



# THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

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## Olmsted Foundation Expands Undergraduate Program to Include The Citadel

The Olmsted Foundation recently expanded its undergraduate overseas travel and cultural immersion program by adding The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina to the number of participating schools.



The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, is dominated by its iconic and imposing clock tower located just off the parade field.

At its most recent meeting last October, the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors approved a memorandum of agreement to establish the program and authorized an initial grant of \$20,000 for overseas travel and cultural immersion during academic year 2021-2022. On October 29, 2021, Foundation Executive Vice President Mark Elfendahl travelled to The Citadel where he and General Glenn M. Walters, USMC (Retired), President of The Citadel, met to sign the agreement and officially establish the program.

The Citadel joins four federal service academies, four other senior military colleges, and two ROTC programs as the eleventh undergraduate school participating in the Olmsted travel program. The other senior military colleges include Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the University of North Georgia.

Dr. Zane Segle, professor of foreign languages at The Citadel and Executive Director of the Center for International and Special Programs, was very excited about the new program. “We are so pleased to have reestablished this program, and we’re very excited to start this new phase of our partnership with the Olmsted Foundation.”

Segle will manage and execute the travel program at The Citadel, to include the selection of travel destinations as well as cadets to participate. Each year approximately six to eight contracted (active duty bound) cadets will be able to participate based on funds available and an order of merit list. Each September, Segle will document the travel experiences of these cadets in an annual report to the Olmsted Foundation.

Also known as the Military College of South Carolina, The Citadel was established in 1842. The school has a long and storied history dating back all the way to the Mexican War. Graduates of The Citadel have included 6 governors, 10 state adjutants general, over a dozen U.S. senators and congressmen, presidents of 47 colleges and universities, and nearly 300 generals and admirals in the armed forces. Over 450 Citadel graduates have given their lives in wartime, the majority of these during World War II.

Past presidents of The Citadel have included General Charles P. Summerall, USA, General Mark W. Clark, USA, Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, USN and Lieutenant General John W. Rosa, USAF.

Today, The Citadel has a student body of about 3,600. Of these, about 2,300 are members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. Each year, approximately 35% of the graduating cadets receive commissions as officers into the military via one of the various ROTC programs.



Colonel Elfendahl and General Walters sign copies of the memorandum to establish an Olmsted undergraduate travel program at The Citadel.

## Chairman's Corner



Among the many ways the Foundation promotes the Olmsted Scholar Program are some important programs focused on undergraduates. Since 2002, the Foundation has sponsored overseas travel programs at West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force Academy. More recently, the Foundation began a similar program at the Coast Guard Academy.

The Foundation also sponsors overseas travel programs at five of the six state Senior Military Colleges and two targeted ROTC programs. Partner schools include Norwich University, the Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the University of North Georgia, and ROTC programs at Norfolk State University and Georgia State University. A few months ago, the Foundation began a new program with The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. This exciting expansion is highlighted on the front page of this newsletter.

These programs provide select cadets and midshipmen an opportunity to travel to foreign countries, typically for 2-3 weeks at a time, to expose them to foreign cultures, languages, and perspectives. In this way, the Foundation supplements their pre-commissioning training with an important broadening opportunity, which can only make them better junior officers. Moreover, this exposure promotes awareness of, and interest in, the Olmsted Scholar Program. Indeed, a growing number of Scholars selected in recent years have told the Foundation they first became interested in the program after participating in one of these overseas travel opportunities as undergraduates.

Finally, the Foundation sponsors annual foreign affairs conferences at the nation's Service Academies. The Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) at West Point, the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) at Annapolis, and the Academy Assembly at the Air Force Academy all serve to promote awareness, engagement, and dialog on a wide range of subjects related to international relations, global politics, and national security.

Needless to say, the Foundation's "main effort" will always be the Olmsted Scholar Program. However, these undergraduate programs are an important part of our overall strategy to shape future leaders and ensure they are educated broadly.

*Kurt W. Tidd  
Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board*

## President's Perspective



Greetings from Falls Church, Virginia. Olmsted Scholars around the world just celebrated an ancient holiday honoring St. Valentine. What began as an early Christian feast, now celebrates commitment and pleases lovers, chocolatiers and florists around the world. This year Valentine's Day was also the last day for Scholar finalists to submit their country preference lists before the Board meets to select the Olmsted Class of 2023.

We continue to celebrate the centennial of the service of George and Jerauld Olmsted as First Captain at West Point and Brigade Commander at Annapolis in 1921-22. We have already highlighted this unique and historic event on social media, in academy football game programs, and in their alumni magazines. But the celebration isn't over: On May 11, 2022, the Chairman and I will be at the Naval Academy where we will dedicate the Olmsted Corridor of Nimitz

Library to recognize the service and graduation 100 years ago of the two Olmsted brothers. A week later, we will be at Military Academy to dedicate the Olmsted Wing of Jefferson Library for that same purpose. In this way, their unique legacy will be perpetually recognized at both academies.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Scholars for your thoughts, notes, emails, and prayers for my wife Mary over these past eight months. As most of you know now, in early June of last year, Mary was diagnosed with a stage-four malignant brain tumor, a Glioblastoma. It was both inoperable and incurable. After a courageous fight, Mary passed on January 21st, at home, in peace and without pain, surrounded by family. I cannot adequately express my thanks for the love and compassion that so many shared with me. Mary loved dearly the Olmsted ideals, all the Scholars, and their families.

Thank you.

*Bruce K. Scott  
Major General, US Army (Ret.)  
President & CEO*

## Undergraduate Programs Begin to Resume Travel



Olmsted Executive Vice President COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena) briefs ROTC cadets at Norfolk State University.

The Olmsted Foundation's commitment to education goes beyond young military officers. The Foundation's Undergraduate Program offers overseas travel and cultural immersion opportunities to cadets and midshipmen at service academies, Title 10 schools, and ROTC programs. Trips are planned and executed by the individual schools, and have specific objectives. The schools are visited periodically by Foundation officers and Directors, who meet with program coordinators and speak to students about the different aspects of the program.

For nearly two years, restrictions related to the COVID pandemic precluded any foreign travel by Olmsted partner schools. Recently however, the US Naval Academy was once again able to send two groups of midshipmen on overseas trips. A group of twelve midshipmen spent ten days in Iceland touring and studying the environmental impacts of energy use in Iceland. Said Midshipman

Luke Haider '22 "This experience has imbued me with a better understanding for building connections with different cultures. Throughout the country, I learned how to observe the new customs and traditions and how to honor the traditions of the society. These skills will allow me to build better foreign relations as an officer."

This past summer, nine midshipmen participated in a two-week Arabic Majors Immersion Program (AMIP) in the International School in Givat Haviva, Israel. They studied Modern Standard Arabic in a classroom setting and participated in field trips to an the Arab village of Barta'a, a kibbutz (Mishmar Haemek) and the city of Acre. During the weekend, midshipmen visited other parts of the country such as Haifa, Caesarea, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Nazareth.

In addition, the Air Force Academy sent five cadets to Greece last summer. While in Greece, they studied the impact of economic policies on Greek history and culture. The cadets spent twelve days traveling the country. Their visit included a stop at the Hellenic Air Force Academy.



US Naval Academy midshipmen with the President of Iceland, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson.



Air Force Academy cadets visit the Acropolis on an Olmsted Foundation sponsored trip to Greece.

This past fall, the University of North Georgia also sent two cadets to intern at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany.

In addition to grants for trips, the Olmsted Foundation financially supports these Military Academy International Conferences and Symposia: the Academy Assembly at the US Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) and the Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) at the US Military Academy.

All of the other Olmsted partner schools have indicated their intent to resume travel during the coming year. They remain hopeful about restarting these unique leader development opportunities.



# Olmsteding in the Time of COVID with Kids!

by Angelica Bergoo, wife of Maj Adam Bergoo (OSC 21, Santiago)

*Editor's Note: This story was submitted in August 2021.*

It's hard to believe we have now spent six months in country...and sobering that about half of the time has been spent in full quarantine or lockdown. Our Olmsted experience has been far different than we expected. We are experiencing Chilean culture while trying to keep up with the complex COVID policies implemented by the central government. We are LOVING Chile and experiencing the most incredible adventure, but we have learned that flexibility is the key to survival.

Chile has established a *Paso a Paso* (step by step) system to deal with the current pandemic, and it consists of 4 *pasos* (steps): Quarantine (lockdown), Transition, Preparation, and Initial Opening. *Comunas* (county) can advance to the next step or go backwards, and announcements are made twice a week.

When we first arrived in Chile at the end of January after completing our mandatory 10-day quarantine in a hotel room with kids (Sofia-5 and Camila-1), we were ready to go out and explore. During the summer of 2021, Chile gave each person a one-time *pase de vacaciones* (vacation pass) to travel to another region. While we were still waiting to move into our house, we decided to visit *Torres del Paine* for a week. Once we came back and enrolled our girls in a *Jardin* (preschool), they went to school for a week, and it was then announced that all of Santiago – 40% of the country – was going into *Paso 1*...full lockdown. We decided to continue preschool virtually, and we were impressed with the great job they did to keep the kids involved in the daily zoom class. I never thought a one year-old would ask to see her friends via a Zoom meeting. To be honest, these meetings were the only interactions we had with Chileans other than Adam's virtual Master's classes. We paid full tuition for an hour a day of "school" and for the opportunity to pick up school supplies every two weeks from the preschool.



The Bergoo Family finally out of quarantine.



Sofia Bergoo on Lago Grey in Patagonia.

After more than a month in lockdown, we went to *Paso 2*, which means kids could go back to school during the week, restaurants opened for outdoor seating, but weekends were in quarantine. During the week, we took advantage and visited wineries. Thanks to the pandemic, wineries let you do wine tasting walking around the grounds on your own.

While waiting for the unicorn of *Paso 3*, increases in cases drove the government to close Chile's borders to non-residents which cancelled all the plans for having family and friends to come visit. Chile has had an incredible vaccination rate compared to other countries in the region. To incentivize individuals to get vaccinated, a *pase de movilidad* (vaccine passport) was implemented to give additional liberties to fully vaccinated families. We were lucky enough to get vaccinated early on through the US embassy, but our vaccination records were not part of the Chilean national vaccination records, so we didn't qualify initially for these privileges.

A few weeks later it was announced (once again) we were going into full lockdown, so how did we keep learning about Chile and doing our immersion? Online wine tastings!! It was the perfect way to learn about different regions in Chile, learn about economics and politics involved in selling wine within Chile and other countries, and an option to build our wine *bodega* at home. I also got added to the neighborhood WhatsApp group, which has taught me so much about Chilean families. I have never met these ladies, but they are always willing to help answer all my questions about Chile. We have learned that Chileans are more

approachable via messages than in person. We are learning to get creative about ways to meet locals and live this adventure to its greatest potential.

We are now in *Paso 3* (we can leave our house any day of the week) and have our *pase de movilidad*. We returned from the Atacama Desert in time for our daughter to start kindergarten. Yes, playing tourist around Chile can be hard during a pandemic, but it has taught us to be spontaneous as a family and make last minute trips, like spending a week living in a dome in the middle of the desert.

PCR testing was required for several legs of our move to Chile and other regional trips. All the PCR testing has been well worth it because it has allowed us to visit amazing places such as the rare King Penguin colony in *Tierra del Fuego* and *Torres del Paine*. Facemasks are always required starting at two years old. The facemask culture was already the norm for our family, having been stationed in Japan before Chile. This eased the transition to Chile, where facemasks are obligatory throughout the country any time you are in a public place. A bit of dark humor is our one year-old gets uncomfortable when strangers approach her without a facemask, resulting in an immediate flow of tears.

Olmsted families, past and present: pack light, bring plenty of snacks, and continue Olmsteding!

## Bike-packing the Tuscany Trail

by MAJ Jacob Stücky (OSC 20, Lyon)

The Olmsted Experience feels like riding a bicycle—pedaling never gets easier, the bicycle just goes faster. This past year, lockdowns, curfews, travel regulations, and remote learning presented some genuine challenges on top of the ‘typical’ overseas experience. Fortunately, Sarah and I discovered a small bike shop in the heart of Lyon called *Baroudeur Cycles*. The French word *Baroudeur* describes someone whose life’s passion revolves around traveling; someone who is a mix between a vagabond and a globe-trotter.

During the lockdowns, bicycles were an essential part of Lyon’s transportation system—a fact that allowed the bike workshop to stay open and organize small group bike rides. Sarah and I embraced this close-knit cycling family as a means to explore our city, country, and culture. However, the sense of pride attached to the miles traveled comes second to the joy experienced from forging new friendships.

*Baroudeur Cycles’ esprit* is rooted in an emerging sport called “bike-packing,” a blend of backpacking and bike touring—preferably on old, unpaved, and under-traveled roads. A bike-packer, like an Olmsteder, must be self-sufficient. You need to be comfortable with wrong turns, detours, and the thrill of riding roads to parts unknown. A bike-packing bicycle typically weighs around 30 kgs (65 lbs). It carries only the bare necessities—food, water, tools, shelter, and a sleeping bag. The lack of amenities forces you to appreciate any little luxuries, and the slower riding speed coaxes your mind to stay in the present moment as you move closer to the final destination.

This past June, Sarah and I had the opportunity to complete the “Tuscany Trail,” the world’s largest bike-packing event. Over six days, our merry team of five Frenchmen and three Americans pedaled 500 km through Tuscany. Each day was emotionally and physically challenging, but our diet of pasta, pizza, and Italian wine helped ease the pain along the way. After the soreness and sunburns subsided, Sarah and I look back at our time spent traveling with our French friends by bicycle as one of our most memorable experiences thus far. So now the only question we must answer is, where are we pedaling next?

Again, we thank General George Olmsted and the Foundation Staff for this incredible opportunity to travel broadly and deliberately, and emphasize the journey, not the destination.



The Stückys pose with their fellow bike-packers on the Tuscany Trail.

## Coast Guard Scholars Host 'Lunch and Learn' Webinar



The US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association presents Lunch & Learn: The Olmsted Scholar Program.

This past November, four Olmsted Scholars participated in a US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association “Lunch and Learn” webinar. Coast Guard Academy graduate Scholars LCDR Melissa Martinelli (OSC 18, Buenos Aires), LCDR Mike Moyseowicz (OSC 19, Chengdu), LCDR Keith Robinson (OSC 20, Florence), LCDR Rory Yoder (OSC 21, Zagreb) were the panelists. Led by LCDR Moyseowicz, each Scholar addressed the opportunities and challenges of language training, living and studying abroad, exploring foreign countries, and the family experience.

Scholar summed up his or her takeaway about the Olmsted program:

LCDR Martinelli described a good Olmsted Scholar candidate as someone who can ... “balance proper preparation with an incredible patience and persistence to overcome inevitable challenges.”

LCDR Robinson remarked that he “never learned so much about the world, about myself, about my family, and about life, in such a short time.”

LCDR Yoder believes that if you “want to be confronted with what you take for granted on a daily basis this program is for you.”

LCDR Moyseowicz closed the webinar with this quote: “You can study international relations or you can live them.” Given the level of participation and interest, the webinar was a great success.

The webinar can be watched in its entirety here: [USCGA Lunch & Learn](#).

## Olmsted Scholar Promotions and Selections

### Selected for promotion to Colonel by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Lt Col Phoenix Torrijos (OSC 08, Beijing)
- ◆ Lt Col Lewis Vaughn (OSC 09, Nanjing)
- ◆ Lt Col Daniel Rueth (OSC 10 Sofia)
- ◆ Lt Col Jamil Musa (OSC 11, Rabat)
- ◆ Lt Col Geoffrey Bowman (OSC 12, Osaka)
- ◆ Lt Col Neil Senkowski (OSC 12, Berlin)
- ◆ Lt Col Joseph Wall (OSC 12, Freiburg)
- ◆ Lt Col Elia Hickie (OSC 13, Rio de Janeiro)
- ◆ Lt Col Mark Hickie (OSC 13, Rio de Janeiro)
- ◆ Lt Col Michael Sullivan (OSC 13, Beijing)
- ◆ Lt Col Timothy Bronder (OSC 14, Poznan)

### Selected for Major Command by the US Navy:

- ◆ CDR Nathan Luther (OSC 06, New Delhi)

### Selected for Commander Command by the US Navy:

- ◆ CDR Warren Fogler (OSC 16, Freiburg)
- ◆ LCDR James Billings (OSC 14, Shanghai)
- ◆ LCDR Jenn Hower (OSC 14, Jerusalem)

### Selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel by the U.S. Marine Corps:

- ◆ Maj Daniel Walker (OSC 12, Guangzhou)
- ◆ Maj Kyle May (OSC 13, Valparaiso)
- ◆ Maj Jonathan Brandon (OSC 16, Barcelona)
- ◆ Maj Ryan McGonigle (OSC 18, Sofia)
- ◆ Maj Christopher Hart (OSC 19, Ljubljana)

### Selected by the US Army for Colonel-level Command (Primary):

- ◆ LTC(P) Ryan Sullivan (OSC 08, Shanghai)

### Selected by the US Army for Lieutenant Colonel-level Command (Primary):

- ◆ MAJ(P) Andrew Hightower (OSC 15, Kuala Lumpur)

### Selected by the US Army for Lieutenant Colonel-level Command (Alternate):

- ◆ LTC Raissa Sanchez (OSC 14, Lisbon)



## Service Academies Honor Distinguished Graduates



Col. (Ret.) Leonard "Lucky" Ekman (OSC 69, Geneva).

Col (Ret.) Leonard "Lucky" Ekman (OSC 69, Geneva) has been named a 2021 Distinguished Graduate by the US Air Force Academy and the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates. The award is described as "among the highest honors an Air Force Academy graduate can receive," and it recognizes alumni who have "set themselves apart by making a lifetime of significant contributions to the nation, their alma mater, and their communities." Col Ekman became one of the most highly-decorated F-105 pilots during the Vietnam War. He retired as senior fellow at the Atlantic Council after two years as Vice Commander of the 16th Air Force.

More information about the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award can be found here: [https://www.usafa.org/Heritage/Distinguished\\_Graduates](https://www.usafa.org/Heritage/Distinguished_Graduates).

In addition, Olmsted Foundation Director LTG (Ret.) Nadja West is a recipient of the West Point Association of Graduates 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award. This annual award is bestowed upon those West Point Graduates "whose character, distinguished service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto 'Duty, Honor, Country.'" LTG West joined the Olmsted Board of Directors in October 2021. She is a 1982 graduate of West Point and retired from the US Army in 2019, having served as Commander of the US Army Medical Command/ Surgeon General.



LTG (Ret.) Nadja West, USMA Class of 1982.

More information about the West Point Distinguished Graduate Award can be found here: <https://www.westpointaog.org/GradNews>.

## Italy and Chile Scholars Meet-Up

With the easing of pandemic travel restrictions, Scholars around the globe are once again able to get together.

In November, CPT Julian Hutchins (OSC 22, Valparaiso) and his wife Amy took their familiarization trip to Chile. They were able to successfully find housing, enroll their daughter in preschool, and meet most of their trip goals. They also took the opportunity to meet with Maj Adam Bergoo (OSC 21, Santiago) and his wife Angelica.



Maj Adam Bergoo and his wife Angelica (left), visit with Amy Hutchins and CPT Julian Hutchins (right) during their recent familiarization trip to Chile.



The Robinson and the Ringelstein families toast the New Year together in Florence, Italy.

Kate and Kevin Ringelstein (OSC 21, Parma) and their three children joined Jennifer and Keith Robinson (OSC 21, Florence) and their two children to celebrate New Year's Eve in Florence.

## Foundation and Scholars in the News

ADM (Ret.) Jamie Foggo (OSC 87, Strasbourg), US Navy, The Abraham Accords and the Talking Stick, *The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*, <https://jstribune.com/foggo-middle-east-abraham-accords/>

ADM (Ret.) Jamie Foggo (OSC 87, Strasbourg), US Navy, Navy admiral rates eight navy warship battles in movies, *Insider.com*, <https://www.insider.com/navy-admiral-rates-navy-warship-battles-movies-realism-2022-1>

CDR Jon Ahlstrom, (OSC 12, Aix-en-Provence), US Navy, A Partnership-Centered Approach to the Indo-Pacific, *The Foreign Service Journal*, <https://afsa.org/partnership-centered-approach-indo-pacific>

Maj Stephen Crozier (OSC 20, Lima), US Air Force, Economists from San Marcos triumphing - Interview with Stephen Crozier, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zixYnr\\_Nyz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zixYnr_Nyz0)

CPT Julian Hutchins (OSC 22, Valparaiso), US Army, The Olmsted Scholar Program: Shaping Future Leaders, *Follow Me! Infantry Branch Newsletter*, 1st Quarter, FY22, <https://olmstedfoundation.org/wp-content/>

## Scholars, Update your Online Profiles!

Scholars are encouraged to go to the Olmsted Foundation website and update their Scholar profiles. Please help the Foundation keep your record current. You can access Scholar profiles by going to the Foundation website at <https://olmstedfoundation.org/> and clicking login on the top right corner.



The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation  
80 East Jefferson Street, Suite 300B  
Fall Church, VA 22046



[www.olmstedfoundation.org](https://www.olmstedfoundation.org)