

Latest Happenings

Ethics in Business and the Military: Building Better Organizations

On October 27, 2003, the Ethics Center co-sponsored a major conference with the Alumni Association that focused on ethical issues shared by large organizations of all types. Over 160 participants attended, including academics, senior military officers, corporate ethics officers, midshipmen, and others.

This one-day event was the kick-off of a multi-year project called "Ethics and Leadership: Challenges and Responses." Future project activities will include regional conferences and the creation of ethics teaching materials.

The conference had an impressive collection of speakers, including Senator Paul Sarbanes delivering the keynote address and Dr. Ron Sugar, President and CEO of Northrop Grumman, as the luncheon speaker. Other presenters included: Mr. Dan Akerson, Principal, Carlyle Group; Dr. Amitai Etzioni, George Washington Univer-



Senator Sarbanes delivered the keynote address.

sity; Dr. Stuart Gilman, President, The Ethics Resource Center; Admiral Charles Larson; Dr. John J. Schulz, Dean, Boston University College of Communication; Mr. Kevin Sharer, CEO and President, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Amgen Inc.; and Admiral James Watkins.

Lecture Series

On November 20, Hugh Thompson, one of the heroes of the My Lai massacre, spoke to the Naval Academy community on the subject of moral courage in combat as part of the William C. Stott Ethics Lecture series. This annual fall lecture series, along with a similar springtime program, brings to the Academy distinguished speakers to address important ethical challenges in military affairs, national security, and public life.



Hugh Thompson spoke on moral courage in combat on November 20, 2003.

These lectures tie into and support the work of the Naval Academy's core ethics course each semester and have included speakers such as Senator Bob Kerrey, Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, Dr. Michael Walzer, General Anthony C. Zinni, Dr. James Turner Johnson, Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, and Dr. Michael Ignatieff.

These lectures are open to the entire Naval Academy community, as well as the general public. Information on this series can be found on our website <http://www.usna.edu/ethics>.

Midshipman Programs

The Center organizes a variety of programs for midshipmen, and many of the ideas for these programs have originated from the midshipmen themselves. Over the years, these programs have provided a rich array of opportunities for midshipmen who want to go beyond the required ethics and character programs of the Academy. For the first issue of the newsletter, two programs are highlighted. Future issues will feature others.

Ethics Essay Award

After its creation in 1998, the Ethics Center's first midshipman program was a competition to select and reward the best ethics essays written each semester for the Naval Academy's core ethics course. The Ethics Essay Award continues to this day: more than 400 midshipmen competed in fall 2003.

After the winner is selected by a distinguished panel of outside readers, the Superintendent of the Naval Academy hosts a dinner to present the awards. It is an ongoing tradition that the senior military and civilian leadership at the Naval Academy attend to honor the outstanding work in ethical reasoning and expression from these midshipmen.



MD Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin (left) and Dean William Miller present Midn O'Donnell with the Ethics Essay Award.

On September 2, 2003, the tenth such dinner was held, with Maryland Congressman Benjamin Cardin as the guest speaker. The winner for best essay was Midshipman Second Class Anne O'Donnell. Finalists were all Midshipmen Second Class: Jared Burgess, Mark Nostro, Joseph Pasko, John Roberts, and David Yorck.

Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Champions

The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl is a national competition in which participants discuss and present verbal solutions to thorny ethical dilemmas. A panel of judges representing the fields of both philosophical and practical ethics score the teams based on the intelligibility, depth, focus, and judgment of their answers.

The Center coordinates the participation of the Naval Academy's team each year and helps to prepare the midshipmen for the competition.

Traditionally, the Naval Academy has excelled at this annual event. In 2002, the Midshipmen finished in the final four, and in February 2003, the Academy won the Ninth Annual Ethics Bowl over 40 other teams from across the country. Representing the Naval Academy were team captain Midshipman Second Class Sale Lilly (presently Brigade XO), Midshipman



The Champions of the 9th Annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Charlotte, North Carolina

Second Class Alex Martin (presently Brigade Honor Chair), Midshipmen Third Class Tom Dunbar and Tom Vomastic, and Midshipman Fourth Class Tyson Meadors.

Alex Martin (right) and Thomas Dunbar confer during a match as Sale Lilly looks on.



Outreach Efforts

The Resident Fellows Program

In one of its most important and influential outreach programs, the Ethics Center sponsors a Resident Fellows Program in which selected military officers, academics, civil servants, and other professionals pursue an intensive year-long study of professional military ethics, including ethics and the use of military force.

These individuals, selected from a national pool of applicants, participate in regular seminars and conduct independent, guided research in the field of professional military ethics. They also contribute to the life of the Naval Academy by teaching occasional classes and supporting the Character Development program in various ways.

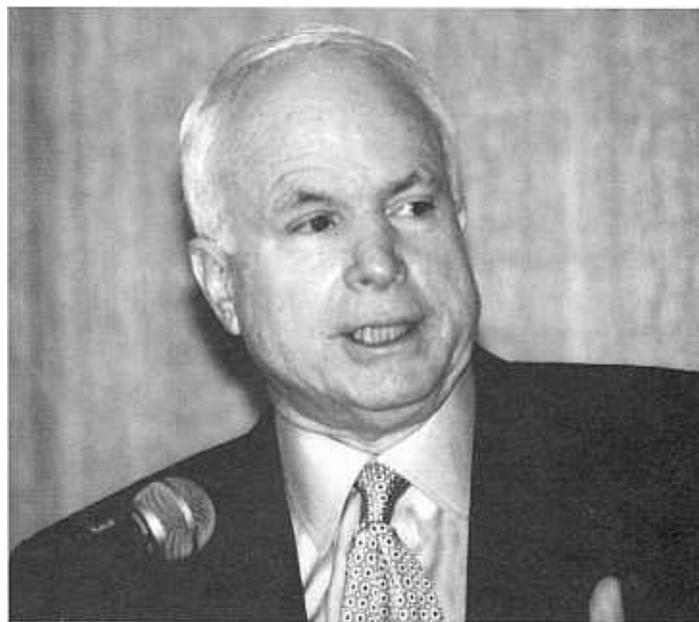
This year's Fellows include:

- ◆ LCDR Miles J. Barrett, USN, chaplain
- ◆ LtCol Michael Campbell, USMC
- ◆ CAPT Elizabeth Holmes, USN, psychologist
- ◆ Dr. Steven P. Lee, professor of philosophy
- ◆ Ms. Tara M. Lee, adjunct professor of law

McCain Conference

Thanks to a major gift from Senator and Mrs. John McCain, the Ethics Center hosts a conference every autumn to bring together key military officers and civilian academics responsible for ethics education and character development at the five federal service academies: the Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Military Academy, and the Naval Academy.

Now in its third year, this is a well-attended and valuable opportunity for the academies to communicate with each other, share their experiences in the field over the last year, and learn from each other on such issues as ethics and character assessment. On September 15 and 16, 2003, 30 participants met to discuss how better to integrate the ethics education and character development programs at their academies. Each academy team identified one or more initiatives they will pursue over this academic year; in the fall of 2004, they will reconvene here at the Naval Academy to share the results of their efforts.



In September 2002, Senator John McCain addressed conference participants.

"Where else in America do you put a warrior, a priest, a lawyer, a philosopher, and a psychologist together in a room, for a year, to figure out what is "right"? There must be something profoundly simple and true, and immensely worth study if men and women, liberal and conservative, Democrat and Republican cannot only discuss and learn, but agree. It is unfortunate that more people do not have this opportunity."

— Michael F. Campbell, LtCol, USMC (Resident Fellow)

The study and practice of ethics attempts to shed light on what is meant by the “good life,” the kind of life people ought to live. The concept has broadened to include not only the practices of a good person but also the “best practices” in various professions, such as the military. For the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics, ethics includes both the individual and the profession. The Center was founded to serve as a beacon for ethics, excellence, and character.

Formally established by the Secretary of the Navy in 1998, its mission is “to promote and enhance the ethical development of current and future military leaders through education, research, and reflection.” According to Admiral Charles R. Larson, the Superintendent who established the Center, the vision is to contribute to and complement the Academy’s ethics courses and character development. Also,

Larson and the others who developed the Center’s concept hoped that it would reach outside to the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and beyond.

If you’d like to learn more about the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics and our programs, please contact us at **410-293-6085**, or visit us on our website: <http://www.usna.edu/ethics>.

Director: Dr. Albert C. Pierce
Associate Director: LtCol Gary E. Slyman, USMC
Assistant Director: LCDR Eric R. Rice, USN
Assistant Director: John W. Truslow, III
Senior Staff Assistant: Linda W. Franz
Secretary: Marge Bem

“We wanted the Center to be a source of new ideas and a bridge between the Naval Academy and the larger world — that it would be an ethics resource for the Navy, the Marines Corps, and, if you will, a resource for the nation.”

— Charles R. Larson, Admiral, USN
Former Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy

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