



from the

# ROTUNDA

SUMMER 2009

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

This greeting is my final communication as President of our Alumni Association. It has been a great honor and even more a pleasure once again to have even an indirect role in such a great institution as the National War College. I am particularly grateful for the support and advice of the Executive Director, **Colonel John Craig**, the person who keeps the association running as presidents come and go. I would like to also thank the members of the board for their valuable work and excellent advice. In particular we could not function without the efforts of the two members who do so much to ensure the success of our onsite and offsite seminars, **Generals Victor Hugo and John Johns**.

By the time you read this greeting, I hope you all will have received your CD copy of the updated directory of graduates. I hope that you will have a chance to relocate and perhaps renew contacts with old friends and colleagues. We are an unusual alumni association to have such a high percentage of graduates as members, even though we are scattered far and wide. I believe that this high membership says a great deal about how highly we all valued our year at such a fine institution as the National War College.

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## COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

Dear NWC Family,  
As we approach graduation, I would like to update you on the NWC Class of 2009. Every Class experiences their own unique NWC year. This year we had many challenges and all were met head-on by our superb cast of faculty, staff, and students.

Students have already completed six core courses and are currently returning from Regional Field Studies travel. Field Studies this year was comprised of 21 trips to various regions around the world for two weeks. Swine flu only interfered with our trip to Mexico, and issues in Pakistan precluded our visit there. Other than those two countries, we covered just about every critical country key to our national security strategy.

Academically, this was a great year of challenge for our students as their lectures included two sitting U.S. Presidents and many senior and foreign security experts. President George W. Bush addressed classes in September 2008, and President Barack Obama lectured during the dedication of Lincoln Hall in March 2009. Ahmed Rashid, Pakistani journalist who writes for the "Daily Telegraph (London)" and the author of many best-selling books, lectured on nation building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. Just last month, Dr. Henry Kissinger enlightened us in Arnold Auditorium with his lecture entitled "National Strategy: A Practitioner's Perspective." These are just a few examples of the wonderful opportunities to engage with top-level

strategic thinkers our students experienced.

On the field of competition, we didn't fare as well. The President's Cup has yet again eluded the National War College, but we competed well making each game a nail-biter. The real success story, as we all know, was the camaraderie that was built among fellow classmates and that thrived as the season progressed. Likewise, Jim

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Like many of you I began my government service a long time ago, when I reported to Fort Sill as a new lieutenant just over fifty years ago, then three and a half years later beginning a thirty-six year Foreign Service career. I cannot remember a time when civilian-military cooperation at so many levels was as crucial to our nation's national security as it is now and will be, I am sure, for a very long time. Consequently there is no institution in my view as important as the Col-

lege in preparing new leaders for our country's future in the world.

In accordance with our tradition I expect to be replaced by a representative from the Sea Service. I certainly expect to continue to be active as a member. I wish my successor all good fortune and above all "fair winds and following seas."

*David G. Newton, '78  
Ambassador  
President*

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Thorpe Sports Days was a wonderful spring getaway for our students after a long winter in Washington, DC. This annual sports competition at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania is one of the highlights for the Senior Service Colleges and provided a great opportunity to renew old service friendships.

Operations. We finally have Arnold Auditorium back and all construction should be completed by the time the next academic year begins in August. However, this is dependent on extensive electrical work being completed between May 30th and July 15th when the building will have no power and we will be temporarily displaced to office space in Marshall Hall. Keep your fingers crossed!

goodbye to some old familiar faces. **Dr. Roy Stafford** will be departing the College after many great years of dedicated service both in and out of uniform. From faculty member to former academic dean, his wonderful contributions will serve this college for many years to come. We also have lost one of our long standing staff members, **Susan Schindler**, who has served the Department of Security Studies for many years. Besides the wonderful customer service she provided to us all, we'll also miss her home cooked treats that became a regular Monday morning favorite for faculty and staff.

Unique to this year was the simultaneous construction during academics, a real challenge to say the least. Roosevelt Hall has undergone extensive construction and renovations this year with the main emphasis on the old gaming center area (or print plant for you distinguished alumni), auditorium, heat and AC plant, electrical transformer, and the third floor. Students had to work around the noise and fumes of construction and they were displaced from Arnold Auditorium due to the construction for much of the year, having to attend lecture in alternate locations at Eisenhower, Marshall, and Lincoln Halls. The coordination with the construction teams to afford the least impact on the curriculum was superbly managed by our Staff, and in particular, by **Col John Page USMC (Ret.)**, our new Director of

**Academically,  
this was a  
great year of  
challenge for  
our students...**

Unfortunately, our year was also touched with profound sadness over the loss of one of our foreign students. **Captain Matar Ndiaye**, Senegal Navy—student, husband, father, proud representative of his service and his Senegalese homeland—died last

October. In the time that we were blessed with his presence at the National War College, Captain Ndiaye made a lasting impression on all who knew him. Faculty and students alike were enriched by his professional knowledge, his broad and deep international experience and his decency and friendship.

Last but not least are the annual changes in our faculty and staff. Normally, we turnover about 30% of our faculty each summer. This summer is not much different, but it is unique in that we are saying

We have had the privilege to serve another great year at the National War College. And it is clear to all OF us currently serving the college, that without the support and passionate encouragement of our alumni, we would not be as successful as we are. As Commandant, I am honored and humbled to have worked with such a superb faculty, staff, student body and alumni. As alumni, you can take pride in knowing that your contributions directly affect the ability of NWC to continue being a major contributor to the security of our Nation.

Sincerely,

*Robert Steel  
MGen, USAF  
Commandant*

FROM THE DESK OF  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*John Craig*



**IMPORTANT—  
That we have your email**

It's a constant fight, keeping your email contacts up to date; we know that many of our grads frequently change their ISPs, either by choice or by new assignment, and we know that some of you have emails that are spam-blocked.

**Here is one reason you may want to keep in e-contact: programs.**

For example, last March our IAA, **Amb Laura Kennedy**, organized a Kennan Lecture with a presentation by Ambassador Ryan Crocker, who had been our IAA here. We were encouraged to invite our graduates, but because of the short turn-around time (and cost), our invitations went out by email. Here's the part that brings a smile to my face: some people were expecting 60 or 70 people; I knew better (I can rarely say that), and well over 250 of our grads showed up! Ryan's presentation on "Diplomacy in the Broader Middle East: Tough Lessons from Hard Places" was frank and a winner.

In the second half of the year, we hope to restart the Empires series and other evening presentations where the announcement is only by email.

We'd like to see you here.

*There is a lot of catching up to do; moving our offices took up a lot of time; we are now on the balcony overlooking the West Wing, at least until mid-summer, when we move again (more on that later).*

Many of you have asked about the gap in our programming, and we are glad you noticed. Yes, programs have been thin. Things will get better after July 15; up to this point, we have been working around the relaying of the bricks and steps on the esplanade to keep water from leaking into the underground area; the College reclaims the area from the Wargaming Center (and the Printing Plant before that) to accommodate larger classes. In addition, there are chem and bio filters being installed in Arnold and in other areas, and from the end of May to mid-July, there will be no electricity in the building. We'll be telecommuting; our phone number will stay the same (202-863-2306) and we'll get a voice mailbox at Verizon where we can pick up messages and return your calls. We know that **Chris Bassford** is anxious to restart the Empires series, and we want to offer more programs. You may see more evening programs (maybe 5 to 7 pm like the Empires series) because parking is a major problem; NDU keeps adding students and specialized study centers to the point that.....well, you get the idea.

**2002 Yearbooks:** Thanks to **Katie Haddock** for bringing in some extra Class of 2002 Yearbooks. Not surprisingly, as folks graduate and move around, the attrition rate on yearbooks is higher than you

might expect, so we appreciate when extras appear. Let us know if you need a replacement. For other school years, it is rare we have a spare.

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**ONWARD AND UPWARD**

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**Scott Gration, '93**, MGEN USAF ret., has been appointed by President Obama as U.S. special envoy to Sudan. He is the Swahili-speaking son of missionaries who grew up in the DR Congo.

We had a welcome note from **John Aloisi, '98**, who has retired from State, and now lives in China, where he is an independent writer and lecturer. He dropped by after visiting with our China experts, **Bud Cole and Cynthia Watson**.

And **Ken Jarrett, '97**, is in Shanghai. I confess that I am envious of our grads in exotic locations and all who have exciting and important jobs. Thanks!

**Randy Larsen, Faculty '98**, now the national security advisor to the Center for Biosecurity of the U of Pittsburg Medical Center, has accepted an appointment as the executive director of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism (WMD Commission). This bipartisan commission was established by Congress after 9/11 and

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is led by former Senator Jim Tallent (R-MO) and former Senator Bob Graham (D-FL).

## AND MORE

Catching up: from late last fall, we hear that **Noel Acevedo, 2007**, is Chief Technology Officer at the Army's Future Combat Systems here in the local area, and shows up for the Class monthly gatherings at Sine on Pentagon Row.

**Anne Casper, 2005**, is the Counselor for Public Affairs in Bangkok.

We will soon be putting out a new **Directory of Grads**, free to all members in 2008 (when we promised it); we don't put the directory on-line on our website to protect your privacy, but if you want to check on a classmate's coordinates, give us a call at 202-863-2306 or an email at [craigj@ndu.edu](mailto:craigj@ndu.edu).

**Paul Berg, 2007**, tells us that his classmate **Mike Hammer** is the Administration's hand pick to be the NSC spokesman. Cool! I suppose that sending Mike one of our "Stomp ICAF" buttons is a bridge too far for his presentations.

**Steve Braverman, 2005**, wrote to us from Iraq, as Dep Surgeon for Clinical Ops, XVIII ABN Corps, that he has seen **Jeff Bailey, Renn Gade**, and **Dick Francey**. Thanks, guys, for the report and for your service.

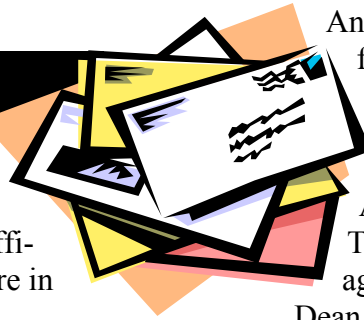
**Saisak Kanpachai**, Group Captain, **2006**, has moved from Thailand to South Africa for his new posting as defense attache. Good to hear from you!

And **Dhiraj (aka Kuki) Kukreja, 2001**, now Air Marshal has written to us from New Delhi with a records update. There is a reunion this fall of all the IFs, and it would be great to see you.

We hate to say farewell to **Frank Mora** of our faculty, who has been selected as DASD for Western Hemisphere, and of course wish him the

best of luck as he moves to the Pentagon.

Academe: **Michael Beck, '95**, is Head of School for the Dunn School in Los Olivos, CA.



And it is always great to hear from one of my classmates: **Lee Dickson, '75**, was named 2008 Tourism Professional of the Year by the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism in Miami. Lee retired again, recently, as Associate Dean and Associate Professor at Florida International University in Miami.

More: **Martin Pankove** is back in Hawaii again where he reports seeing **Ron Cox** and **Cos Spofford** recently, and of course, "Gumby."

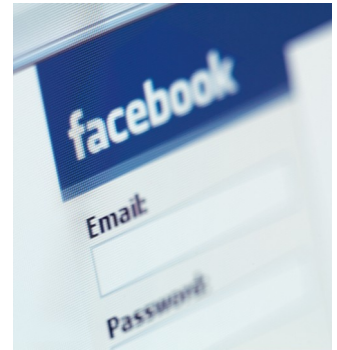
**Luann Barndt, 2007**, and now the USCG Chair at ICAF asks that we let you know that there is a 2007 group on Facebook if you want to join.

To join, if you already have Facebook:

- Click on the "Groups" which is listed under Applications on the upper right hand corner of the homepage
- Type in National War College Class of 2007 in the box that says "Search for groups" and hit enter
- Click on *Request to Join*.

There are two other NDU groups on Facebook as well.

I know that many more of you are "out there" doing good things for the country; these entries were intended to give everyone just a flavor for what NWC fellow grads are doing and how widely spread over the globe everyone is. "The world" is ahead for that.



# CLASS of 2008

**Eric Axelbank** sends us this dispatch: Here are some photos of NWC 2008 classmates here in Baghdad. Listed below are individuals in the photo and those who couldn't make it. The photos were taken on 13 May 09 in front of Al Faw Palace, also known as the "Water Palace." Saddam Hussein commissioned its construction to commemorate the Iraqi Force's re-taking of the Al Faw Peninsula during the Iran-Iraq conflict. The Palace has 62 rooms and 29 bathrooms and since 2004, it has been the home to Headquarters, Multi-National Force Iraq.

We try to get together weekly for dinner, but as you can imagine with everything going on here, it's difficult to get everyone in one place at the same time.

Also, **Jenny Merkle** is putting together a certificate with a flag flown over Al Faw Palace to be presented to **Chris Bolkom's** family on behalf of his classmates deployed here.

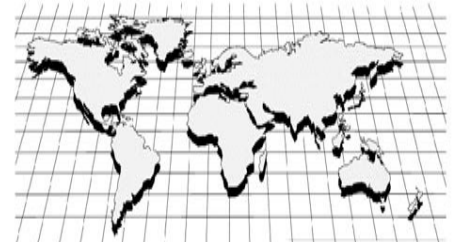


*Pictured:*

**Col Dale Marks**  
**COL Jeffrey McKittrick**  
**COL William Turner**  
**COL William Bales**  
**COL Jennifer Merkle**  
**LTC Bradley Gericke**  
**Lt Col Eric Axelbank**

*Not Pictured:*

**LTC Maggie Dunn**  
**SES Linda Specht**  
**SES Terri Kondos**



## NEXT YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS ALREADY INBOUND

Of course, not all students are equal; the Class of 2010 International Fellows will begin to arrive in June; if you have any interest in inviting some of them, I'll be happy to investigate their schedules for you; the IFs make a great contribution to discussions, and have done well upon their return.

This coming academic year, we expect to see students from Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, and Ukraine.

ICAF has more international students.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## JUNE:

Graduation was held on 11 June (by invitation).

The International Fellows for the Class of 2010 will begin arriving before the end of June (the *Yanks* arrive in early August).

Faculty members will try to squeeze in a little vacation during that interim period, assuming they can finish the evaluations on the departing class and get study materials ready for the incoming class.

## JULY:

When the new electrical transformer and switching unit is installed and operating by mid-July, we will start scheduling some events for this fall, both our own events and the famous *Empires* series. No dates have been locked in

yet; the first priority is to settle the academic schedule, and then we can see when Arnold Auditorium may be available.

Please *stay tuned* and we look forward to seeing you this fall.

## LOOKING FOR RENEWALS

In late June or early July, you will be receiving an appeal to renew your annual membership (Life Members will not get the appeal), assuming that we did not get your renewal at the beginning of the year. If you did mail it in, and you have our acknowledgement card, we thank you. Sometimes our earlier appeal gets misplaced, which is why we do a mid-summer reminder.

Any help you can give us is gratefully accepted; membership is the lifeblood of our alumni association and is the chief source of income. Annual membership dues are holding at \$28 (we have heard that there is a financial crisis). Call us at **202-863-2306** or email us at **craigj@ndu.edu**. Let us know what we can do for you.

Some of our favorite people are still carrying the NWC banner in Colorado Springs, which, thanks to Northcom, is experiencing a growth in our grads.

**Bob Lally, Lisa Turner, and Bob Felderman** have set a luncheon in early June, and expect to host a regional conference in Colorado Springs later this year. Contact: [Robert.Lally@northcom.mil](mailto:Robert.Lally@northcom.mil). The gang are grads of 2000, 2008, and 2001 respectively. Bob Felderman (officially, BGEN, USA) was awarded the Army Aviation Association of America's Order of Saint Michael Bronze Award, which recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to Army aviation.

**Sally Botsai** reports that the Class of '77 held a luncheon at Da Domenico late last fall; present were the Services, **Sam**

**Thompson, Ed Soyster, Sheldon Kryz, Eric McVadon, Dick Klass, Fred Coffey, Bill Marsh, and Bob Price**. Sally is

missing email addresses for **Pete**

**Hayes and Frank Bettinger**.



NWC Grads Active in Colorado Springs



Anne Pham (NWC '2008) and Alan Gropman (NWC '82 Faculty), both now teaching at ICAF, send this photo from a recent social event. Alan suggests it should be titled "Exquisiteness and Antique"; it is always a pleasure to see them on the campus.

# the GALLERY



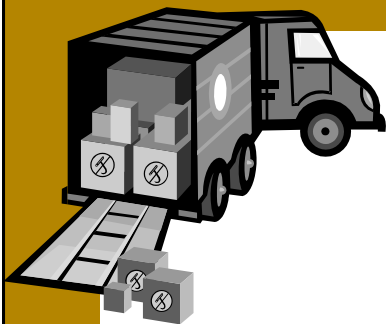
General Felderman, NWC 2001, is presented the award of St Michael by Colonel Mathew Brady in the Headquarters, NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado on April 24th 2009.



Ambassador Ryan Crocker (center) addressed NWC grads earlier this year. Flanking Ambassador Crocker are MGen Robert Steel, NWC Commandant, and Ambassador Laura Kennedy, International Affairs Advisor at the NWC. Ambassador Crocker had recently returned as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and spoke on the challenges to the U.S. in the broader Middle East. His appearance is part of the on-going Kennan Lecture Series organized by the College and supported by your Alumni Association. Invitations are sent by email, and if you would like to be included, please be sure we have your current email address (or best email address); let us know at [nwc-alumni@ndu.edu](mailto:nwc-alumni@ndu.edu). Ambassador Crocker was the International Affairs Advisor at the NWC prior to his Iraq assignment.

A Family Affair: Ralph Dewalt, NWC '81, in front of his class plaque shortly before pinning on Captain's stripes on Rod Dewalt, NWC 2009, this spring. Congratulations to both. It was a great promotion ceremony on the front steps of the National War College building.



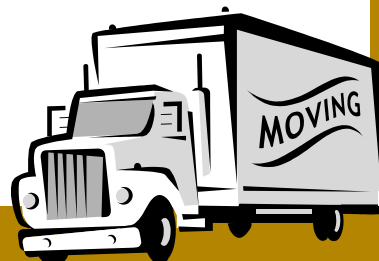


**WE'VE MOVED!**

**AND**

**WE'RE MOVING BACK!**

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