

The Love Below

Happy-Go-Jacky News from the Class of '03 - In The Navy

Townie Page Luke Hasskamp

Carleton recently purchased the old Northfield Middle School. It's located at 3rd Street, across from Nutting House. Big time. The plan is to convert the building into a campus art center and convert Carleton into a "Consciously Creative Campus". The College is planning a major renovation of this space, and if all goes according to plan, Carleton will one day have a very legitimate Center for the Arts on campus. It is likely that this center would house the studio art and art history departments, an art museum, the Cinema and Media Studies Department, as well as a nice theater space for performing arts and film. In addition, Carleton will probably add a Cinema and Media Studies major and a performing arts concentration in a couple years. You can find more information at the Carleton website.

Another semi-sweet thing you can find on the Carleton website is a collection of archived Carletonians. Nearly every past issue is available. It's amusing to look at some of the issues from our student days. Here are some of the headlines from our first Carletonian issue (September 24, 1999): "'The Body' Fails to Engage the Mind" about Gov. Jesse Ventura's opening convo, and "Dean Govoni Pledges to Crack Down on Parties in Off-Campus Houses" - I think this was a weekly column. Check it out. Much of it is quite hilarious. Be warned that the search mechanism seems clumsy, but be patient and you'll figure it out.

In other news Sally Ride, the former astronaut, presented at convo a couple weeks ago. I forgot to attend, but I heard that she was funny, which is pretty typical for a former astronaut. I like Sally Ride as much as the next guy. Unless the next guy doesn't like Sally Ride, in which case I like Sally Ride more than the next guy.

Perkins family restaurant is now open in Northfield, which is nice, except that it closes at 11 p.m., like everything else in Northfield. Lame.

Finally, I encourage you all to join Facebook. It is my new guilty pleasure, replacing online poker. About 10 percent of our class has joined, and it's actually a great way to stay in touch with people. Plus, if you look hard enough, you'll find funny pictures of Will Sierzchula.

On March 1st, there will be just 843 days remaining until our 5th reunion.

*** Class Notes ***

Our next issue is going to be entirely devoted to YOU! We want everybody to send in a quick sentence or two update on what you're doing in life. Similar to the Class Notes section of the Voice, we want to spread the word and let our classmates know where everybody is, what they're doing, and/or something interesting that they've done lately. **Email scott.kleinheksel@alumni.carleton.edu with your update to be published in the next The Love Below.**

Ensign Alison Rupp Pearl Harbor, HI

MY FIRST YEAR IN THE NAVY has been one of the best I have ever lived. I joined the navy in early December 2004 and received my commission as an officer last March. So far it has been all training but as of February I am officially attached to a ship based in Pearl Harbor, HI. I serve as a supply officer in charge of paying people, running the ship's store and vending machines, and anything having to do with food. I'm also one of two people qualified to serve as "ground control" for landing helicopters and serving some capacity on the damage control team. It's great!

Training was absolutely amazing. Officer candidate school was the most intense experience I have ever had. There were some downsides, namely awakening at 4:20 in the morning after turning in at 2:00 for several weeks in a row. The sheer number of pushups and living 24-7 under the eyes of Marine drill instructors who NEVER miss anything was also a



challenge. However, it was worth it for the sight of the sunrise while running to a great cadence, being in excellent shape, and the people. I have met many interesting, kind, dedicated people whose friendship I will value forever.

Further training has not been quite as much fun—more like going back to high school, but getting to the ship and going on deployments around the Pacific is phenomenal. So far I love the Navy and wouldn't trade this year for anything. I can't wait to get out there and start doing my job. Moving around every few years, meeting new people, seeing new places—it's everything the commercial promises. If you make it to Hawaii in the next couple of years be sure to look me up!

Ensign James Lloyd Somewhere, USA

THOUGH THE NAVY IS NOT without faults, as a newly minted Ensign I feel as though I have finally come home. Having attempted physics graduate school only to discover how little I enjoyed the experience, I applied for Navy Officer Candidate School looking for... nothing that can be easily put into words. Perhaps I was searching for purpose, or to serve my country, or a respected occupation. At any rate, I have found all of these, in addition to a host of nonsensical rules and regulations.



Being that I am liberal, outspoken, and used to left-leaning communities, the political adjustment has been an experience, to say the least. The most diplomatic way to put this is that in the Navy political correctness has not quite taken root. The positive aspect of this is that experiencing diversity in political opinions allows one to move far beyond politics in interpersonal relationships. Given that all of my fellow officers and I are in the Navy for the same essential reasons (serve country, kill terrorists, etc.), we can bypass political differences very easily.

Professionally the Navy is highly rewarding, at least so far. Being paid to read the newspaper and tell people what you think is a dream job, particularly when you are doing it for your country.

Khaki's in style this year, isn't it?

Ensign Cara Jones

Norfolk, VA

I WRITE THIS FROM MY desk where everything is fastened down as we rock back and forth on the waves out here in the Atlantic. I joined the US Navy a year after we graduated and I am now stationed as the Assistant Intelligence Officer on the USS BATAAN, a large-deck amphibious assault ship (pictures throughout issue and at www.bataan.navy.mil).

Our illustrious editors have asked me to write about why I chose to join the military considering Carleton isn't exactly a recruiter's dream assignment. While Operation Enduring Freedom was in full swing our senior year and the debate raged about the likelihood of WMD in Iraq, I thought the best way to find out for myself would be to join the intelligence community. And since the Navy was the only service that allowed an individual to sign up for Intelligence before going to boot camp, I ended up in the Navy.



So after Officer Candidate School (lots of being yelled at by Marine Corps Drill Instructors...think the opening scenes of *Full Metal Jacket* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*) and six months of Intel school, I am now on this big war ship. Although I'm not exactly on the hot trail after Osama, I now know a lot more about fire-fighting, fixing leaks, engines and navigation than I ever could have imagined. Despite being just a bit smaller than an aircraft carrier, our ship is pretty



versatile, able to carry up to 2,500 marines along with their airplanes, helicopters and amphibious assault boats. Additionally, we have a full medical complement which includes 4 operating rooms and a sickbay that can accommodate up to 200 patients. We were able to help out with Hurricane Katrina relief operations with our embarked helicopters flying numerous reconnaissance and relief operations.

I'll be onboard for another year and a half which will allow me to make a full 6-month deployment over to the Arabian Gulf. The Navy isn't experiencing the same level of involvement in the Middle East as the Marines and Army, but with no other country in the world matching the size and range of the US Navy, we remain a vital part of keeping open the shipping lanes of the world.

If you're driving through Virginia Beach / Norfolk give me a call and I'd be glad to show you the ship. There are not exactly a lot of Carleton folks in this military town so any visitors would be greatly welcomed!

Class of 2003 Logo / Slogan Contest

It has come to the attention of your Class Officers that 2003 has neither an official logo nor slogan. If we did, we would be truly bad-ass. So, when you're emailing us your update blurb for the Class Notes, send along your suggestion for an official motto and/or logo. The following two entries have already been submitted, but I know the rest of y'all can do better. Entries can be sent to lhasskam@acs.carleton.edu. C'mon, you know you wanna!

