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ON THE COVER

A Sailor greets his family as the amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46) returns from Fleet Activities Sasebo. Tortuga was replaced as a forward-deployed asset by USS Ashland (LSD 48).
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Abe McKaltt

18 U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS
“The Naval Sea Cadet Corps was exactly what I needed as a teenager. I tried other youth programs, but only the Sea Cadets gave me self-confidence and the sense of pride at wearing my country’s uniform.”
— Lieutenant Matt Landry, USN

20 A Q&A WITH THE CNO
“We’ve got to have current readiness. We’ve got to be able to do today’s job today and be where it matters, when it matters.”
— Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert, USN
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**Featured Online**

_In conjunction with this issue, the VET JOBS column will be featured exclusively at [www.ausn.org](http://www.ausn.org)._
U.S. Naval Academy STEM Program: Getting students excited about Science

Midshipman Second Class Derrick Garner (front row, 4th from left) pilots the drone as STEM students look on.

By LT TENG K. OOI, USN, PHD and CAPT LINDA J. BELTRA, USN, MD

The United States Naval Academy’s 2013 Summer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program is designed to encourage 8th to 11th graders to pursue a course of study in STEM-related subjects throughout high school, college and beyond. The aim is to integrate STEM-focused concepts across the curriculum and pave the way for students to succeed academically in mathematics and science. An effective and practical way to stimulate student interest in STEM is to show how mathematics and science are applied to create exciting technologies.

This year’s Summer STEM theme was “Extreme Technology Annapolis Edition 2013.” The program showcased the latest in technological advances in a wide variety of science and engineering topics to include Energy and Light, Infrastructure, Transportation, Cybersecurity, Environmental Challenges, Flight and Fluids, Automation, Simulation and Modeling, Biometrics and Robotics. Students were able to participate in project-based modules using a hands-on, real-world approach to solving design and analysis problems in the Naval Academy’s world-class laboratory facilities. This unique learning environment promotes engineering “habits of mind,” such as systems thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity and team work. It exposes students to a problem-based environment outside the traditional classroom. The 2013 program featured modules which allowed students to build a robot; design, build and fly
a rocket; explore ciphers, codes and cryptography; test for
signs of bioterrorism attacks and use chemistry to develop
new energy sources.

One popular module was “How Helicopters Fly: An
Introduction to Rotor Aeromechanics.” The technical
objective in this module was to teach students about
rotor aeromechanics of vertical lift aircraft. The students
learned how to assemble and build a model rotor and test
the operations of the rotor in vertical and forward
autorotation. Then they optimized the rotor performance
by experimenting with different rotor blade pitch
settings. Finally, the helicopter module featured a flight
demonstration of a commercially built quadcopter
drone, the Parrot AR.Drone 2.0. This remote-controlled
flying robot can take off vertically, hover and fly in
all directions and land vertically on its own. The
demonstration helped to enhance the understanding of
rotor aeromechanics concepts, as well as the engineering
technology and flight operations of the drone.

“Our hope is that these application-oriented activities,
like building a rotor or flying a quadcopter drone, will
help students understand the power and beauty of
mathematics and science and spark a renewed interest
in STEM courses in high school,” said Visiting Professor
Scott Davids, the creator of the Rotary Wing Engineering
STEM module. “A solid foundation in mathematics and
science in high school will allow these students to pursue
higher education and future careers in engineering and
technology. Explaining how a helicopter works is a fun
and interesting way to do this.”

About the authors: Lieutenant Teng K. Ooi, USN, PhD,
is employed with the Missile Defense Agency/Advanced
Technology Research Directorate and is currently on recall
orders to active duty as an assistant professor at the U.S.
Naval Academy, Mathematics Department. Captain Linda
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Visit www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem
for more information on the
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