

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MARCH - APRIL 2022

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Dear 'mates, I realize that college baseball season is now here, but I feel compelled to offer a late—but quite huge and sincere—congratulations to Coach Niumatalolo and the entire Navy football program on what turned out to be a good season. How can a 4-8 season be a good season, you ask? When you end it by **BEATING ARMY!** Navy played the third toughest schedule in the country (based on opponents' winning percentage). Eleven of the twelve teams we faced qualified for bowl games. Three of the teams we beat — Tulsa, UCF, and Army — won their bowl games!

For my money, I think that the 2021 game was the most meaningful of any of the 50+ I've watched. The Florida Athletic Coaches Association holds their annual softball meeting in Daytona Beach during Army-Navy week. Seven hours of driving over to the East Coast and seven hours back gives me a lot of time to listen to ESPNU on Sirius XM. It's always cool to hear all the talking heads salute the game as the best pure rivalry in college football. They tell everyone that Army-Navy has to be on your bucket list if you are a college football fan. But this year there was way too much talk about how Army had won four of the last five, that Coach Monken had obviously passed Navy by, and that maybe it was time for Coach Ken to retire. Thanks to the great team effort, maybe next year's narrative will be, "Navy has won two of the last three ... and 18 of the last 22!"

Classmates at Paul Barreto's Army-Navy party



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Mickey and **Paul Barreto** hosted what has to be one of the best Army Navy parties. Thanks to Peg Begley for the documentation. Among the many classmates in attendance, 5th company was well represented with ten members. Joining the Barretos were Glenna and **Chalker Brown**, Debbie and **Marty Mason**, Ceci and **Dennis Poulos**, Peg and **Grant Begley**, Barbara and **Tom Reilly**, Deb Salm and **Jim Woolley**, Julie and **Tom Massicotte**, **Ward Hill**, Patty and **Randall Seward**, Diana and **Rob Glendinning**, **Sam Dennis**, and Jeanie and **Tom O'Conner**. There were others there as well, and a guy from '72 buzzed the party with his plane. Several wives flew with Paul in his personalized '75 plane while enjoying the beautiful weather. The gathering was in his amazing man cave/hanger at a small airstrip near St. Augustine. The friendship shared and the outcome of the game were priceless!

Under our all-too-common column headings of *Rest in Peace* and *Cancer SUCKS!* we remember our classmates — and offer sincere condolences to the families of **Jim Gabor**, **Thomas 'Boot' Hill**, and **'Stormin' Norman White**. Too many—too soon.



Craig Quigley sent a photo from the Alumni Association Board of Trustees Standing Committees reception at the stadium. **Tom Gregory**, **Alex Plechash**, **Bill Squires**, and **Steve Hall** joined Quigs.

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Doug Michalke was inducted into the Bethel Park high school Hall of Fame in Pittsburgh in 2020. The ceremony was delayed until October 2021. Congratulations Doug!



Hall of Fame plaque

BETHEL PARK HALL OF FAME

DOUG MICHALKE
CLASS OF 1971
SWIMMING
Inducted 2020

HIGH SCHOOL

- High School All-American
- All-State 4 Years
- All-WPIAL 4 Years
- 1968 PIAA 200 YD Individual Medley Champion
- 1969 PIAA 400 YD Freestyle Relay Champion
- Set School Records in: 50 YD Freestyle, 100 YD Freestyle, 100 YD Breaststroke, 200 YD Individual Medley, 200 YD Medley Relay, & 400 YD Freestyle Relay
- 4 Year Letter Winner (1968-1971) & Team Co-Captain 1970-71
- Helped Guide Bethel Park to Consecutive WPIAL Championships (1968-1969)

COLLEGE

- Swam Collegiately at the United States Naval Academy (1972-1975)
- 4-Year Letterman
- Led the Midshipmen to 28 Wins in Four Years
- 1973 NCAA Qualifier in the 400 YD & 800 YD Freestyle Relays
- Served as Team Co-Captain in 1974-75

COACHING

- 1984 Head Swim Coach Yokosuka Naval Base Swim Team
- 1994-2001 Head Varsity Swim Coach at John McEachern High School
- 2002-2004 Head Varsity Swim Coach at Woodland High School
- 2005-Present Assistant Varsity Head Swim Coach Kennesaw Mountain High School
- 1996-Present Head/Assistant Swim Coach Summer Swim Team
- 2017-2021 Head Swim Coach Cobb County GRPA State Swim



Babs and Bill Konrad joined Marleen and Doug Michalke at Hyman's Seafood in Charleston

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Classmates who settled in Annapolis naturally have more chances to interact with our Links in the Class of 2025. **Ric Johns** has perhaps the closest interaction. Here are his observations.

“This year I returned to USNA to again teach two sections of plebe Cyber. It has been fun. I thought I’d give the class some feedback. First off, they know we hold the Herndon record and are motivated. In both classes, I was immediately asked “What is the secret?” My answer was simple—white works. I also found video of the climb (incredibly there is a close-up of moi) and showed that to them. Since moving back to Naptown, I’ve gone to many climbs. They wear silky gym shorts or bathing suits. In other words, nothing to grab but those and wet/oily arms, legs, and shoulders. Chick has set up a meeting with the class in the Spring. We’ll work on it. Hopefully **Mike Maynard** (our Herndon conqueror) will join. One of the plebes told me that he thought gym gear was required. I told him “You’re the heirs to the Flower Children. I’m sure you can find a way.”

As for the class overall, they are midshipmen. Of course they are much more connected than when I used my lunchbox calculator. Homework and labs are online and I can do E.I. from my home office with MEET. Tests have gone back to paper in many cases, particularly in Cyber. You just can’t draw a website, show java steps, or how you decoded the message online. I do bring in some stuff, like a slide rule, paper tape, and such to show how we did it. The paper tape has the first three stanzas of “Laws” on it. One thing I haven’t figured out though — they still sleep in class — even though they can take a nap any time they want. Maybe I’m just not as interesting as I thought.

Overall, they think that the “plebe year stuff” is intense, but I see that the fear is gone. Come-arounds are rare, chow call is a group thing, and the pressure just seems to be less. Big difference — meals are now “discussion times” and firsties eat last since they “have to make sure everyone has some.” Breakfast and noon meal are “mando” and dinner is cafeteria style. They do sit at attention but “three chews and a swallow” is gone. They didn’t know what a Parade was, nor was “knock ’em together” familiar. Bracing up and burbling peas are all gone. Philo is unknown, and spirit sheets are pretty rare. They do still bet on games. One of my mids had to wear her uniform backwards. She got to class early and stepped out, I had the class give her a standing ovation when she came back and she loved it.

Pro stuff is handled a lot differently. They have a ProKno(wledge) book with weekly topics and a ProKno test every few weeks. From sponsoring, I know their summer cruises are not nearly as intense, with some ship cruises less than two weeks. Also, because of COVID, ProTraMid is now 3/c summer. The 2/c couldn’t do youngster cruise, but they needed one for graduation, so they swapped. They do have a lot of opportunity for internships, and those are pretty interesting.

The last thing is sports/PT. They still have a semi-annual PT, but it is the standard Navy one that didn’t exist in our day. But they have company PT and it is just a whole different level. With women there are 33 varsity sports, and they work with the team year round. They also have a bunch more club sports; hockey, parachuting, infantry drill for instance. Intramurals include cycling, marathon, power-lifting, and frisbee-golf.”

Thanks for the insight into how things are in the Yard today, Ric!

’75 Sir! Larry