



# From The

# Bridge

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

2014 ISSUE 2

## A Family's Love Sparks Cyber Center Gift

Long after Robert Looker '46 left active duty, his experiences at the Academy and in the naval service continued to influence his personal and professional life.

"Robert was greatly shaped by his Naval Academy education and held a life-long passion for the Navy throughout his career in business, only surpassed by his love for his family," said his wife, Mary. "From my first visit to the Academy to see him, he wore the Blue & Gold with pride and always felt that the Naval Academy had provided him the foundation for success."

Daughter Amy Looker and her five siblings witnessed the influence the Academy and the Navy had on their father, who went on to found California-based Satco, a global leader in cargo pallet design and manufacturing, in countless ways. "We are very much who we are as adults due to his experiences at the Naval Academy and into the United States Navy after," Amy said. "There's a huge amount I think of when I think of my father and the Navy, their relationship and how it affected my family. There's honor, there's honesty, there's reverence, there's respect, there's ethics and there's morals."



Mary and Amy Looker.

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## Private Support Fuels Cyber



Andrew Phillips, Ph.D.

In just five years, the Naval Academy's Center for Cyber Security Studies (CCSS) has evolved from a mere concept to a thriving program that has attracted nearly 90 midshipmen as majors, the first of whom

graduate in 2016. The CCSS and its affiliated academic departments now offer two core courses reaching the entire Brigade of Midshipmen and play host to numerous guest speakers and distinguished faculty members engaged directly in cyber warfare and defense operations. In the academic community, that's an extraordinarily rapid pace of evolution, but we didn't have the luxury of time. The emerging cyber threat is that urgent.

Without private funding, little to none of this progress would have been possible. It isn't that the federal government doesn't recognize the importance of cyber security and the role the Naval Academy can play in it, but it simply does not operate that quickly, especially in the midst of continuing resolutions and sequesters. But cyber threats are ever-present; they don't wait for budget impasses to be resolved. They exist in the cockpit, and on the bridge of the carrier. They are everywhere in the Navy and Marine Corps, and all service members must know something about them to ensure that they themselves don't become the source of vulnerabilities.

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291 Wood Road • Annapolis, MD 21402  
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## Private Support Fuels Cyber

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As an institution charged with preparing the next leaders of our naval service, we can't afford to sit passively and wait for funding. Our answer has been to search for private support now and do what we need to do to get the program started. We followed a similar strategy with our international programs efforts nearly 10 years ago, and these programs now have a significant federal appropriation they did not have originally. It is our hope and expectation that, as the cyber threat grows and the CCSS continues to evolve to meet those threats, federal resources will follow.

No matter how much support the CCSS attracts from the government, private funding will remain vital to its success. In addition to working with donors to create faculty opportunities like the Robert and Mary M. Looker Distinguished Visiting Professor position, we must also establish channels for midshipmen to have practical experiences such as training events and competitions where they can engage in hands-on attack and defend scenarios. We must also provide professional development opportunities for faculty who need additional graduate education and training in the cyber field—because virtually no one has that now. The discipline is too new. We must either provide resources for current faculty to gain further education, or hire new faculty and provide opportunities for them to learn what we need and come back to the Academy to teach it.

Private donors have an important role to play in realizing the vision we established for the CCSS and the opportunity to see this vision come to life before their eyes. We thank you for your early support for this vital endeavor and welcome your continued engagement.

Andrew Phillips, Ph.D.  
*Academic Dean and Provost*

### Editor's note

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## Cyber Center Gift ... *continued from page 1*



The Lookers proudly display a collection of Navy memorabilia at their Annapolis home.

There is also ingenuity and innovation—qualities celebrated in the decision of Mary Looker, Robert's widow, to establish the Robert and Mary M. Looker Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Cyber Security Studies, an endowed position that will draw leading figures from the defense, intelligence and academic communities to the Academy to strengthen the growing Center for Cyber Security Studies with insights and expertise drawn from their experiences in cyber warfare and defense. John C. "Chris" Inglis, former deputy director of the National Security Agency and a retired brigadier general in the Air National Guard, became the first to hold the position when he joined the Academy this fall.

"We wanted to be sure to start something useful that would keep going," said Mary, a President's Circle donor and Robert Means Thompson Society member who was married to Robert for 67 years until his death in 2012.

Throughout their marriage, the Lookers were dedicated philanthropists who supported organizations focused on the arts, poverty and disabilities as well as the Naval Academy Annual Fund and *Leaders to Serve the Nation* Campaign. Mary and Amy now divide their time between their longtime home in Southern California and a new residence in Annapolis, which allows them to stay close to the Academy that has been a part of their family's history since 1942.

The Lookers became interested in the Center for Cyber Security Studies after hearing a series of presentations by former Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Michael H. Miller '74, USN (Ret.).

"He really educated us on this gray subject of cyber," said Amy. "We as civilians didn't understand how serious the subject is for our armed forces and national security, today and into the future."

The family was eager to support the cyber program in any

way, and the opportunity to create a visiting professorship quickly resonated with them.

“Having someone who’s just come straight from the front lines of cyber warfare teach our midshipmen was our goal,” said Amy.

Having Inglis named, said Mary, “was a coup. He is just ideal in every way. You hear him talk, and you actually think, ‘I understand the threat and what we can do about it.’”

According to Naval Academy Academic Dean and Provost Andrew Phillips, the Lookers’ gift will have a lasting impact on the cyber program, which offers two core courses for all midshipmen and will graduate its first cyber operations majors in 2016.

“Visiting professors bring a real-world experience that few others have had,” he said. “If Chris Inglis can stand in front of a group and say ‘here’s what we do, here’s how it works, here’s what the other guy is doing, here’s how we’re going to defend against that, because I was there, I’ve seen it, rather than someone saying ‘here’s what I think we do’—that has great credibility. And what a lot of people don’t recognize is that individuals like Chris Inglis are attracters for other talent. People are going to want to come here because he’s here.”

For Inglis, a 1976 Air Force Academy graduate who previously taught at the Naval Academy in the early 1980s as well as West Point, the visiting professorship offered a unique opportunity to make a further contribution to the Academy at a particularly critical time.

“First and foremost, we’re all here for the midshipmen, to help take these extraordinary individuals

who’ve committed to a life of public service, whether for five years or 50, and help them realize those aspirations,” he said. “And to make sure the cyber operations major achieves its rightful place within the curriculum, they’ve already done magnificently with respect to defining it, installing it and attracting a group of people and professors to it, but there’s some further work to be done. Third, we want to help people understand not just the discipline in its own right, but its employment, its use, its leverage, so that it might help them operationalize their knowledge. That’s ultimately why we train midshipmen in the various disciplines, philosophies, doctrines and procedures—so that they can get back to leading operations for the United States and coalitions that the United States supports.”

In addition to their personal support for Inglis’ position, the Lookers have also encouraged their friends and associates in California, most of whom are only familiar with the Academy

through the family, to learn more about the Academy and its programs—the Center for Cyber Security Studies in particular.

“Many of them are affiliated with banking institutions and investment houses

that are very vulnerable in cyber, and they were elated to know that Mother was on the cutting-edge of a subject that affects all of us,” said Amy.

Both Amy and Mary are confident that Robert would be pleased not just with the direction the Academy is headed with cyber security, but his family’s role in supporting these efforts.

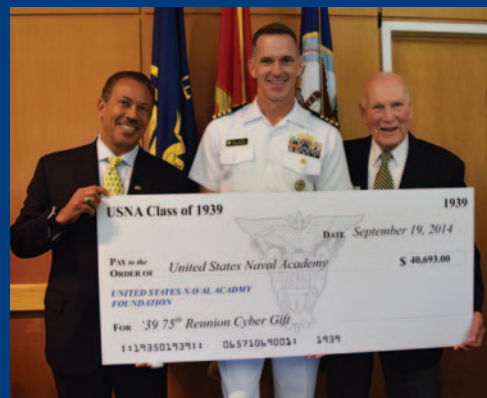
“He would love it,” said Mary. ■

*“We wanted to be sure to start something useful that would keep going.”*

—Mary Looker

## Class Giving

# Class of '39 Marks 75th Reunion With Gift to Cyber



Class President VADM Tom Weschler '39, USN (Ret.), presents his class's 75th Reunion Gift to Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation President and CEO Byron F. Marchant '78 (left) and Commandant of Midshipmen CAPT Bill Byrne '87, USN (center).

When the Class of 1939 began planning its 75th reunion, its members decided that the occasion had to include a gift to the Academy in keeping with the respect, admiration and gratitude each felt toward his alma mater. With few living members and surviving widows and children aging as well, the class suspected their 75th reunion might mark their final return to the Yard and wanted to make a lasting tribute that reflected the character of the class.

They did, with a gift to the Academy’s growing Center for Cyber Security Studies (CCSS) that exceeded its \$39,000 goal by more than \$5,000—an admirable achievement for a class with only 17 living members. The gift will support the ongoing curriculum development of the cyber operations major and the two cyber core courses taken by all midshipmen.

“We graduated basically right into wartime,” said Class President Vice Admiral Tom Weschler '39, USN (Ret.). “From radar and sonar during World War II to the postwar period as we adopted nuclear power and guided missiles, we had people in our class responsible for being at the forefront of those technologies. It seemed like we should keep

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## Class Giving

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being forward looking in our legacy to the Academy.”

The gift attracted significant support from Class of ’39 widows and children, many of whom have become very involved in class activities in the years since their fathers’ deaths.

“We really sensed that as our classmates saw ourselves at the forefront of technology, that our children thought about us that way, too—we weren’t just a bunch of old guys,” said Weschler, whose 40-year naval career included a two-year tour as the aide to Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Arleigh Burke ’23, USN, and work on the development of the Polaris missile guidance and fire control system.

Barbara Fidel Adams, daughter of the late Captain Jack Fidel ’39, USN (Ret.), a naval aviator, became class secretary about two years ago. She played an important role in getting the word out to the class about the gift and its potential impact through *Shipmate* class notes and other communications.

“With Dad an aviator, we moved a lot, and the Navy became our family,” said Adams. “Especially his classmates and their children. I was happy to reconnect with the class as secretary.”

She also recognizes how fitting the cyber gift was for the class, which in September 2014 also became the first Naval Academy class to host a virtual reunion. While Weschler and Commander Stan Hindman ’39, USN (Ret.), were the only classmates able to return in person, classmates and surviving family members checked in via video conferencing from Honolulu, HI; Oak Harbor, WA; Vancouver, WA; St. Augustine, FL; Santa Rosa, CA; Los Angeles, CA; McLean, VA; and Hagerstown, MD.

“Both in the Navy and in civilian life, these men went on to brilliant careers in technology, with five of them working with Admiral Rickover on the development of the nuclear Navy,” said Adams. “Their 50th reunion gift was an atomic clock. They’ve looked for innovation in all of their contributions.” ■

## President’s Circle Celebrates 20th Anniversary



President’s Circle donor Jennifer Lavis enjoys a pre-game tailgate with her son MIDN William Lavis ’15, left, and his classmate MIDN Daniel Page ’15.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the launch of the President’s Circle, the Naval Academy Foundation’s premier donor recognition society. Comprising donors who contribute at least \$2,500 per year in support to the Academy through the Foundation, President’s Circle offers an opportunity for donors to lead through example, inspire through action and, as most President’s Circle donors are alumni, give back to their alma mater at a significant level.

“My father and two uncles were Naval Academy graduates, and the benefits of attending the Academy were imbued in me from a very early age,” said Tom Furlong ’86, whose daughter Paige is a member of the Class of 2018. “It is a transformative experience. For me personally, I came in pretty shy and reserved. The education and leadership opportunities I received really made a difference. Those, coupled with my naval service, form the core of how I lead and run the business I am in today. And now that my daughter is here we

have even more reason to support the Academy.”

In return for serving as advocates for the Academy and cultivating a spirit of philanthropy among their classmates and other associates, President’s Circle donors receive an array of donor courtesies, from public recognition and inclusion in special events nationwide to an invitation to the annual President’s Circle Weekend. Held each fall to coincide with a Navy football game, President’s Circle Weekend features a slate of activities designed to keep donors informed of and engaged with events and developments at the Academy and in the Foundation.

Naval Academy parents make up a growing segment of the President’s Circle donor population. “Our family is proud to give our financial support to the Foundation at the President’s Circle level,” said Jennifer Lavis, whose sons William and McLain are members of the Classes of 2015 and 2018, respectively. “Being part of the President’s Circle has provided us with

a deeper understanding of the commitment of USNA leadership and staff—both present and past—to being in the forefront in cyber security, ethics and leadership development and small group experiences through programs like the National Outdoor Leadership School and international study, many of which would not be possible without the efforts of the Foundation.”

This year’s 20th Anniversary Weekend, held 25–27 September, included a presentation from Superintendent Vice Admiral Ted Carter ’81, USN; keynote address from Chris Inglis, the Robert and Mary M. Looker Distinguished Visiting Professor in Cyber Security Studies; roundtable lunch with midshipmen; Superintendent’s reception at Buchanan House; and seminars including Game Day at the Naval Academy, the USNA Technology Incubator, Developing Ethical Leaders, International Programs and a walking tour of the Naval Academy Cemetery.

“I always like to hear from the Supe. It’s a great perspective on where the institution is going,” said Furlong. “And Admiral Carter has a true

understanding of what skills officers need to have coming out of the Academy—he makes it clear to us where the needs are in the Academy.”

Commander Katie Thurman ’83, USN (Ret.), agrees.

“It was very enlightening to get a better understanding of the critical missions that require financial support,” said Thurman, whose son is Ensign Ryan Thurman ’14, USN. “We were provided an in-depth yet easily understandable explanation of cyber security, the Academy’s mandated requirements, how to best implement them and how it will affect the Academy and the fleet. It wasn’t just a political catchphrase, but left us thinking, ‘I get it now.’

“Although we have participated at the President’s Circle donation level for several years, this was the first President’s Circle Weekend we were able to attend. We had an absolutely wonderful time. It was just plain fun to enjoy the camaraderie of other supporters who share the love and respect of our Academy and what it offers. We definitely plan to attend future Weekends.” ■

## A&SP Celebrates 70 Years



Es Miller with MIDN Keenan Reynolds ’16, winner of the E.E. “Rip” Miller Varsity Football Award at the A&SP 70th Anniversary dinner.

More than 500 people attended the 70th anniversary of the Naval Academy Foundation’s Athletic and Scholarship Programs (A&SP) division in May 2014, but there was one undisputed guest of honor: 107-year-old Es Miller, who witnessed the 1944 launch of A&SP, the brainchild of her late husband, then-football coach and assistant director of athletics Edgar E. “Rip” Miller.

Eager to find a way for the Naval Academy to recruit high-caliber athletes who could also keep up with the Academy’s extraordinary academic demands, Rip Miller and close friend H. McCoy “Piggy” Jones of the Class of 1919 established a program that provided scholarships for a year of additional prep school education for promising athletes. That program has grown into one that provides support for approximately 50 students per year—about a quarter of whom are recruited athletes—to attend one of a network of 18 prep schools and colleges nationwide. Along the way, A&SP’s mission has broadened to include general support for Navy and Naval Academy Prep School Athletics. In recent years, A&SP’s contributions to the Fund for Athletic Excellence have topped \$1.5 million annually and are growing.

“It has been my privilege to chair the Athletic and Scholarship Programs division of the Naval Academy Foundation, said

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President’s Circle donors CDR Katie Thurman ’83, USN (Ret.), and her husband Paul Thurman connect with MIDN James Womack ’16 during President’s Circle Weekend’s roundtable lunch with midshipmen.

Rear Admiral Thomas C. Lynch '64, USN (Ret.), a former Academy Superintendent who became chairman of A&SP in 2004. "Our 250 Trustees derive great satisfaction because we provide an opportunity for outstanding scholar-athletes to attend a year of prep school to qualify for Academy admission. The Academy's mission is to develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and each midshipman knows he or she will be challenged in each area. The focus of AS&P is to help ensure that we have the very best scholar-athletes, quality coaches and facilities, which enables them to compete at the highest level, whether it be varsity, club or intramural."

Among A&SP's most significant contributions to the Naval Academy are a \$5 million gift to kick start the renovation of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, funding to complete the Glenn Warner Soccer Facility and the purchase of a dozen Annapolis-area homes to serve as suitable and affordable housing for football coaches. But it's the significant, steady support for the Fund for Athletic Excellence which has the greatest impact.

"Every year, every month, every week a coach comes to me and asks me for something that they think is critical, something that they truly need," said Chet Gladchuk, director of athletics. "And, due to generous contributions made to the Fund for Athletic Excellence, we will have the dollars to be able to provide that funding. It's part of not

*"It's the ability to provide resources to our coaches and midshipmen in a way that they continue to feel confident that they can and will succeed."*

—Chet Gladchuk

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## Support for International Engagement Grows

Commander Tim Disher '81, USN (Ret.), has been able to watch the face of the Navy and the nature of its mission evolve dramatically in the three decades since his graduation.

"When I graduated in 1981 in the midst of the Cold War, the number of ships, the amount of ammunition and the amount of aircraft we had were most important—being able to hit the target in the event that we were in a conflict," he said. "Fast-forward to today, it's more about collaboration, partnerships, the non-kinetic type of warfare and the ability to work with our allies at a much earlier stage in your officership. So understanding and speaking foreign languages, understanding regions and appreciating other cultures is important."

Disher directs the Academy's International Programs Office, which offers several different opportunities for midshipmen to gain this kind of knowledge: semester abroad programs at civilian universities and foreign naval academies, four-to-six week language

or culture immersive programs and professional interactions with foreign navies and counterparts.

The International Programs Office strives to send 500 to 700 midshipmen per year for meaningful engagement opportunities overseas. Recent government budget challenges have impacted the ability to reach this goal as 200 to 400 have participated. Roughly one third of the opportunities are made possible with the support of private donors. Reaching the 700 mark will require a significant increase in philanthropic contributions. Fortunately, donors are responding to the growing need.

"I wanted to bring some stability to the program by making a five-year gift supporting students studying abroad in critical areas: Turkey, Egypt, Singapore and so on," said Robert McKinney '47, whose earlier support for the Naval Academy has included the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference and International Programs initiatives for midshipmen on track to apply for



MIDN Richard Kuzma '16 (second from left), participated in the Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services (ALLIES) program in Indonesia with support from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation.

United Kingdom scholarships, faculty-led immersion trips and more. “I like the way the Academy’s international programs are run. The leaders in charge are very competent in terms of both the pre-travel training and the debrief experience they provide the midshipmen on their return. As for the midshipmen, you can see a real difference in the way they write and speak about other cultures when they get back.”

McKinney’s gift of \$1 million will establish the McKinney Scholars Fund, which will bring the number of midshipmen spending a semester abroad from approximately 85 per year much closer to the 110 Disher is targeting. His gift will focus on midshipmen participating in the languages of Arabic, Chinese or Russian, as well as science, technology, engineering and math majors.

“We are trying to focus on locations where our future officers are going to be in the next five to 10 years,” said Disher. “Asia, Africa and the Middle East. And we’re trying to make programs available for all midshipmen regardless of what their academic specialty is. Our STEM majors are not required to take a foreign language at the Academy, but when we send them abroad, they’re going to take their content courses—engineering, math and science—in English, and we’re going to ask them to take a local language.”

The Academy’s International Programs initiatives have also attracted the support of a number of foundations, most notably the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation. This year, four midshipmen joined almost 600 students from 40 other colleges and universities nationwide in benefiting from the Foundation’s scholarship program for exceptional students who exemplify leadership, perseverance, scholarship and innovation. Their scholarships

supported enrichment opportunities overseas, including:

- Touring European nations’ cyber emergency response teams in partnership with NATO
- Traveling to Estonia to attend the International Cyber Conference on Armed Conflict
- Participating in the Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services (ALLIES) program in Indonesia
- Attending lectures and small section classes on public finance and international political economy at the London School of Economics
- Traveling throughout the United Kingdom, meeting with students and faculty at Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh universities
- Attending a study abroad program in Seoul, Korea

The relationship between the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation and these members of the Class of 2016 will continue throughout the rest of the midshipmen’s time at the Academy, with each providing the Foundation with updates on how they are using their scholarships to advance their personal development plans.

Stamps Family Charitable Foundation representatives are so pleased with the results from the inaugural class of Naval Academy Stamps Scholars that they have doubled their support, making it possible for up to 10 members of the Class of 2017 to benefit from the program.

“We had heard from military leaders that you can surge troop strength, but it’s a lot harder to surge cultural competence,” said Randy McDow, executive director of the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation. “It is so important for midshipmen to have these experiences. The ones we’ve gotten to know are just fantastic, and we know they are going to go on to make wonderful contributions not just to the Academy, but to our nation’s future.” ■

## A&SP Celebrates 70 Years

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Chairman RADM Tom Lynch '64, USN (Ret.), speaks at the A&SP 70th Anniversary dinner.

only meeting the needs of highly competitive Division I athletic programs, but it’s also partially a moral obligation, being able to say ‘yes’ rather than ‘no,’ a philosophy that I’ve always subscribed to as an athletic director. The margin of excellence funding provided by A&SP allows me to do that. It’s the difference between maintenance and significant advancement. It’s the ability to provide resources to our coaches and midshipmen in a way that they continue to feel confident that they can and will succeed.”

A&SP raises funds from the contributions of 250 Foundation Trustees as well as from any donors interested in supporting USNA’s physical mission. There is currently a waiting list for membership, and new Trustees are added as others transition to emeritus status or leave the Foundation. The Fund for Athletic Excellence welcomes the support of all friends of the Academy and Navy sports. Its resources are used to support the recruitment of exceptional coaches, enhance existing facilities or build new ones and support all Naval Academy athletic programs, whether varsity, club or intramural. For more information on the Fund for Athletic Excellence, contact Steve O’Brien, senior associate athletic director, at 410-293-3767 or [steve.obrien@usna.com](mailto:steve.obrien@usna.com). For more information on the Naval Academy Foundation’s Athletic and Scholarship Programs, contact Executive Director Captain Ed Wallace ’72, USN (Ret.), at 410-295-4095 or [ed.wallace@usna.com](mailto:ed.wallace@usna.com). ■



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410-295-4100 • [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com)

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//// **EVERY GIFT COUNTS,**

*every donor matters.*