

## Astronaut Alumni Star in Air and Space Week

By Barbara Honegger

More U.S. astronauts are graduates of the Naval Postgraduate School than any other graduate university, and a large number returned to their alma mater in August for a Centennial Salute to Aeronautics and Astronautics. Astronaut Week, part of the university's continuing year-long 100th anniversary celebration, honored the history and heritage of NPS contributions to aviation and space exploration.

Joining former astronaut faculty members National Reconnaissance Office Aerospace Chair retired Navy Capt. Dan Bursch and Space Systems Professor Dr. Jim Newman for a star-studded week of seminars, lectures and special events were current astronauts Navy Capts. Alan Poindexter and Steve Frick; and former astronauts retired Navy Capts. Winston Scott and Ken Reightler, Jr.; retired Navy Cmdr. and former NPS meteorology laboratory instructor Mario Runco; retired Marine Corps Col. Dave Hilmers, M.D.; retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Carlos Noriega; and the group's senior astronaut, Rusty Schweickart. Former astronaut Tom Jones, Ph.D., joined the group one of the days by teleconference.

Frick and Poindexter are active astronauts, with the latter slated to command STS-131 next March; and both Runco and his wife Susan, who accompanied him and is the NPS alumnus of the dual-meteorologist team, work at NASA Headquarters in Houston.

"Director of the Space Systems Academic Group Professor Rudy Panholzer has been trying to do this for 10 years, and it's fantastic he's finally been able to fulfill his dream of inviting all of us astronaut grads back to NPS," said Poindexter.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to come



*Astronaut alumni, faculty pose in front of the NPS memorial to pioneer astronaut, the late Rear Adm. Alan Shephard, Jr. Front, left to right: NPS National Reconnaissance Office Aerospace Chair retired Navy Capt. Dan Bursch; retired Marine Corps Col. Dave Hilmers, M.D.; retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Carlos Noriega; and retired Navy Capt. Ken Reightler, Jr. Back, left to right: NPS Space Systems Professor Dr. Jim Newman; Navy Capt. Alan Poindexter; retired Navy Capt. Winston Scott; and retired Navy Cmdr. and former NPS meteorology lab instructor Mario Runco.*

back," agreed Frick, who was Poindexter's commander on STS-122. "This is a great school that really allows you to expand your horizons, and that means a lot coming from an astronaut."

The historic and information-packed week kicked off with a "Wear Your Flight Suit to Work" Day, Aug. 4; a special guest lecture by former Lockheed "Skunkworks" Chief Engineer Alan Brown on the history of the company's Stealth aircraft design program, and an astronaut reception on the Quarterdeck, Aug. 5; an NPS Astronaut Symposium where Schweickart and guest former astronaut Tom Jones detailed their decade-long effort to protect the Earth from devastating impacts of extirpator-scale asteroids like

the one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, and a spacecraft survivability panel featuring the pioneering research of retired NPS Prof. Emeritus Robert Ball; a candid and lively exchange by astronaut spouses on the common challenges of astronaut and military families; a fun-filled "Breakfast with the Astronauts" on the theme "Reach for the Stars!" where the astronauts shared their experiences living and working in space and projected photos taken from the Space Shuttle and International Space Station onto the walls of the Barbara McNitt Ballroom, Aug. 7; a gala California International Air Show dinner that evening, also in the ballroom, where the astronauts joined 14 members of the Navy's Blue

Angels flight demonstration team; and the participation of a number of the astronaut alums at the Air Show, Aug. 9.

Hilmers received a master's degree in electrical engineering from NPS in 1978; Reightler, Scott, Frick and Poindexter all earned master's degrees in aeronautical engineering, in 1984, 1980, 1994 and 1995, respectively. Noriega was awarded an M.S. in computer science in 1990, and Bursch received his master's degree in engineering science in 1991.

Until recently, Bursch held the record for the longest continuous duration in space by an American astronaut, 196 days. His record was eclipsed in April 2007 by another NPS astronaut, retired Navy Capt. Mike Lopez-Alegria, who completed an expedition of 215 days. Other U.S. Space Program alumni include the second American to orbit the Earth, Mercury 7 astronaut retired Navy Cmdr. M. Scott Carpenter and retired Navy Capt. Eugene Cernan, commander of Apollo 17 and the last man to walk on the moon.

As Carpenter said during a recent teleconference with NPS leadership and Space Systems Academic Group faculty and students, "It's wonderful that the Naval Postgraduate School has such a strong space program, for both engineers and operational students, and that the magic of space flight has caught on here."

"NPS continues to be on the forefront of educating America's astronauts," said Alumni Relations Office and Centennial Planning Headquarters Director Kari Miglaw. "As a leader in space education and research, NPS paves the way for future astronauts to pursue their dreams."

For more information about NPS Air and Space Week and other Centennial events, go to [www.nps.edu/100](http://www.nps.edu/100).

## Scholarship Program Boosts Ph.D. Enrollments

By MC2 Kellie Arakawa

The number of students pursuing doctorates at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) has nearly doubled in recent years due to increased recruitment efforts by NPS leaders, who have recognized the significant value doctoral programs bring to the school and Department of Defense (DoD).

NPS Provost Leonard Ferrari said the push for more students grew out of a number of issues, including the school's increased focus on basic research studies and a growing gap in DoD's civilian workforce.

Concerned by the declining number of new engineers and scientists, DoD sought help from NPS a few years ago by asking the school to educate more U.S. civilian students, who could be placed into national labs and systems commands, Ferrari said.

Additionally, the school's need to enhance its basic research studies called for an increase in the number of doctoral students.

"Often, there's no one else in the country that does the research we require, so we need to bring in our own students who will have the time

to explore basic research and different alternatives," Ferrari explained. "Also, we need to help the faculty maintain the leading-edge capabilities they bring to NPS ... and we knew bringing in Ph.D. students would support course maintenance and faculty development."

To address these issues, NPS led the development of several programs aimed at attracting more civilian students to the school. These programs, called Scholarship for Service (SFS), enable students to pursue a fully-funded advanced degree in exchange for a service commitment with the Defense Department, national laboratory or other federal agency.

Among these programs is the National Security Institute (NSI) Scholars Program, led by NSI Associate Director John Powers, which supports NPS doctoral programs by providing students with a salary, benefits and funded fees.

"NPS has always had a Ph.D. program that included military officers, but this is really an attempt to boost the number of civilian Ph.D. students and new federal employees entering

the workforce," Powers said.

Dr. Dan Boger, Executive Director for NSI, said the Scholars Program has generated a significant amount of interest from prospective students, and has helped increase doctoral student enrollment in all areas.

Other programs similar to the NSI Scholars Program include the Science, Math and Research for Transformation (SMART) Program, a nationwide SFS program administered by NPS and the American Society for Engineering Education for DoD. The National Science Foundation's Cyber Corps Program, which focuses on computer science, is offered through the NPS Center for Information Systems Security Studies and Research (CISR).

Dr. Peter Purdue, Dean of the Graduate School of Operational and Information Sciences, said he believes the school's SFS programs will begin to help fill the personnel deficiency in science and engineering, and hopes it will make a significant impact in the computer science field.

"This is really a win for everybody," Ferrari explained. "Resident students here will have a stronger student body to work with, the faculty will have students who can work on longer-term projects ... and it adds elasticity in our ability to operate as we continue to support our primary mission."

Ferrari said he hopes to begin a broader, more official recruiting program within the next six months.

For more information about the SFS programs, visit [www.nps.edu/Admissions/SFS.html](http://www.nps.edu/Admissions/SFS.html).

## IN BRIEF

- ♦ The 3rd AIAA Annual Homeland Security Conference and Showcase will take place at NPS from September 1 - 4, 2009. For more information, including presentations, poster displays, exhibits & demonstrations see the site at <http://www.physicsmath.com/ConferenceFolder/2009HomePage.html>.
- ♦ In celebration of the NPS Centennial, Capt. Doug Otte (past student, MILFAC) and NPS students Lt. Bradley Thompson, (SEA), Lt. Bill Hafer (OR), Lt. Mike King (NSA), and KptLt Heiko Able (MOVES) were featured on the "Your Town Television and Radio Program" (Channel 24, AM 1240, and streamed on <http://www.ampmedia.org>).
- ♦ In honor of National Energy Awareness Month, NSAM Public Works department will be hosting an Energy Fair on Thursday October 22, 2009. The celebration on the quad, from 11:00 - 2:00, will include demonstrations, poster presentations, giveaways, live music and booths manned by utilities, state and county government offices and others interested in assisting the Navy in meeting the federal energy efficiency mandates.
- ♦ NPS will host the 34th Annual Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop (CDPW), to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey, Calif. on October 26-30, 2009. The workshop is being organized by the Naval Postgraduate School and the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC). Atmosphere-ocean topics will be a special focus of this year's workshop. Rear Admiral Dave Titley, Oceanographer of the Navy, will be a keynote speaker. For more information go to [http://met.nps.edu/climate\\_CDPW09/index.php](http://met.nps.edu/climate_CDPW09/index.php).



## Kuali Financial System Goes Live October 1



*Colleen Nickles, Special Advisor to the Office of the President*

The Naval Postgraduate School is leading the way as an early adopter among its higher education colleagues by implementing a cost-effective alternative to vended ERP software – a financial system developed in the community source model. The Kuali Financial System (Kuali means “wok” or “humble utensil that plays an important role in the kitchen” in Malaysian) will go live at NPS on October 1, after three years of preparation and planning by NPS’ financial leadership team.

The Kuali Financial System (KFS) is adapted from a financial system created by Indiana University and an initial core of the University of Hawaii, the Univer-

sity of Arizona, and the rSmart Group, a software consulting and implementation company founded in Phoenix in 2002 to support cooperative software efforts. This initial core group received a \$2.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional support from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

With an October 1 go-live date, NPS will be joining Colorado State University and San Joaquin Delta Community College in adopting KFS during calendar 2009.

At NPS, KFS will run “parallel” to other management information systems, such as DORS and DMAS, during FY 2010. Concurrently, NPS will develop all reports needed for academic and administrative reporting, fully integrate KFS with data from the Navy’s official systems, and ensure that everyone is trained and comfortable in using the workflow that is an integral part of KFS.

A series of informational townhall meetings are being held in Ingersoll 122 September 1-4 for anyone interested in learning more about KFS. All interested parties are encouraged to attend to receive an overview and demonstration of the Kuali Financial System. No sign-ups are necessary to attend a townhall meet-

ing and meeting times are available at <http://intranet.nps.edu/Announcements/Postings/Kuali.html>.

Mandatory KFS end user training will be held the week of September 14-18; this initial training will be for all end users, and training sessions will last about three hours. Attendees can sign up for training by calling Jarret at 656-2129 or e-mailing him at [jsedelen@nps.edu](mailto:jsedelen@nps.edu). Printed copies of the user manual will be provided for each trainee at the training session. If an end user is not available to attend one of the designated training sessions, then additional training sessions will be scheduled on a case by case basis following these initial sessions. Faculty Members/Principal Investigators may attend these training sessions but their attendance is not required. Students are not expected to attend training sessions. All sessions will include an overview of KFS as well as specific training on ad hoc reporting and requisition creation.

Sessions tailored to the needs of end users will be scheduled as follows: 1) Purchase Card Holders, 2) Purchase Card Approving Officials, 3) SPFAs and ASAs, and 4) General End Users. Please visit the following Web site for training dates, times and locations, <http://intranet.nps.edu/Announcements/Postings/Kuali.html>.

## Faculty Notes

The Internet Society announced its award of the 2009 Jonathan B. Postel Service Award to CSNET, which was the experimental networking project that bridged the work done on ARPANET with what we know today as the Internet. **Dr. Peter Denning**, Professor, Chair, and Director of the Cebrowski Institute, was one of the four Principal Investigators of CSNET.

Research Associate Professor **Tom Murphree**, Meteorology, made an invited presentation on climate analysis and long

range forecasting at the DoD Climate Conference in Asheville, N.C., in August 2009.

**Rene G. Rendon**, Associate Professor in GSBPP, has authored the book chapter “DoD Major Weapon Systems: Risk Management Process” in *Risk Management for Complex U.S. Government Contracts and Projects*, by Gregory A. Garrett, published by the National Contract Management Association (2009).

## Tenure-Track Faculty Hires

- Asst. Prof. Michael Atkinson  
Operations Research
- Asst. Prof. Victoria Clement  
National Security Affairs

- Economics Instructor Jason Hansen  
DRMI
- Associate Prof. Michael Jaye  
Defense Analysis

- Associate Prof. Jonathan Lipow  
DRMI
- Asst. Prof. Naomi Rose Rothenberg  
GSBPP

## Announcements

**Col. Robert E. Burks** reported to NPS as the Associate Dean, Graduate School of Operations and Information Sciences, from the United States Military Academy on July 6, 2009. Col. Burks received his commission as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the United States Military Academy (USMA) in 1987. Initially an Infantry Officer with tours across the U.S. and in Kuwait and Germany, his career took an abrupt turn in 1997 with his designation as a career Operations Analyst (FA49). He has served in a myriad of

analytic tours since then, including his previous tour as an Assistant Professor and Program Director for the Department of Mathematical Sciences at USMA. Col. Burks’ educational background includes B.S. in Aerospace Engineering (USMA), M.S. in Operations Research (Florida Institute of Technology), and Ph.D. in Operations Research (AFIT). Col. Burks, his wife Angela and their four children reside at Presidio of Monterey. Please welcome Rob and his family into the NPS family.

## NPS Hall of Fame Honors Its 11th Inductee

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen was inducted into the NPS Hall of Fame during an all-hands ceremony Aug. 11, 2009.

Mullen, an NPS graduate who received his master’s degree in operations

research in 1985, is the school’s 11th Hall of Fame inductee and the first alumnus to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Special guests at the ceremony included retired Adm. Thomas Fargo, former commander of U.S. Pacific Command; retired Adm. Jay Johnson, former chief of naval operations; and retired Adm. Henry Mauz Jr., former commander of U.S. Atlantic Fleet and a fellow Hall of Fame member.

With an opportunity to speak to the entire NPS student body, Mullen then took the time to thank service members in the audience and called on them to take what

they’ve learned at NPS to their next assignments to instill the excitement for change. He also urged students to study leadership in a time of change, “because it is often the most difficult and rewarding kind of leadership.”

The NPS Hall of Fame was established in 2001 to recognize the accomplishments of the school’s most distinguished alumni and friends who have made the highest contributions to society, the nation and the school. Other NPS Hall of Fame members include retired Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee, former Commandant of the Marine Corps; retired Adm. Wayne E. Meyer, the founder of the AEGIS technology; and Former Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White.



## CALENDAR

### September 1-4

Third Annual AIAA Homeland Security Conference and Showcase  
National Security Institute  
POC Anjulee Herrin Ext. 2156

### September 3

Mr. Brian O’Neill  
Nothrup Grumman, NNS  
Manager, Tech Development & Sub CONOPS  
Menneken Lecture  
POC Rear Adm. Jerry Ellis Ext. 2486

### September 8-11

NPS-sponsored  
Washington, D.C. Showcase  
POC Sharee Kelso Ext. 2371

### September 10

Capt. Bob Burkes  
Commodore, SUBDEVRON 12  
Menneken Lecture  
POC Rear Adm. Jerry Ellis Ext. 2486

### September 15

Quarterly Awards Ceremony  
King Hall  
POC Sonya Solomon Ext. 2075

### September 24

Graduation Rehearsal  
POC Sonya Solomon Ext. 2075

### September 25

Gen. James T. Conway, USMC  
Graduation Ceremony: Keynote Speaker  
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Naval Postgraduate School was transformed during World War II when the Navy dramatically increased the student population.

Enrollments plummeted in the 1930s until Admiral Chester Nimitz became Chief of the Bureau of Navigation in 1939. Nimitz’s duties included oversight for NPS and the Naval War College and he incorporated a strategy for growth of both educational institutions into the Navy’s war plans.

Silver Star recipient Robert McNitt was among hundreds of combat-experienced officers who subsequently received orders to Annapolis. The executive officer of the fabled WWII submarine USS Barb, McNitt inspired many young men and women throughout his Navy career, including a southern California high school student named Mike Mullen.

Mullen, the first NPS alumnus to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged McNitt’s role during his Hall of Fame induction speech last month in King Hall.

(below) Capt. Herman Spanagel, head of the Naval Postgraduate School at Annapolis, congratulates Lt. Cmdr. Robert McNitt as he presents a Gold Star in lieu of the second Silver Star medal for heroism during World War II.



Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.