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Winners of outstanding ethics essays and the Admiral Charles Larson Ethical Leadership Award winner are honored at a dinner.

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Associate Fellows for the Stockdale Center complete program.

Dr. Thomas welcomes aboard two new additions to the VADM Stockdale Center staff.

## Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

27 February 2020 - Honor, Courage & Commitment Luncheon

26-27 March 2020 - McCain Conference

# Taking Stock

## Annual Dinner Honors Award Winners



Featured speaker Mr. Brian Kamoie addresses guests.

On 12 September 2019, the Stockdale Center hosted the 32nd annual Ethics Essay Award Dinner. The event honors the winning essays submitted as part of the Ethics and Moral Reasoning course, which midshipmen take their Third-Class year. Authors of the winning essays receive the USNA Class of 1951 William P. Lawrence Ethics Essay Award.

The evening's featured guest [speaker](#) was Mr. Brian Kamoie, Associate Administrator for Mission Support at FEMA. Mr. Kamoie oversees more than \$17 billion in grant programs to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate terrorism and other disasters and emergencies. He has played key roles in responding to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, Haiti earthquake, Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and the Fukushima nuclear emergency.

In talking about his 15 years in crisis leadership, Mr. Kamoie noted the "urgent need for courageous, ethical leaders" at a time when

more disasters and more costly disasters are happening. He urged the midshipmen: "our nation needs you to apply what you have learned here" to make sure that decisions made at the highest levels are "informed by morality."

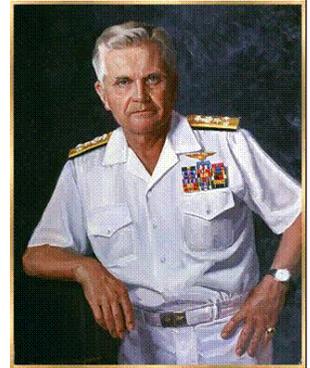
Paper topics from the finalists covered a variety of complex topics that included the use of private military contractors, cyberwarfare, and the transgender ban. The winners were Midshipman 2/C Adam Kuper's paper entitled "The Golden Mean, Stoicism, the Constitutional Paradigm, and Officership" and Midshipman Justin Rosas' paper, "In Defense of the Private Military Contractor."



With Mr. Kamoie, MIDN Adam Kuper's family accepts the award since Adam is currently studying overseas.



MIDN Justin Rosas accepts the award.



Next, the USNA Class of 1958 presented the Admiral Charles R. Larson Ethical Leadership Award to Dr. Christine Copper, Professor of Chemistry for 24 years at the Academy. The selection committee called her a consummate ethical leader, modeling through word and deed the leadership principles of Admiral Larson, embodying the professionalism, integrity, moral courage, selflessness, and devotion to duty demonstrated by the award's namesake.

To be considered for the Admiral Charles R. Larson Ethical Leadership Award, the winning candidate must be a civilian or military member of the Naval Academy faculty or staff, or a Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA) administrator or coach who best demonstrates the values and ethics upheld by the Naval Academy.



Dr. Copper accepts the award.

## Did You Know?

- Mr. Brian Kamoie joined the Stockdale Center's staff in November 2019. More on him in the next edition of *Taking Stock*.
- You can watch all 13 Integritas videos in High Definition on a YouTube [playlist](#). The Integritas Project, generously funded by the USNA Class of 1964, is a series of inspirational videos created by filmmaker Patrick Finnegan to encourage midshipmen to aspire to excellence and ethical leadership.

## Gold-Medalist Paralympic Swimmer Discusses Triumph Over Adversity



Mr. Brad Snyder addresses the audience.

Brad Snyder, a gold-medalist Paralympic swimmer, was the featured [speaker](#) for the Stockdale Center's Volgenau Honor, Courage, and Commitment Luncheon on 17 October. He shared his perspective of triumph over adversity.

LT Brad Snyder USN (Ret) graduated from the Naval Academy and was captain of the swim team. Later qualifying as an explosive ordnance disposal officer, he deployed to Iraq and then Afghanistan. On 7 September

2011, he was severely injured by an IED and blinded. Exactly one year later, Snyder won a gold medal in swimming at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. He went on to win another gold medal and a silver. Competing in 2016 at the Paralympics in Brazil, he won three gold medals, one silver, and broke a world record for the 100-meter freestyle event.

Snyder related his experiences from his initial injury through rehabilitation to his return to swimming. After realizing he was blind, he believed he had two

choices: to feel sorry for himself or make the most of the rest of his life. He chose the latter, embracing what he had learned at the Academy about stoicism, to control what he could and let go of what he could not.

He brought the audience with him to the moment of winning the gold medal. But that feeling of celebration was fleeting. As he heard the national anthem, he reflected on all the people who had helped him get there: the servicemembers who retrieved him, the flight crews, the medical personnel, his family, the people from Warrior Games, and the friends

who had sacrificed their lives. He realized, "Individuals never accomplish anything truly great. It's when communities leverage their collaborative efforts toward a cohesive goal, that's where magic happens."

Snyder urged midshipmen to take strength from that community and to share the community values of honor, courage, and commitment. He believes the Academy develops resilience by giving midshipmen opportunities to navigate adversity. Training in the physical domain can be applied to the mental and moral domain. Practicing doing the right thing sets the habit, allowing midshipmen to develop resilience and moral character to face future challenges.

The purpose of the Honor, Courage, Commitment Luncheon Seminar series is to provide professional development opportunities for midshipmen, staff, faculty, and coaches. This program is generously funded by Dr. Ernst Volgenau, USNA Class of 1955, and his wife Sara.

## USNA Ethics Debate Team Qualifies for National Finals

by Dr. Shaun Baker



The USNA Ethics Debate Team and coach Dr. Shaun Baker

On 9 November, the USNA Ethics Debate team participated in the Southeast Regional of the Ethics Bowl, held each year by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. The

Southeast Regional is one of 11 nationwide regional competitions that feed a National Finals, to be held in Atlanta in February 2020. The top finishers from regionals are invited, creating a field of 32. The USNA Ethics Debate team finished 4-0, besting teams from the host, University of North Florida, Georgia State University, Auburn University, and the University of Richmond. Overall, the team finished third, qualifying them for the trip to Atlanta.

Teams debated a set of twelve cases received in September, that included (among other topics) the Chinese social credit system, climate strikes by secondary school students, student loan forgiveness, the

ethics of social media "callouts," and the risks and benefits associated with the use of open source software by diabetics for sugar monitoring and delivery.

The Stockdale Center sponsors the USNA Ethics Debate team, thanks to the generous funding of the USNA class of 1964. This year's team included co-captains Midshipmen 1/C Katie MacPherson and Travis Dill. Also on the panel were Midshipmen 1/C Jonathan Corbin, Midshipmen 3/C Caroline Finley, Jackie Booker, Chase Handly, Benoit Gorgemans, and Midshipman 4/C Kyle Beasley.

## Stockdale Center Sponsors Workshop



Anthony I. Jack, renowned neuroscientist and philosopher at Case Western Reserve University, discussed the ramifications of neuroscience for character formation at a one-day workshop co-sponsored by the Stockdale Center and the Georgetown University Law Center.

The Stockdale Center and the Georgetown University Law Center co-sponsored a workshop on 5 April 2019 at the Academy on how research findings in moral psychology and neuroscience may apply to military ethics. It focused on non-conscious processes and systems in the brain that influence ethical perception, decision-making, motivation, and behavior. Four guest scholars presented their research findings:

- Professor Anthony I. Jack, Case Western Reserve University
- Professor James Woodward, University of Pittsburgh
- Dr. Gary Klein, President of ShadowBox Training
- Lieutenant General, Dr. Robert E. Schmidle Jr., USMC (Ret.), Arizona State University

Professor Jack discussed the application of the “opposing domains” theory to ethical training and instruction. The theory suggests that humans rely on two distinct neural processes: the first involves impersonal, abstract, logical reasoning, and the second relies on social, empathic, and emotional reasoning. Research suggests that fully effective training should incorporate both.

Professor Woodward described research about a brain system that conducts “emotional processing” and its importance for moral behavior, while Dr. Klein explored the psychological dynamics involved in learning from experience, which generates decision-making models that depart from conventional prescriptions for optimal decisions.

LtGen Schmidle emphasized the powerful ways in which an individual’s sense of self, and of appropriate behavior, is shaped by members of groups with which an individual identifies. Discussion focused on how small-unit culture in the military reflects this process.

The event was organized by Captain Kevin Mullaney, professor at the Naval Academy, and Professor Mitt Regan, professor at Georgetown Law Center and a Senior Fellow at the Stockdale Center. Professor Mullaney discussed the role of different layers of the self and how they interact to generate individually meaningful experience. Professors Mullaney and Regan are engaged in research to synthesize and assess the increasing body of work on the relationship between psychological and neurological processes on the one hand and ethical judgment on the other.

The workshop reflects the Center’s commitment to draw on the latest research in all disciplines to gain insights into ethical leadership.

## Stockdale Center Associate Fellows Complete Inaugural Program



The first group of Stockdale Center Associate Fellows

Thirteen members of the USNA faculty, coaches, and staff were selected to complete the inaugural Stockdale Center Associate Fellows Program. As key influencers of midshipmen, the associate fellows participated in a five-month leadership development program. This year’s Associate Fellows were:

- Jacek Rothert, Associate Professor of Economics
- Adam McQuoid, Associate Professor of Economics
- LCDR Tim Barry, JPMP in Physics
- LCDR Dennis Crump, JPMP in Physics
- CMC Jeff Kirby, Superintendent’s Office
- Rene Mehl, Offshore Sail Training Squadron Director

- Mr. Craig “Mel” Hamner, Installation Plans Integrator, NSA Annapolis
- Mr. Ryan Korn, Commandant Facilities
- CDR Ruohong Liu, Brigade Dental Department Head
- CDR(s) Adam J Susmarsi, Brigade Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Department Head
- LCDR Martin Wright, Aerospace Operational Physiologist, USNA Human Performance Lab
- Mr. Paul McGuire, USNA Admissions Marketing Research and Assessment
- LCDR Mike Wickham, NSA Annapolis XO

The program kicked off in July with a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) expedition and recently concluded with a Meet the Fleet journey to visit fleet USN and USMC units. Sandwiched between these two anchor events was an array of leadership growth opportunities, including academic material, team-building experiential learning, and off-the-record leadership discussions with senior leaders.

The goal is to inspire faculty, coaches, and staff to develop a comprehensive and shared

perspective of ethical leadership. They seek to grow as valuable and visible influencers as they invest in graduating leaders. This leadership program invests in them through an attractive, innovative, and academy-spanning course.

The twelve-week course covered three specific modules that included relevant readings, custom video lectures, live presentations, and online forum reflection posts. Ethical leadership and moral reasoning modules included the fundamentals of personhood, leadership as a relationship, sources of moral obligations, the role of virtue, just war tradition, leadership as a process, and leading teams as well as organizations.

Experiential activities included personal coaching, professional development lunches, rowing, kayaking, sailing Navy 44’, obstacle course, YP cruise, bridge simulator, climbing wall, 10-meter platform jump challenge, and an Honor, Courage, and Commitment luncheon. The cohort also completed a service project addressing an institutional issue.

## The Director's Cut



Dr. Joseph Thomas

In the life of the Stockdale Center, 2019 will be recorded as a year of tremendous change. From the launch of “Radio Stockdale,” an innovative platform using augmented reality to enhance the teaching of leadership and ethics to graduating the inaugural class of Stockdale Center

Associate Fellows from among the staff, faculty, and coaches of the Academy, new initiatives have been exciting. However, it's the new faces that have had the greatest impact on the Center and its mission.

It's a pleasure to welcome our new Senior Staff Associate, Ms. Karin Ornberg. As a retired United States Air Force veteran of 22 years, Karin comes to us with military experience at both the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and at the Headquarters Air Staff (HQ USAF) level as the former Protocol Superintendent for the Chief, National Guard Bureau and as the Protocol Director for the Air National Guard Bureau's Protocol Office. Prior to working in protocol, Karin served as an executive

assistant for the Director, Air National Guard for eight years. Since her retirement in 2011, she completed a few personal goals of certifications in Pastry Arts and Culinary Arts as well as completing her Master of Business Administration from Johnson and Wales University. Karin enjoys event management, gardening, sports, interior design, and volunteering for the American Culinary Federation. Welcome aboard Karin!



Dr. Jeffrey Macris

It's a pleasure to also welcome Dr. Jeffrey R. Macris to the Stockdale Center as the new Robert & Mary M. Looker Foundation Deputy Director. He arrives from Yale University, where for the past year he taught history and political science courses as a Presidential Visiting Fellow. A former U.S. Navy P-3 Orion pilot, he served for a decade as a Permanent Military Professor (PMP) in USNA's

History Department where he specialized in Middle Eastern history. He earned the Naval Academy's 2016 Military Professor of the Year Award and left active duty the following year as a Navy Captain (O-6) and Associate Professor.

Dr. Macris brings a wealth of experience in teaching and academic research. He has published two books on the Great Powers in the Middle East, as well as multiple academic articles. His latest project involves an original translation from Arabic to English of a 19th century text connected to the ethics of the early Wahhabi Islamic movement in Arabia. Dr. Macris holds a PhD (with Distinction) from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, as well as a linguist certificate in Arabic from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

In January, he jumps back into the USNA classroom as an NE203 ethics instructor. Welcome back to Annapolis, Dr. Macris!

The Stockdale Center is supported by appropriated funds through the U.S. Naval Academy and by generous private contributions raised by the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. For more information about supporting the Stockdale Center, please contact Captain Rusty Yeiser, USN (Ret.), Senior Director, Annual Programs, U.S. Naval Academy Foundation at 410-295-4100 or [rusty.yeiser@usna.com](mailto:rusty.yeiser@usna.com).

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## About the Stockdale Center

For 174 years, the U.S. Naval Academy has served as a beacon of moral and ethical leadership to the nation and to the world—producing leaders of uncompromising character, who have fought our wars with honor and have gone on to serve as positive role models on a global stage.

In response to an ever-changing world and the cry to enhance the development of ethical leaders, the Secretary of the Navy established the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1998. Building on the Academy's track record of developing some of the nation's finest leaders, the Navy chartered the Center to reach out to not only the Naval Academy, but also to the wider audience of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the nation at large. Over the years, the vision has expanded to transforming ethical leadership development worldwide. In 2006, the Center was given a new name: The Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. The Center has continued to refocus and refine its mission, which is to empower leaders to make courageous ethical decisions.

VADM Stockdale—a member of the Class of 1947, a prisoner of war for 7½ years (4 of which were in solitary confinement), a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and a lifelong student of leadership, philosophy, and ethics—embodied the selfless and courageous leadership sought in midshipmen, officers, and national leaders.

An officer and a gentleman in every sense, VADM Stockdale's accomplishments are well documented. A man of introspection as well as action, VADM Stockdale reflected on Vietnam and military service, distilling from his experiences hard-won ideas about truth and honor. The author of countless articles and books, VADM Stockdale wrote a column for the *Naval War College Review* while he was the president there. His column, appropriately enough, was called, “Taking Stock.”