

*U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column*  
*May - June 2016*

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Dear 'mates, April 1st of 2016 was NOT April Fool's Day for the Class of 1975. Many of us gathered in Alumni Hall that afternoon to witness one of the Flower Children being honored as a Distinguished Graduate of our *Alma Mater*. Congratulations Dr. **Carl June!** (It is easier for a major league baseball player to make it into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown than it is for a Naval Academy graduate to become a Distinguished Graduate.) Carl is the second most junior DG—to NBA Hall of Famer David Robinson.

As of column deadline time, the video of the DGA ceremony was not yet posted on the USNAAA website. I urge you to watch Carl's speech once it is available. He absolutely had the midshipmen "leaning forward and paying attention" to his talk. Such a humble, unassuming, brilliant classmate we have!

The award dinner that evening in Smoke Hall was outstanding! Certainly much better than anything we were ever served one deck below in King Hall! Plus, it was the first time I ever (legally) drank wine in Bancroft Hall.

Photo 75#1: "Scribe and Nancy with the newest Distinguished Graduate and Lisa"



Photo 75#2: "Classmates in Alumni Hall"



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**Tom Donaldson** reported on the 75th Brigade Boxing Championships which were held in late February. All the 1975 Champs (**George Tusing**, **Johnnie Arline**, **Rick Thomas** and Tom) were present for the events of the evening—a reception, silent auction, and of course, the actual matches. The four of them along with **Kerwin Miller**, **Mike Thumm**, **Dave Gough**, and **Steve Hubbard** got in the ring to present commemorative coins to the boxers in their weight classes. The silent auction was a huge success and all of our efforts resulted in generating over \$6000 for the boxing program. (Kerwin told your Scribe that a classmate chipped in an extra three quarters so that the final amount donated would end in \$XXXX.75.) The coaches will use the money for travel uniforms for the Boxing Club (near term) and a video/replay system in McDonough Hall (long term) to help boxers improve their performance in the ring. We also paid for the 100-page photo album celebrating Coach McNally's 30th year at the Academy. Tom asked that we recognize our major contributors/donors—**Tom Nollie**, **Marty Kurdys**, **Mark Lamboni**, **George Tusing**, and **Walt Flippin**.

Photo 75#3: “’75 Boxing Champions back in the ring”

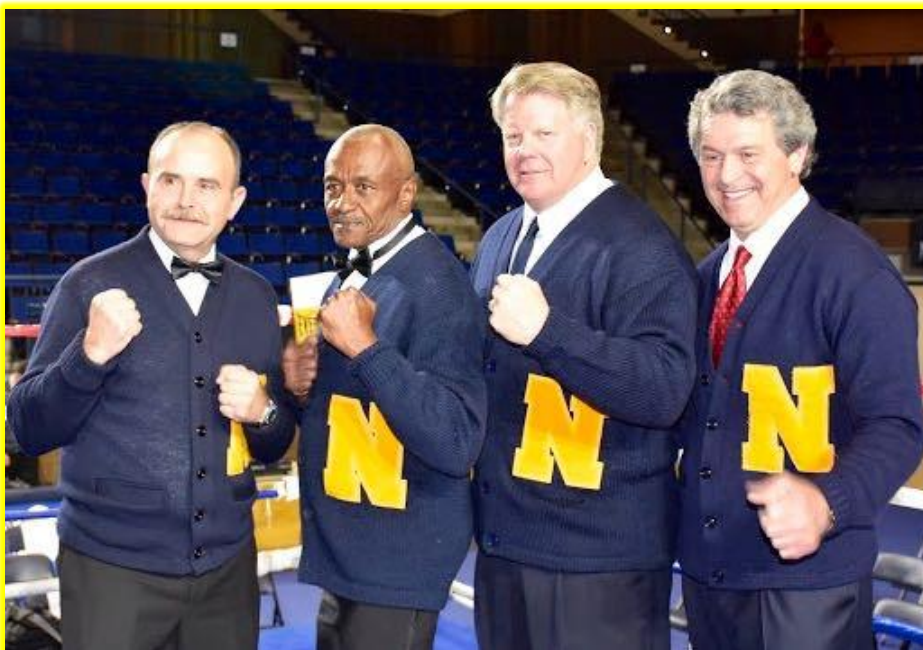


Photo 75#4: “At the reception. Check out that constellation on Hubb’s left shoulder!”



Coach Jim Searing of the Navy Boxing Club took sixteen boxers to the NCAA Regional tournament at Miami of Ohio in March. All sixteen qualified for the NCAA Nationals at the University of Washington



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in April. Thirteen were regional champions (including all seven Navy women) and the other three advanced as at-large selections.



Photo 75#5: "2016 Navy boxers wearing their new Under Armor warmups"

Here's a nice note from **Robert Hutchins** (16<sup>th</sup> Company):

"Greetings from Texas. Two years ago the first week of April, we experienced a Category 2 tornado directly hitting our ranch headquarters area here in Greenville, Texas, about 50 miles northeast of Dallas. At the time, I had been a full time rancher for 14 years,

after leaving Raytheon with 20 years employment, after my five years' service in the surface Navy, to pursue my dream of having a family business raising organic free range beef, lamb, chicken, and turkey. The tornado did about \$250K in damage to our barns, home and other out buildings as well as killing animals and knocking down trees and fences. We also operated a state licensed raw (unpasteurized) goat milk dairy. When we opened the dairy several years ago, our Farm Bureau insurance policy was cancelled even though the dairy was legally selling milk inspected and tested by the state health department. Finding ourselves without insurance, we thought the tornado was the end of ranching for a living. We did not have the funds to rebuild and recover from the tornado. But the rest of the story is that many hundreds of people donated their time and other resources, including cash, to enable us to rebuild the ranch and keep the family business operating. Our friend and classmate **Mark Van Dyke** circulated our story amongst some members of our "flower children" class and many of you responded with cash donations, support and prayers for me and my family. A great big Texas THANK YOU to everyone who helped out in any way from the class of '75. It was because of your help that our family was able to continue our family ranch. I still have a few more children to raise with four still at home. The other eight are doing well with their own families from California to Nebraska. And we currently enjoy the fifteen grandchildren when they come to spend time on the ranch in Texas. THANK YOU for blessing us with your gifts and prayers. GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!"

In March class president **Chris Cikanovich** presented our Class of '75 sword to the junior officer selected by "our" ship USS DONALD COOK, DDG-75. LT Kaitlin Smith is the 2016 winner. Chick made the best use of Skype technology to be "live" in the Cook wardroom in Spain. He says, "I got dressed up in a jacket and tie at 0800 on a weekday just so I looked like an adult to the wardroom of the Donald Cook. I was even wearing pants just in case they started with the National Anthem or the Pledge of Allegiance."

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<photo 75#6: "LT Kaitlin Smith receives the Class of '75 Sword">



Finally, congratulations to **Gordon Roesler** on his new position as Program Manager for DARPA's Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) program. Another brilliant classmate contributing greatly to our country!

----- 75 Sir! Larry