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Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

28 February 2018 - Volgenau Honor, Courage, and Commitment Luncheon

14 April 2018 - Military Ethics Case Competition

19-20 April 2018 - McCain Conference

Taking Stock



Dinner Honors Essay Winners

by MIDN Amy McClellan



Captain Wendy Lawrence

On September 21, 2017, the Stockdale Center hosted the 30th Ethics Essay Awards dinner, funded by the USNA Class of 1981, honoring the best midshipmen papers for the 2016 academic year from NE 203, "Ethics and Moral Reasoning for the Naval Leader." The class studies ethical principles and applies them to challenging military cases. Students submit essays on morally challenging topics, and the dinner celebrates the winning essays from each semester.

The guest [speaker](#) was Captain Wendy Lawrence, USNA Class of 1981. A naval aviator with more

than 1,500 hours flight time in six different types of helicopters, she has made more than 800 shipboard landings. Selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1992, Lawrence has logged over 1225 hours in space.

Her father, Admiral William Lawrence, for whom the awards are named, was a former POW and the 49th USNA Superintendent, credited with helping create the Honor Concept at the Naval Academy. In her presentation, Lawrence used her father's definition of honor—"taking the hard right, instead of the easy wrong."

Her address focused on ethical concerns about stereotyping, illustrated by examples from her own experience. She had to work with an individual who had been labeled as a "screw-up" and later had to cooperate with a group once identified as the enemy. In both cases, moving beyond the stereotype was critical to reaching a positive outcome.

After her speech, the essay competition winners were announced. For the fall semester, Midshipman 2/C Zach Johnson's essay, "The Ethical Implications of Military Service in U.S. Democratic Tradition," was the winner. Midshipman 2/C Andrew Adcox won for the spring semester with his essay, entitled "The Moral Implications of Fully Autonomous Weapons Systems."

Also at the dinner, the USNA Class of 1958 presented the Admiral Charles R. Larson Ethical Leadership Award to Dr. Pam Schmitt, USNA Director of Academic Advising and a professor of Economics. She personally advises more than 150 midshipmen every year.

Schmitt emphasized leadership is a team effort and often developed by learning from failures. The Navy and Marine Corps, she noted, need officers who know what failure is like. Learning from failure builds strength, resiliency, and adaptability, which are key skills in the 21st century.



Essay award winner Midshipman Andrew Adcox.

The lesson for midshipmen and junior officers? They may have to work with people they once labeled as "enemy." Her advice? "Find the things you have in common. That will be the key to your success."



Dr. Pam Schmitt

Golf Pro Speaks at Luncheon



Billy Hurley speaks at luncheon.

On 19 September, professional golfer and USNA graduate Billy Hurley was the [featured speaker](#) for the Stockdale Center's Volgenau Honor, Courage, and Commitment Luncheon.

After his first sea duty aboard the USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64), Hurley returned to USNA and taught economics for two years. Returning to sea duty on the USS *Chung-Hoon* (DDG 93), he was deployed to the Persian Gulf and served as the guided missile destroyer's force protection assistant and first lieutenant.

His Navy service completed in June 2009, Hurley began concentrating on golf full-time. In 2011, after earning a place on the Web.com tour, Billy finished the season at 25th on the money list, which earned him a PGA tour card, the first USNA graduate to do so. In 2016, he won the Quicken Loans National, which qualified him to play his first PGA Championship the following month as well as his first Masters the following spring. Hurley is the only U.S. military veteran on the PGA tour.

Hurley spoke about transiting the Suez Canal on the USS *Chung-Hoon* in May 2009. Because he had won two ship handler of the year awards, he was the Officer of the Deck, responsible for the ship's safe navigation through the canal. As the ship approached the canal, Hurley realized he couldn't see the channel marker lights so he didn't know exactly where the entrance was. Although the ship safely transited the canal, Hurley wonders—looking back at that moment—why he didn't ask anyone else if they saw them. He concluded it was because he was known as “the best.” Hurley told the audience,

“I let *being* the best get in the way of *doing* what was best for the team and the ship.”

Courage, Hurley reflected, takes many subtle forms in “the undercurrent of our lives.” He wishes now that he had had the courage to admit he couldn't see the lights and ask for help. He challenged the future officers in the audience to think about what to do if they spot something. He asked: “Will you have the courage to speak up?”

The purpose of the Honor, Courage, Commitment Luncheon Seminar series is to provide a unique and valuable professional development opportunity for Naval Academy midshipmen, staff, faculty, and coaches. This luncheon is generously funded by Dr. Ernst Volgenau, USNA Class of 1955, and his wife Sarah.

Generous Gift Supports Establishment of Deputy Director Position

The Robert and Mary M. Looker Foundation recently provided financial support to establish a civilian Deputy Director position within the Stockdale Center. Previously filled by active duty Navy and Marine Corps officers, the Deputy provides day-to-day management of the Center, serves as the Acting Director in the absence of the Director, oversees the strategic plan and budget, interacts with Academy senior leaders and interfaces with external organizations requesting support from the Academy in the fields of leadership, character, and ethics. The Robert and Mary M. Looker Deputy Director provides the continuity needed for the Center to pursue its vision and accomplish its mission.



Dr. Joe Thomas

The first Robert and Mary M. Looker Deputy Director, Dr. Joe Thomas, was selected from a large, competitive pool

of candidates in June 2017 and he began work in that position shortly afterward. Dr. Joe Thomas, previously the USNA Class of 1961 Chair and Professor of Leadership Education at the Naval Academy's Leadership Education and Development Division, is no stranger to the Stockdale Center. As a former Senior Fellow of the Center during his time as USNA Class of 1971 and Lakefield Family Distinguished Military Professor, Dr. Thomas has worked closely with the Center Director dating back to 2003, when he initially arrived as the 6th Battalion Officer and Interim Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen. He also previously served as the Director, Lejeune Leadership Institute, Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA. Dr. Thomas has published five books and many articles on the topics of leadership and ethics. His research interests include creativity/innovation, experiential leader development, and cross cultural competence. He's planned and led trekking expeditions with midshipmen in the Rocky Mountains, Appalachians, Tibetan Himalayas, Peruvian Andes, South Africa, Vietnam, Jordan, Mongolia, and Turkey. He plans on taking a group of six midshipmen to Morocco and Western Sahara in July 2018.

“I am incredibly excited to be here. It feels like I've been preparing my entire professional life for this role” said Thomas recently. “The mission of the Center is something that pays appropriate

tribute to VADM Stockdale's vision to develop ethical leaders to serve the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Nation. There's nowhere I'd rather be. I'm humbled by this opportunity and it's been really great to get to know Ms. Mary and Amy Looker in the process. I'm also particularly pleased to get to work for Colonel Athens. He's built upon the foundation laid by his predecessors and over the past 10 years has created a unique, world-class center.”

Colonel Athens added his thoughts about the Lookers and Dr. Thomas. “The Lookers' magnanimity enables the Stockdale Center to strengthen its contribution to the Academy's leadership, ethics, and character development programs and expand its impact on military, national, and international leaders and organizations. And Dr. Joe Thomas is exactly the right person to serve as the first Robert and Mary M. Looker Deputy Director in the Center. Joe's intellectual depth, professional deportment, and exemplary character will be key to the Center's future and our ability to become the world's 'go-to ethical leadership center.' The entire Stockdale Center staff is very grateful for both the Lookers and Dr. Joe Thomas!”

Influencer Development Program Offers Leadership Resources

Rear Admiral "Blues" Baker



Senior Leader Offsite

The Stockdale Center's belief that "It takes a leader to grow a leader" has led to the creation

of the Influencer Development Program. This program, led by the Timothy and Susanne Sullivan Director of Influencer Development, Rear Admiral "Blues" Baker, CHC, USN (Ret.), provides the Academy's key influencers ... the staff, faculty, and coaches ... with opportunities to develop their leadership confidence and competencies. The initial elements of this program have included:

Volgenau Honor, Courage, and Commitment Luncheon: These seminars bring together faculty, coaches, staff, and midshipmen for a lunch

followed by a renowned speaker. (See article on page 2 about Billy Hurley.)

Executive Education: The Stockdale Center offers open enrollment programs at Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School, and Center for Creative Leadership.

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Custom Education Leadership Expedition: 11 USNA faculty and coaches traveled to the canyonlands wilderness of Utah and developed new leadership skills.

Humanities and Social Sciences Division Senior Leader Offsite: The division director, senior professor, department chairs, and assistant chairs traveled to Nevada for a week of wilderness team-building activities, combining outdoor challenges with Myers Briggs, mentoring, and character-developing opportunities.

StrengthsFinder Leadership Workshops: This developmental tool helps individuals and teams to interpret their talents.

YP Leadership Confidence Cruise: 37 faculty, staff, and coaches built leadership confidence aboard a Yard Patrol Craft by practicing steering and conning a Navy vessel under the supervision of officers and senior enlisted from the Division of Professional Development.

Leadership Book Distribution: Books are available for coaches, faculty, and staff.

Faculty, coaches, and staff describe the effect of these programs on their leadership in a short [video](#).

Funding for the Influencer programs comes from the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Ernst Volgenau, Ms. Greer Lautrup, Mrs. Susan Rorer-Whitby, and the Lynn Blackmore Harding Fund.

Stockdale Center Welcomes New Arrivals



LCDR Timothy Shanley

The Stockdale Center welcomes two new Associate Directors: LCDR Timothy Shanley and Maj Ryan Curry.

A native of Annapolis, Maryland and graduate of

USNA (with Honors), LCDR Shanley was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO). His operational duty assignments have included service on USS *Cape St. George* (CG 71) homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, USS *Farragut* (DDG 99), homeported in Mayport, Florida, and the staff of Destroyer Squadron 60, based in Naples, Italy.

Shore assignments have included a tour as a SWO MBA recipient at the University of Rochester's William E. Simon Graduate School of Business in Rochester, New York, a tour on the staff of the Missile Defense Agency (Washington, D.C.), and a tour as a Congressional Fellow on the Capitol Hill staff of Congressman Jim Cooper. Most recently, he served as a Navy Congressional Appropriations

Liaison for Shipbuilding, working with both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

LCDR Shanley holds an MBA from the University of Rochester. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one Gold Star. In 2012, he was selected as the recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence.



Major Ryan Curry

Major Curry enlisted in the Marine Corps and later attended USNA via the Naval Academy Preparatory School, where he was the Battalion Commander.

After graduating from USNA and completing The Basic School and flight school, he was designated a Naval Aviator. He served as a CH-53E "Super Stallion" pilot aboard MCAS New River, NC. Assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 (HMH-461), he deployed as part of the

24th and 26th Marine Expeditionary Units and in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

After graduating from the Marine Weapons and Tactics Instructor course (The Marine Corps' Top Gun School), he transferred to Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22 (VMX-22) as the CH-53E/K Lead Operational Test Director.

Maj Curry was selected to attend the United States Naval Test Pilot School and received the Sydney Sherby Award for Leadership. After graduation, he was assigned to the HX-21 CH-53K Integrated Test Team in West Palm Beach, Florida and was the fifth Marine pilot to fly the CH-53K "King Stallion." He has 2,000 total flight hours in over 20 different aircraft.

With a M.A. from Marshall University in Leadership Studies, Major Curry serves as an Instructor for NL310, Leadership Theory and Application. He is also the Director of Player Development for the Men's Rugby Team.

The Director's Cut



Colonel Arthur J.
Athens, USMCR (Ret.)

When the college football season is in full swing, my thoughts often turn to the November 1940 football game between Cornell and Dartmouth. This game provides a valuable lesson about honor and integrity.

Cornell had an 18-game winning streak over two seasons and with a victory, would almost certainly be declared the national champions. Because of the muddy field conditions at Dartmouth, the game became a defensive battle. In the fourth quarter, Dartmouth struck first with a field goal. Now behind 3-0 with only one last chance to maintain their perfect record and win a national championship, Cornell drove down the field, scored a touchdown, and kicked an extra point as time expired on the clock. Cornell's team and fans celebrated a hard fought 7-3 victory, with anticipation of being crowned national champions.

When Cornell arrived back to their campus and Head Coach Carl Snavelly reviewed the game film,

he noticed something unusual. Probably because of the confusion and excitement surrounding the game's last couple minutes, the referees had mistakenly given Cornell a fifth down and it was on this extra down that Cornell scored their winning touchdown.

At a meeting with the President of Cornell, Edmund Ezra Day, Snavelly and Day decided the honorable course of action was to surrender the seven points and the game. Day sent a telegram to the President of Dartmouth forfeiting the game, which Dartmouth accepted. Snavelly and Day brought the Cornell team together and explained the actions they had taken. There was shock, disappointment, and anger on the players' faces. Snavelly, however, reiterated this was an issue of honor and integrity. The forfeiture by Cornell would lead to the University of Minnesota being selected as the national champions for 1940.

Lou Conti, an All-American guard on the Cornell team and eventually a Major

General in the United States Marine Corps, with heroic service in World War II and Korea, said many years after the 1940 game, "I think they made the right decision—now. At the time I didn't think so, but we did what was right." He would go on to say that the example set by the Cornell leadership would stick with him for his entire life.

David Brooks, author of the best-seller *The Road to Character*, writes that every day we have a choice whether we are living for our resume or our eulogy. The resume is what we have achieved ... the eulogy, spoken at our funeral, will describe our character and the legacy we leave for others. And Brooks reminds his readers ... the eulogy is much more important than the resume. I am confident Coach Snavelly and President Day never anticipated they would need to make a decision whether to forego a national championship, but I believe they had clarity in their values, and like Brooks, were convinced their eulogies were much more important than their resumes. May we live our lives in the same way and make ethical decisions so we can say with Lou Conti, "We did what was right!"

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.), the Naval Academy Foundation Director of Development Operations, at 410-295-4100 or rusty.yeiser@usna.com.

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About the Stockdale Center

For over a century and a half, 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."