

YOUR ASSOCIATION AT WORK

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

ARTICLE BY DEBBIE DAVIS '83

The Alumni Association decided about twenty years ago to present scholarships annually to deserving midshipmen. These were traditionally made to three midshipmen, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

In 2016, the Board voted to create an endowment in honor of CAPT Alfred M. Koster, IV, USN who was CO of the unit during a time when the UNC-Chapel Hill contingent was flourishing in the early 1980's. I am a 1983 grad, and as a woman midshipman who later served as a non-warfare-qualified unrestricted line officer like many women at the time.

I was particularly grateful for his support and encouragement during my service as Battalion Commander in Spring 1983 and later during my active duty career (we met again in early 1987 while he was CO of the NTC in Orlando, FL). CAPT Koster's wife, Aggie, and children have made significant contributions to the endowment. The idea is to create a principal of \$20,000 that could be invested to yield adequate interest to support an annual gift/scholarship to a deserving midshipman in the Chapel Hill battalion.

As well as the Koster Scholarship, the Board voted to promote the development of additional endowments to support the other scholarships. The Board encourages all members of the Association to consider a donation in support of the Scholarship fund. We need about \$60,000 total to fund three gifts of \$1,000 annually.

In October, I had the great pleasure to present the scholarships at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association. Many thanks to all who turned out in spite of pounding rain from Hurricane Matthew. The scholarships were awarded based on recommendations from the unit staff who took into account financial need, military aptitude and academics. Seven candidates were sent to the Board for election. The Koster Scholarship went to the midshipman with the most votes. The other scholarships were awarded to the midshipmen who received the second and third highest votes awarded.

I met each of these young men before the presentation, and I am convinced that the future of the Navy is in good hands, as is the UNC unit as they grow in leadership. They have excellent support and training from CAPT Gillespie and the rest of the unit staff. The unit has been down in numbers in recent years, but there is a strong spirit of renewal blowing through. Alumni need to support the increasing numbers of interested young people in any way possible—Participate in any way possible. The midshipmen love talking to us "old fogies." Completely astounds me!! Especially since my experience as a woman officer is completely different from the experience of the current women midshipmen, in particular.



The Koster Scholarship was presented to Midshipman 3/c Caleb Gill. He was born in Bulgaria while his parents were doing missionary work, but he spent most of his time growing up in West Plains, MO. He is a Biology major who spent his whole freshman year thinking he wanted to be an EOD Officer, but CORTRAMID has shown him the light (darkness?) and he is strongly considering submarines. Fitting, since CAPT Koster was a submariner!

The other scholarships went to:



MIDN 3/c John Canipe. He was born in Edgewood, KY but grew up in Salisbury, NC and graduated from Salisbury High School. He is a business administration hopeful, applying to the Kenan-Flagler Business School this year, but will major in economics if not accepted. Finally, he is a Naval Special Warfare hopeful.



MIDN 3/c Parker Simpson. He is from Mooresville, NC and is a chemistry major at UNC. He wants to become a Surface Warfare Officer for the Navy, but eventually aspires to become a doctor.