our vets as an Inventory Manager at Logistics.

## WILLIAM BUTLER '64S

Moved to Santa Fe, NM from Virginia Beach, VA this summer. I'm building a new home in Las Campanas, eight miles from the historic Santa Fe Plaza. Enjoying sunny days, cool nights, mountain views in every direction, and all Santa Fe has to offer.

## JAMES RUNKEL '65S

Retired in 2012 and currently living in New Port Richey, FL. Attended the 2015 reunion in October. 3

## RAMON USATEGUI '66S

I was inducted to the BlueJackets' Sports Wall of Fame a few years ago. My son Ramon is getting married



on June 12 to Ms. Mary Benevente in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. My son Alejandro is in Savannah and competed for the World Championships [Masters class] in weightlifting.

#### **ROBERT PAUL GREAVES '67S**

After graduating from U of Illinois with a BS in Liberal Arts & Sciences, the following year I was unable to find a satisfactory vocation so I enrolled in Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and earned my BS in Nursing. I worked as a psychiatric nurse and IV therapy nurse for 3 years during which time I married. My wife, Debbie, was a computer programmer. Both she and her

vocation caught my fancy, so I got a degree in computer programming and was immediately hired by NCR Corporation for my niche as a medical professional with computer skills. My wife and I raised a daughter and son. After 25 years as a systems engineer and analyst, I retired at 56 to work on my hobby as a genealogy researcher for our family tree. Since my wife retired, we have travelled to meet newly discovered cousins. Through facebook and email, I try to stay in touch with my Farragut roommates and classmates.

4 2015 and 1967

#### **JEFFREY LYONS '67N**

Graduated from Washington and

Jefferson College. Served in the US ARMY Reserve for eight years. Started a financial Planning Practice in 1973 in Charlotte, NC and I am still actively working. I am married to Fran and we have four children and four grandchildren. Active in numerous civic organizations and community activities. I really appreciate the training and great education I received while attending Farragut and the friendships that still continue.

#### **ROBERT SMALL '67N**

I am currently an Emmy Award winner writer/producer for BECON TV and I also teach at Broward College. I am also an Honored Alumni at Monmouth University.

## **ED SCHNEIDER '57S**

Mr. Schneider's government career began on February 1962 and culminated as Director, Space Support Systems at the Space and Missile Center in Los Angeles, California. During his 32 years of federal service, Mr. Schneider has been involved with aeronautical and aerospace engineering, research, development and planning, programming and budgeting. Mr. Schneider graduated from the University of Miami in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force through the Air Force ROTC program. He was assigned to the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton Ohio as a project engineer for the development and production support of aircraft cockpit instrumentation. In 1965, he was honorably discharged from the Air Force and continued his government career as a civil service project leader for the development of advanced aircraft instrumentation systems. In 1967, he was selected to join the Air Force Headquarters Research and Development organization in the Pentagon as a technical leader in the

area of Aeronautics, flight dynamics, structures and simulation. He pioneered the development and successful flight test of the first all electric aircraft flight control system. In 1973 he was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Research and Development Management Office where he was responsible for preparing the budget for over 100 Air Force technical programs valued at \$3 billion per year. In 1975, Mr. Schneider was selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. During that year, he also earned a Master's Degree in Business Science from George Washington University. Mr. Schneider left the Pentagon in 1977 to become the Deputy Director of the Management Office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in Rosslyn Virginia where he managed both the agency's budget and contract acquisition activities. In 1979, he was selected by the White House's prestigious President's Commission on Executive Exchange to participate in a one-year program with industry. Mr. Schneider came to California to work at Hughes Aircraft, Culver City as an Assistant Program Manager for the development of an anti-satellite infrared

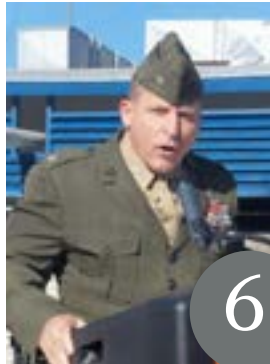


sensor. Following the completion of the program, he established the DARPA West Coast office. During the next seven years he worked closely with DARPA technical managers and west coast contractors supporting multiple classified space programs. In 1990, after completing the Program Manager's course at the Defense Systems Management College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he was awarded an Acquisition Professional Development Program Level III certification in Program Management. At Mr. Schneider's retirement, he was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award by the Space and Missile Systems Center Commander, Lieut. Gen. Barry. Mr. Schneider is married to Betty Merrell.

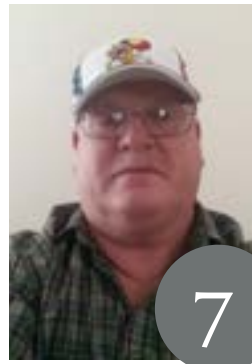
## alumni news



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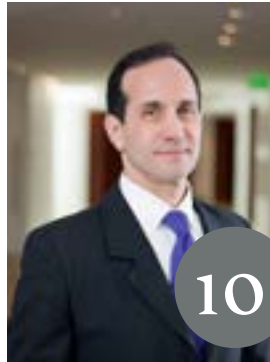
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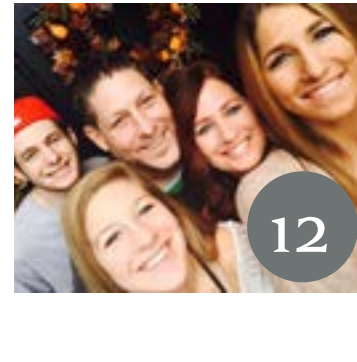
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### DENNIS CRAIG BAUGH '68S

Retired and living in Denver, CO near Littleton. Including active duty, I was Intel Officer for 30 years and retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency in May 2008.

### JIM GARNER '71N

I was appointed to a national staff office as a volunteer for The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. I was the Branch Assistant in charge of the Video Corps in the Creative Services Division to direct film production and distribution. <sup>5</sup>

### CAPT GLENN F. GRAHL '72S

I served in the Navy (5 yrs) and Coast Guard (26 years), then taught Maritime Science at the MAST Academy in Miami for three years. I retired one year ago and now live in Homestead, FL.

### COL. JEFFREY POWERS '73N

Me during my speech at the 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion memorial service 2013. <sup>6</sup>

### WILLIAM RUCKS '74S

I have been married to a wonderful woman and between both of us we have 6 children and 12 grandchildren. I work for a chemical plant in Texas. I am a past master of a Masonic lodge and a Shriner. God has been wonderful to me and I have had a great life. <sup>7</sup> My try at a selfie.

### BRIAN GIESELER '76N

I recently reconnected via Facebook with fellow '76N alums Lucian Pravati '76N and Brian Fischer '76N. I'm looking forward to next year's 40th reunion.

### ROBERT MACKEY '78S

Me and my family. <sup>8</sup>

### JOSE MARQUEZ '78S -

Always proud to be part of my alma mater AFA. <sup>9</sup>

### RON RUBIN '79N

I am a Senior Counsel and Chief Advisor, Regulatory Policy for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Financial Services. I was previously a partner at Hunton & Williams, LLP. I have published three op-ed articles in the Wall Street Journal last year, "How the Wolf of Wall Street Really Did It," "When Disparate Impact Bites Back," and "A Misguided Campaign Against Payday Lending." <sup>10</sup>

**GUSTAVO BERIO '81S**

After college I joined the Navy/ Marines and retired in Sep '09. Now I live in Las Vegas , NV where all AFA former alumni visit me specially for March Madness.

**KEVIN FOSTER '83N**

Living in Hudson, NH as a single dad with three of my four children. Working at Tecomet Co. in Wilmington MA as a Quality Engineer for the Spinal Implant Division.

**CHRISTOPHER MALING '83S**

I was promoted, along with my brother Dave Maling '87S, to Executive Vice President at Colliers International. I was also been appointed the role of Director of the Retail Investment Sales platform nationally for Colliers. I lead the Maling Team that focus on representing both private and institutional clients in the sale of retail investment real estate throughout the country, which is based in Los Angeles.

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**JAMES ADAMSON '83S**

Since graduating from AFA in 1983 life has taken me back to Chicago and I later transferred through business to Southern California and now I am in Seattle. I am now

Regional General Manager for G&K Services for the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada running a uniform service and manufacturing business. I have just had my 25th wedding anniversary with my wife, Vicki, in a marriage where we have 3 children, James IV-23, Gaby-20, and Maddie-18. The eldest two are in college, Gaby playing soccer, and Maddie is finishing her last year of high school. I still reflect back on my teachers at Farragut: Captain Banks, Commander Rodda, Lieutenant Gilgenast, and Commander Motroni. Their wisdom has come to play numerous times over my life and I am grateful for the experience, knowledge, friendships, and the friends I still am in contact with to this day. Anyone who graduated from Farragut knows exactly what I'm saying and I'm sure they agree. Sometimes you don't realize the benefits of a situation until you reflect on them later in life. To all that have graduated and will graduate from AFA, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

12 The Circus Adamsonus!!!!

**JONG MIN KIM '86N**

I currently work for Adknowledge Asia, heading the Seoul Office and in charge of sales and business development. My past jobs include Grey Group, McCann Worldgroup, Aquent, Hilton International, etc.

**ANDREW RIKARTS '86**

My family with our newest addition, 16-month-old Archer.

**MATTHEW BALL '90N**

Graduation 1990 N: Brett Deptula, Ricardo Ginebra, Matt Ball, Martin Roach, Johnny Wells and Scott Hansen.

**DENNIS SIMMONS '93S**

I enjoy following Farragut on social media and seeing the further development of the academy. I'm particularly impressed with the Aviation program and the generous donation of a fellow alumni. My career has now taken me to Beijing, China as a Commercial Diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in charge of promoting US exports in the Automotive, Healthcare, and Agribusiness sector. I moved with my wife (an HR Officer) and our daughter (7) and son (4). I also enjoy seeing the Alumni updates in the Reveille publication. I look forward to hearing from fellow alumni.

**THERESA REKUS '94N**

Visited classmate Dan Balk '94N on my trip to Ybor City, Tampa and his custom jewelry shop. Awesome visit as always. Dan Balk '94N and Terri Rekus '94N at Dan's Ybor City studio.



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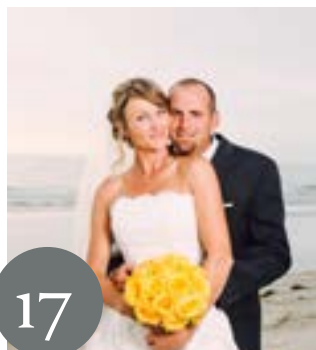


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## FAITH COGSWELL '97S

On my wedding day. **17**

## NICOLA ROBINSON '01

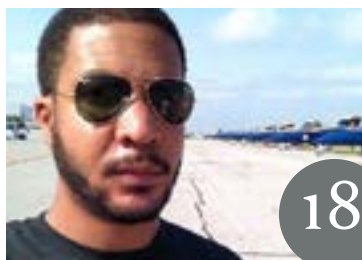
I switched communities in the Navy and now work as an Aerospace Physiologist at the Aviation Survival Training Center located at Naval Base Norfolk.

## CHRIS COLEMAN '04

I am currently living and working in Cleveland, Ohio. I am working with my family's company, Coleman Spohn Corporation. We do mechanical contracting on the commercial, industrial, and institutional levels. In 2014 I earned my private pilot's license. Currently, I am working on my instrument rating and will also be pursuing my commercial rating. **18** Attending the 2014 Cleveland National Airshow featuring the Blue Angels.

## NICK AVILA '04

Hello BlueJackets! I am LT Nick Avila and I am a MH-60S helicopter pilot for the US Navy. I just completed a three year tour in Guam with HSC-25, including two deployments aboard USS BONHOMME RICHARD, LHD-6. By the time this is published, my wife



Christine and daughter Casey and I will be living in Belgrade, Serbia on an Olmsted Scholarship for the next three years where I will learn Serbian and hopefully get a masters degree in International Studies. Feel free to shoot me an email if you want to know anything about the Navy, OCS, helicoptering (yes that's a word), or the Olmsted Scholarship. **19** My most recent service photo.

## MIGUEL BRAVO ESCOBAR '09

Currently a senior at the University of Hawaii. Studying Tropical Horticulture with a focus on plant biotechnology and biological engineering. I work for Monsanto in Maui and am an international student orientation leader at the University of Hawaii. I am also the Vice President of the Agriculture Club and head lead of investigations. I am actively researching Genetically Modified Crops and Biotechnology solutions. I am currently under international scholarship and getting ready to apply for a masters degree at the University of Hawaii on Biological Engineering using Clustered Regularly Interspaced palindromic repeats technique for genome editing.

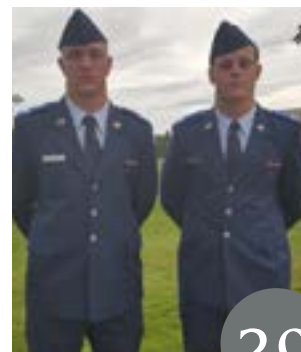


## VERONICA YAMBROVICH '09

Interior Designer at BSSW Architects and First Lieutenant Engineer Officer in the US Army Reserves

## DALTON COLLINS'15 AND COLE FAGAN '15

They are both attending the Air Force Academy Prep. Picture taken during parents weekend following the parade. Dalton is an element leader and playing quarterback. Cole is excelling at fullback. Both are in the same squadron and are embracing their new journey. **20**



*William Finley Lowe '42N*

Longtime Bridgehampton resident William Finley Lowe died, age 91, at home on May 30 from complications of hemophilia. He was born in Pittsburgh in 1923 and raised in Bayside, Queens. He attended Bayside High School, where he met his future bride, Anne Harrington. He graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy in June 1942 and entered the U.S. Coast Guard in December that same year. From 1942 to 1946, he patrolled the New York Harbor and surrounding waters during World War II aboard cutters, icebreakers and tugboats based on Pier 18. He married Anne Harrington in October 1946, and they started a family in 1950. In 1956, the couple moved from Bayside to the Butter Lane home owned by his father in Bridgehampton, where Mr. Lowe had spent summers with his grandfather. He remodeled the home himself and converted the old horse barn into a fully functional machine shop where he designed and built custom index machinery to be sold worldwide by his E-Z MACHINE corporation. His business took him from Australia to Germany installing his

machines, many of which are still running today. From 1962 to 1978, the couple owned four different private planes, from an

Aircoupe to a twin-engine Piper Aztec, and they often traveled from Florida to Montreal on vacation and business. Mr. Lowe maintained the airplanes himself and built his own hangar at East Hampton Airport. Flying took a backseat to fishing and boating together, and in 1978 the couple joined the Sag Harbor Yacht Club, where their boat, "The Annie," was docked. First aboard a 28-foot Bertram and then on a 34-foot Main Ship, they were a common sight on the right side of the main dock. Mr. Lowe's other hobbies included hunting, clamming, scalloping, model building and creating in the shop. Anything he or his wife needed could be built in that shop, survivors said.



*Howard Sakolsky '47S*



It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of one of our beloved. Howard Sakolsky '47S was more than an alumnus of Admiral Farragut Academy. He was a friend, a volunteer, and a worker. He traveled the United States in his RV always stopping by to say hello to members of our alumni community. He shared the stories, history, and the school of today with so many of you. Howard Sakolsky passed on, leaving behind a passion for his family, his travels, and

his dedication to Admiral Farragut Academy. Howard, you sir, will be missed! Howard lived life on his terms -bestowing unconditional love for his children Tony (1957-1973), Stephanie, Tanya, David; sister Marcy and as Papa Howard to Brandy and to his beloved companion Joy. Tall in stature and character, King of the road and his "coach," boundless curiosity for people and places. He was at home anywhere in the world. Our dear Jewish Cowboy has ridden gracefully into his sunset.

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## alumni news

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### *George Gillespie '48N*

George died July 27, 2015 at the home he loved after a short fight with cancer. He was born in Philadelphia, PA. where he was an active Eagle Scout, graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy, and served his country by joining the Merchant Marines, Navy and the Marines. George was a successful entrepreneur, a world traveler, and loved to be anywhere the sun was

shining. His fondest memories are when he owned his own airplane and could fly himself wherever he desired, taking family and loved ones high up the friendly skies. George leaves many wonderful memories of love to his wife Linda, his four sons- David, Allen, Jason and Adam, his four stepchildren- Melanie, Robin, Scott and Shari, and his 20 grandchildren.



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### *Robert "Bob" Schuman '53N*

Robert of Huntingdon Valley, PA passed on August 6, 2015 at home. He was 80 years old and the husband of Joan, married for 55 years. Together they raised 4 children. Robert graduated from Lincoln High School, Admiral Farragut Academy, and Penn State University. He was in the Navy for two years after graduating from college. Robert worked at the business his father founded, O.P. Schuman & Sons Inc. for 55 years. He loved working with his father and brother to build a business that manufactures parts and machines for businesses around the globe. Even after passing the business on to his nephews and son, Robert continued to be part of

this great company. Robert loved sports, swimming at the pool, and trips to Lake Wallenpaupack, but what he loved most were his family and friends. Robert cared deeply for friends he had made throughout his life. He treasured his years as a grandfather and the opportunity to be part of their world. He loved deeply and was deeply loved. He leaves behind a great family legacy and many friends who will miss him. Robert ran "the race of life well" and has impacted many lives for good as a result.

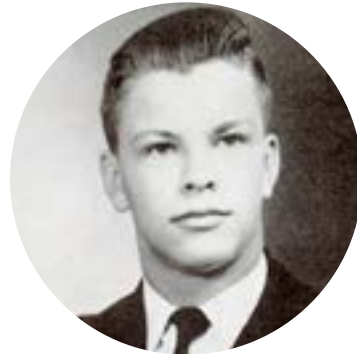
NOTE: Death notices are printed as we receive them.





*“Dick” Gerald Potter Dickinson ‘53S*

Mr. Dickinson passed away December 14, 2010, after an extended illness in Mt. Pleasant. A native of Beaufort, North Carolina, Dick spent his early years boating and exploring the rivers and sounds of his beloved Carteret County and watching movies with friends at his family’s theater on Beaufort’s Front Street. After graduating from Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Florida, he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from The Citadel in 1958 with a degree in Political Science. With a career on the Charleston Waterfront which spanned over fifty years, Dick retired from Dickinson, Mikell and Comar, Inc., a Customs House Brokers Foreign Freight Forwarders company and DMC Shipping in 1989. In his retirement, he worked for FedEx International Transportation. Mr. Dickinson was a member of Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church, the Propeller Club of Charleston, The General Society of Colonial Wars in the State of South Carolina, Huguenot Society, Fort Sumter Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Palmetto Guard, Carolina Supper Club, Charleston Republican Party, the Citadel Brigadier Club and the Citadel Class of 1958 Tailgate Club. Dick was married to the late Caroline Haskell Pinckney Dickinson for 49 years and is survived by two daughters and one son.



*Carl Howard Swanson ‘53S*

Mr. Swanson, 64, of Farrington Way, died Saturday, Oct. 16, 1999, at St. Francis Hospital, Charleston. Mr. Swanson, a native of Fargo, N.D., had retired as a plant manager at Thermal Ceramics. He was a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology and was a Navy Veteran.



*Richard Demarest ‘55N*

Richard died in February 2015. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



*Harvey Borgen '59N*

Harvey passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2015. Harvey graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy in Toms River, NJ in 1959 then attended New York State Maritime College at Fort Schuyler, NY. He graduated in 1963 with a BS in Marine Transportation, a 3rd Mates license, and commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy. He married Gail on June 8, 1963 and moved to Texas to begin his career with the then Humble Oil and Refining Company in the Marine Division. He graduated from the University of Houston with a Master's Degree in Business Management. He

had various assignments in the Marine Department in Houston, TX, Bayonne NJ., NY City and Benicia, CA., retiring from Sea River Maritime after 33 years of serving in 1996. He had continued to serve in the Naval Reserve until he retired in 1972 as a Lt. Commander. He was a member of the Hey Hollies Square Dance Club and served as President for this and various clubs for several years. He cherished being with family and friends. He always seemed to have a smile and touched the lives of many with his courage in battling his many major diseases.



*Dr. Stephen Richard Birch '66S*

Dr. Birch died April 19, 2009 while piloting his plane off the Gaviota coast. Steve, originally from Michigan, moved to Florida and attended Farragut for his Senior year and graduated from Jacksonville University in 1973 and obtained his M.D. from University of Miami in 1977. Steve met his wife, Alice, while he was in medical school and she was in nursing school. They were married on June 17, 1977, and set off on their life adventure together. After Steve finished

his training in orthopedics at University of Florida in 1982, they moved to Santa Barbara. For the next 25 years, Steve became one of the most widely respected physicians in his community. He was a doctor from the old school, always taking as much time as necessary with each of his patients, and emphasizing the total process of healing. His kind and sympathetic manner endeared him to his patients, who always knew they were in skilled hands. He volunteered his professional time at the Health Department for many years. Alice and Steve had 31 years of a rich and fulfilling marriage together. They were blessed with three sons: Charlie, Scott, and Chris and had the time of their lives with their boys. His son's soccer, water polo and football games were of utmost importance in Steve's busy schedule. He never passed up the opportunity for a teaching moment and offered a new challenge every weekend

morning. Steve had a lifelong passion for aviation that was imparted to him by his father. He piloted his own plane on many cross-country adventures and functioned, at times, as the family "Air Birch shuttle service" throughout California. He fell in love with aerobatics, in particular, and could often be found enjoying Santa Barbara sunsets upside down from the cockpit. Alice and Steve's door was always open guests. Their home as one of the most generous and loving places to be. Steve was always a part of the action, whether building fires, consulting on the tri-tip, or visiting with family members young and old. Steve left us much too soon, and there will always be an empty place in our hearts even though we know we will see him again in heaven. Countless friends and relatives will remember him as a kind and gentle man of integrity.

## John A. Gardella '41N

By: Erik Weber, *The Riverside Signal*



TOMS RIVER - On Sunday, October 4th, 2015, John A. Gardella, Jr., 92, a well-known, respected and celebrated luminary and graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy - formerly of Pine Beach on these waters, today enjoying renewed life in St. Petersburg, Florida - Class of 1941, passed away, leaving in his wake a life so vibrantly lived that to attempt to put it entirely in print would still miss 95 percent of it.

The Riverside Signal had the opportunity to sit with Mr. Gardella in April 2011 and learn that the most widely-shared attribute of his life - that he was roommate and friend of Alan Shepard, also AFA '41, later the first American in space - was a blip on the radar of accomplishments, ranging from successfully navigating his platoon on a PT Boat for the Navy through deadly South Pacific waters in World War II to proudly raising his family, with activities and hobbies including photography, writing, skiing, singing and storytelling, among many more, in-between.

Honored in 2013 by his alma mater, academy officials wrote:

Devotion to cause, confidence,

and loyalty define John Anthony Gardella. These words colored every choice he made throughout the years he bravely served his country and his beloved Farragut. Committed to Farragut's Naval military model and core values Cadet Gardella never turned down a single request to serve and until recently... never missed a single Farragut Homecoming.

In later years, John even stepped up and volunteered his time and energy as Farragut's much needed Development Director in an attempt to keep the northern school open. In fact, for 72 years through good and bad times, John has remained a devoted Farragut cadet, alumnus, staff member, and friend.

It's that same spirit of devotion to cause, integrity and honor that also defined John's military experience. Following graduation John enrolled in LeHigh University where he became President of their Debate Team. As part of a competition that debated whether or not a student should leave college and join the war effort, he debated himself right into enlisting in the Navy! While in Boot Camp he was made a company commander over two warring groups of seamen, a group of Irishmen, and a group of Italians, both from New York! Once again he made lemonade out of lemons by teaching them how to "silent drill" thus winning the all important boot camp competition and creating a bond among his men.

Those same leadership skills, confidence and devotion to cause later motivated him to volunteer as an "expendable" which was

the term that was given to those enlisted men that volunteered to man the PT boats during the war. Only one in five was expected to survive that assignment. But those odds didn't deter John. John was confident he could make a difference, and he did. He was a WWII hero over and over again saving lives and repeatedly putting his own at risk.

At that time, three graduates of the academy - Don Schreiber '46N, Frank Wendt '42N, and Bob Matthies '67N, the latter the mayor of Seaside Park and also headmaster to the Pine Beach campus from 1979 to 1993 - wrote letters honoring Mr. Gardella.

*"I know of no alumnus who has demonstrated and expressed his love and affection for Farragut more than my true friend John Gardella. He graduated 5 years before me but we are closer today than any of my classmates of 1946."* -Don Schreiber '46N

*Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "A friend is a gift you give yourself." So I really spoiled myself when John came into my life as a fellow Admiral Farragut Academy cadet over 70 years ago. Our friendship was casual for several decades but increased over time as we pursued our business careers. John asked me to support the Alumni Association as he had been a longtime faithful member and his enthusiasm knew no bounds."* - Frank Wendt '42N

Read full article at:  
[www.farragut.org/?p=9671](http://www.farragut.org/?p=9671)



## Facebook

Remembering 9/11: "If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate." -- Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in 2002. #neverforget #september11 #unitedwestand



## Instagram

#SeniorYear



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Melissa Brizzi '15 at the Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Maria, Admissions Rep., with Mikel, education agent, in Madrid, Spain.



Jillian Aprile, grade 5, in Japan



Leila Bakken, Kindergarten, in Toms River, NJ.

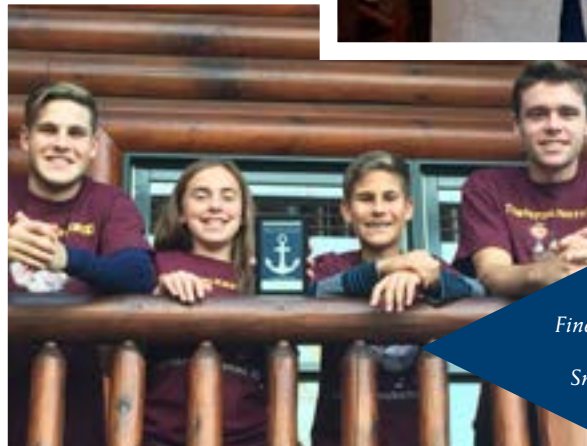


Mrs. Gonczar, Commandant's Office Manager, at Admiral Farragut Point, NJ.

Alison and Julia Lescarbeau '13 in London, UK.



Nikita Johnson, first grade, with his family in Cancun, Mexico.



Fine and Schlifstein family in the Smoky Mountains



Our corps of cadets in their crackerjack uniform in front of Farragut Hall on the St. Petersburg, Florida campus. Picture was taken some time in the late 1940's.

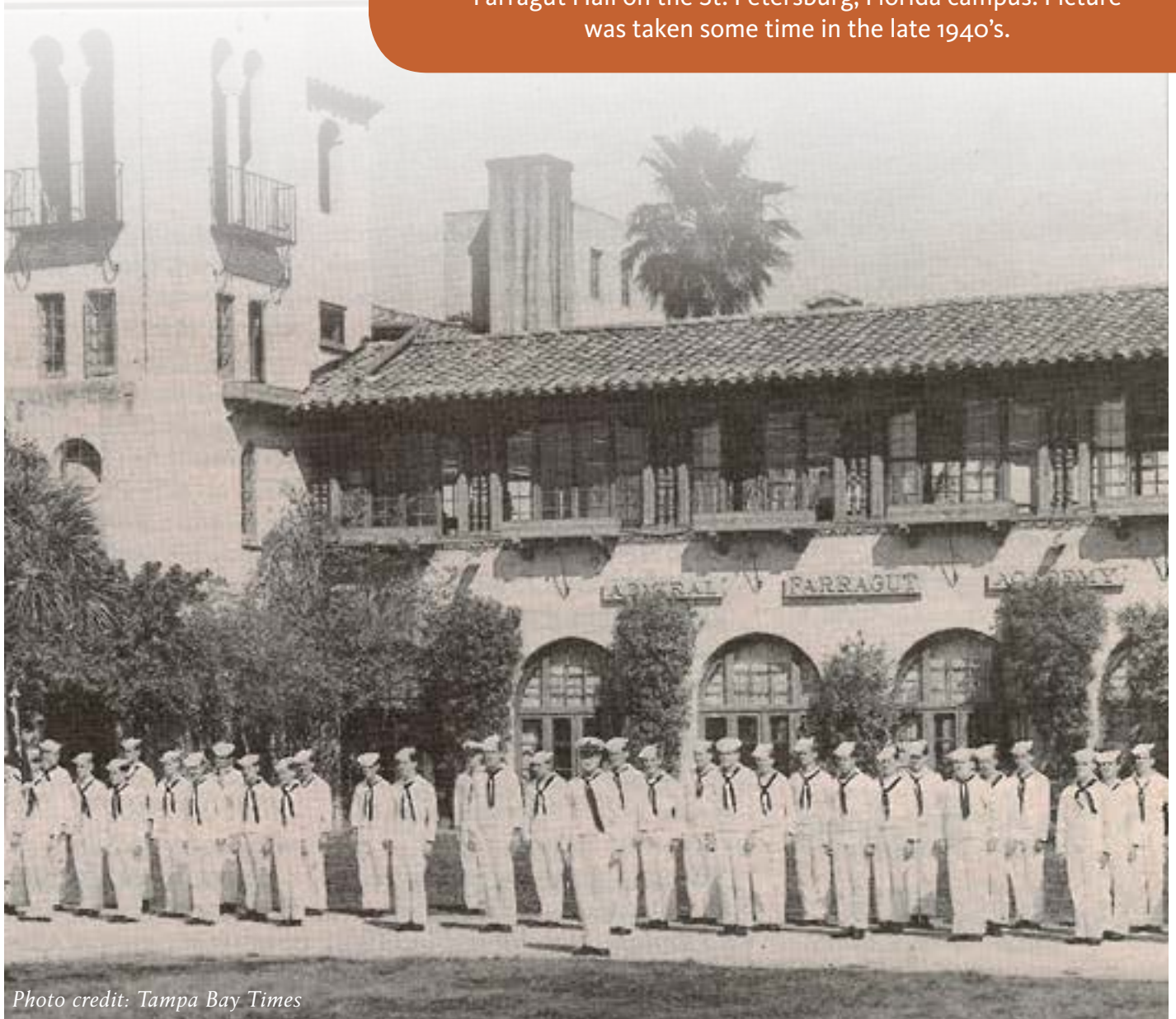
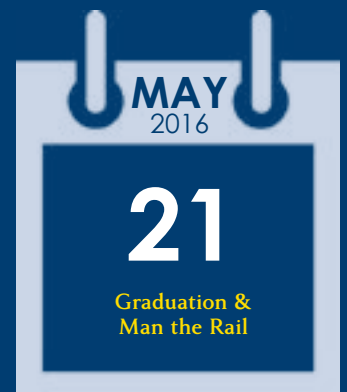
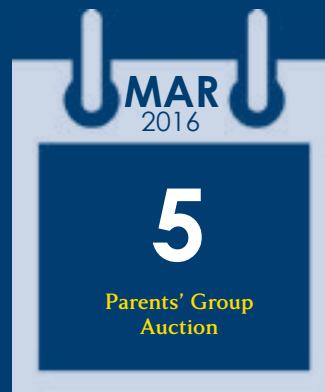


Photo credit: Tampa Bay Times



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# save the date **2015-16**



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