



THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

Spring 2023

Volume 12, Issue 2

Anderson Speaks at DC Area Assembly

For the first time in four years, the Olmsted Foundation hosted a DC Area Scholar Assembly earlier this month at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington. The guest speaker for the event was Air Force Lt Gen Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno), who currently serves as the Director for Joint Force Development (J7) on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

Over 55 Scholars and guests attended the assembly. Before the buffet luncheon, Scholars had time to meet, visit with each other, and catch up with old and new friends. After lunch, attendees were welcomed by Foundation President and CEO, MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg), who also introduced Lt Gen Anderson.



CAPT (Ret.) Dave Sauve (OSC 01, Santiago), Lt Gen Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno), and MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg) enjoy conversation and lunch during the 2023 DC Area Scholar Assembly.



Lt Gen Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno) and MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg) at the DC Area Assembly.

In his remarks, Anderson shared a series of meaningful anecdotes from his path to becoming a Scholar, pointing out that great opportunities often present themselves in different ways. Some of the most riveting moments of Anderson's remarks came with his stories about his time in Brno a mere decade after the fall of the Iron Curtain. He and his wife Elizabeth, newlyweds at that time, made lifelong friends with both Scholars and people they met while in Brno.

Toward the end of his presentation, Anderson reminded Scholars on the program to reach out to former Scholars as they prepare to return to their Services and warfighting specialties. The Scholar community is larger and more connected than ever before, and former Scholars can help not only with the adjustment back to military duties, but also with assignments and career advice.

community is larger and more connected than ever before, and former Scholars can help not only with the adjustment back to military duties, but also with assignments and career advice.

Jonsson Nominated for Promotion to Brigadier General



Col. Benjamin Jonsson (OSC 06, Amman)

Air Force Col. Benjamin Jonsson (OSC 06, Amman) has been nominated by the President for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. Col Jonsson is presently the Vice Superintendent of the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Col Jonsson is a graduate of the Air Force Academy with a degree in Political Science. He began his Air Force career as a C-17 Globemaster pilot before studying in Amman, Jordan as an Olmsted Scholar. Jonsson earned a Masters degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Jordan.

During the Arab Spring in 2011, Jonsson was the J5 Desk Officer for Egypt and Jordan. Prior to returning to the Air Force Academy in 2022, Jonsson was the Commander of the 6th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Chairman's Corner



By now you will have seen the results of our most recent round of Olmsted Scholar selections. Each year, as we pore over the records carefully assembled by our headquarters team, I am struck by the breathtaking quality of all the nominees, and am convinced that we've managed to select the finest class of Scholars ever assembled. And it seems that each year we do even better than the year before. This graduate education program — established through General Olmsted's vision and generosity — is acknowledged throughout the Services as a unique leadership development program perfectly suited to broaden and enhance the strategic perspective and intellectual agility of junior officers who have proven their mettle in real world operations. While undergraduate academic achievement is recognized, our board of directors



tries to identify those officers early who are most likely to be selected for O-5 level command, however their Service and community defines that.

This year's Olmsted Scholars will assemble in Washington in early June to receive critical information about their opportunities and obligations, and will begin to form the bonds of lifelong friendship unique to Olmsted Scholars. I hope many of you will join us at Anderson House June 3rd for our annual business meeting and reception, and meet these impressive young men and women. As you take the time to get to know them, and appreciate their breadth and depth of talent, some of you will join me in being thankful we did not have to compete against such terrific leaders! I look forward to seeing many of you at Anderson House in a few weeks!"

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

President's Perspective



Here in my office in Falls Church, I sit trying to sort out what is new and different about the Olmsted Scholar Program that I haven't already written about. Admiral Tidd is "Spot On" in how he describes the continuing, outstanding quality of applicants we receive from the Services — all SIX of them. Those who can attend this year's Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception in June at Anderson House will see this for themselves. Each year it seems, we select a Scholar who wants to be a trailblazer, and this year is no different. In the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024, Air Force Captain Jeremy Butler will be the first officer ever to pursue his scholarship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan!

This year's selection process has brought me to a new and significant observation about Olmsted Scholars. When I was selected back in 1979 only 139 officers had been named as Scholars. Virtually no one, other than Scholars themselves, knew much about the program. And most assignment officers told perspective applicants, "If you do this Olmsted thing, you're likely going to wreck your career."

Fortunately, most applicants were confident enough in their own abilities that they pursued it anyway.

Fast forward to my schedule this week. I just returned from the retirement of one of our true heroes, Space Force Colonel and Astronaut, Mike Hopkins (OSC 03, Parma). And who officiated at this splendid ceremony? Vice Chief of Space Operations, General D.T. Thompson (OSC 93, Linz). Certainly two "wrecked" careers there! Tomorrow afternoon, I'll return to the five-sided building for the promotion to Colonel of Thomas Walsh (OSC 14, Ljubljana); and who will preside at that wonderful ceremony? None other than Lieutenant General Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno). Obviously, another two careers that went down in flames!

What's the difference? With 766 Scholars selected to date, the Services now know what kind of officer they get from this program. And believe me, the demand has never been greater.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on Saturday, June 3, 2023!

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



BG Joseph Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig) and LCDR Claire Clancy (OSC 15, Dresden) met at the Munich Security Conference in February. In addition to serving as Commander 7th ATC, BG Hilbert is also a former Olmsted active duty Director.

New Directors Elected

Two new active duty Directors joined the Olmsted Foundation Board in March. Col Michal Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung) is the new Air Force Director, and CDR Jon Ahlstrom (OSC 12, Aix-en-Provence) was elected to represent the US Navy.



Col Polidor is a graduate of the Air Force Academy. Prior to studying in Taiwan as an Olmsted Scholar, he flew the F-15E and B-2A. While in Taiwan, he earned a Master's degree in Social Science in China and Asia Pacific Studies at National Sun Yat-sen University. He is currently assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon.



CDR Ahlstrom is a graduate of the US Naval Academy. He holds graduate degrees from Institut d'Etudes Politiques - Aix-en-Provence and Imperial College London. Ahlstrom also commanded the USS COLUMBUS, a Los Angeles class fast attack submarine. He is presently a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Scholars Meet in the Pentagon



Front row, L to R: Maj Matt Pfarr (OSC 19, Madrid), Col Elia Hickie (OSC 13, Rio de Janeiro), LtCol Dave Saunders (OSC 11, Rabat). Second row, L to R: Col Justin Bronder (OSC 14, Poznań), Col Mike Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung), Lt Col Tom Walsh (OSC 14, Ljubljana), Lt Col Gary Sampson (OSC 09, Kaohsiung), Lt Col Isaac Baskins (OSC 08, Beijing), Lt Col John Boswell (OSC 17, Lima), Col Mark Hickie (OSC 13, Rio de Janeiro), Lt Col Pat Parish (OSC 16, Santiago), Maj Brandon Frei (OSC 17, Tuebingen), Lt Gen Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno), Maj Yoni Goldstein (OSC 19, Budapest).

Scholars in the DC Area gathered in February for an informal get together in the Pentagon. They were joined by Lieutenant General Dagvin Anderson (OSC 00, Brno). This gathering of Scholars is being held quarterly.

IN MEMORIAM

COL (Ret.) V. Paul Baerman (OSC 72, Geneva), US Army
 Lt Col (Ret.) Roger Lyle (OSC 61, Rio de Janeiro), US Air Force

Meet the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024



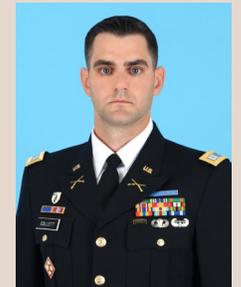
1stLt Turner Brown, USMC
Amphibious Assault
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Capt Jeremy Butler, USAF
F-35 Instructor Pilot
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



LCDR Charles Cassiano, USCG
Response Ashore
Lisbon, Portugal



CPT Adam Collett, USA
Infantry
Bologna, Italy



CPT Bryce Greene, USA
Special Forces
Bucharest, Romania



Maj Joshua Harnisch, USSF
Space Operations
Kyoto, Japan



CPT Adam Irons, USA
Military Intelligence
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Maj Daniel Jones, USAF
C-17 Instructor Pilot
Zagreb, Croatia



Capt Reuben Luone, USAF
Civil Engineer
Thessaloniki, Greece



LT Christopher Manchigiah, USN
MH-60R Pilot, T-6 Instructor Pilot
Bratislava, Slovakia



LCDR Sean Margot, USN
Intelligence
Paris, France



Capt Patrick McDonnell, USMC
Intelligence
Valparaiso, Chile



Capt Emma Mickelson, USMC
Intelligence
Poznań, Poland



CPT Randall Roos, USA
Special Forces
Taipei, Taiwan



LT Patricia Schleisman, USN
Intelligence
Hanoi, Vietnam

Maj Jenner Yuhas, USMC
KC-130 Pilot
Mendoza, Argentina



LT Julie Martin, USN
Submariner
Sofia, Bulgaria



LCDR Mark McSharry, USN
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Berlin, Germany



Maj Michael O'Kelley, USAF
B-1 Pilot, T-6 Instructor Pilot
Jerusalem, Israel



Capt Steven Roshong, USAF
C-17 Evaluator Pilot
Salzburg, Austria



CPT Royce Woodard, USA
Armor
Granada, Spain

Meeting Across The Miles

by CAPT (Ret.) David Sauve and LCDR Myles McCarthy

On his recent trip to Latin America, CAPT (Ret.) David Sauve (OSC 01, Santiago), US Navy, met with LCDR Myles McCarthy (OSC 23, Santiago), US Coast Guard, in Chile. Below are their observations.

CAPT (Ret.) Sauve: I had the fortune of good timing to be in Chile the same week that Myles arrived with his family. Myles and I first met at the Annual Meeting in June 2022 and have stayed in contact since. It was a delight to learn from Myles that he had a free morning to meet and talk about the McCarthy family's opportunities in Santiago, to include their options for housing. We took about four hours to crisscross the city on the Metro and on foot, from the *Plaza de Armas* to the *Plaza de los Dominicos*, seeing the central campus of the *Universidad Católica* (where I spent two years and where Myles will study), the Ministry of Defense, the National Library and the main downtown park, the *Parque Forestal*.

One of most rewarding aspects of the Olmsted Scholar Program for me is the camaraderie shared across time and around the world. It doesn't matter where one studied, or when one was a Scholar, it is possible to connect with an amazing and eclectic group of people that is the Olmsted Scholar family. It is certainly true however that there is a deeper level of shared experience with those who study in the same country and at the same school, as is the case with Myles and me. I gave him my thoughts about how to be most successful in school and in the program. Hopefully those ideas will be of benefit. Nonetheless, I have no doubt the McCarthy family will succeed.



CAPT (Ret.) David Sauve (OSC 01, Santiago) stands with LCDR Myles McCarthy (OSC 23, Santiago) on the campus of *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile* in Santiago.

OSP alumni should consider the Olmsted experience as being one for life, and we shouldn't hesitate one bit to connect with current Scholars, if for nothing more than to encourage them to take full advantage of this single opportunity to blaze their own trails in the program. Sharing hard won lessons might help current Scholars to maximize their own Olmsted experience without detracting from the unique aspects of their own tours. I'm also grateful Myles spent some time to allow me a trip down memory lane.

LCDR McCarthy: A career in the military offers a fantastic opportunity to live a meaningful and fulfilling life, while also heaping on plenty of stress with frequent relocations. It also tends to pull you out of a job you had just begun to master only to put you in one you know little about. The one consistent key to success no matter where you are is the support network which exists across the branches. The Olmsted Scholar Program is all of these dynamics on steroids. My wife, five children, and I just moved to a new country on a new continent. The stress of coordinating this move was considerable, and within the first week of arriving in Santiago we found ourselves with our work cut out for us getting the kids started in a new school, me starting my classes, and just the basics trying to learn a new city, culture, and language.



LCDR Myles McCarthy (OSC 23, Santiago) with his wife, Katelyn, and their five children on their first excursion to Los Andes, Chile.

Though we've been in country for just a few weeks now, I can say the OSP performs admirably in its goal of pushing young officers outside their comfort zones. Where it truly shines, and what makes being an Olmsted Scholar a badge of honor for life, is the network of support the OSP provides. It was evident to me the moment Orientation Weekend began last June that I was surrounded by high-performing individuals I could learn from and emulate. Former Scholars were so eager to share their experiences, answer my questions, and help in any way they could. I am very grateful to many former and current Scholars for helping me navigate challenge after

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

challenge, from my application all the way to how to transport seven people and 19 suitcases from the airport to our hotel.

CAPT Sauve uses the right term - fortunate - , in describing the overlap between his visit and our arrival, as it proved to be what I needed, just when I needed it. It was great to get a lay of the land, a crash course on Chilean public transport, a look at my future alma mater, but above all, I would summarize my major takeaway from our time together as learning that sometimes you don't even know what it is that you don't know. For me, walking the city with him brought me back to being the young conning officer, walking the pier with the Captain before it was time to take in the mooring lines and get the ship underway. Where I saw bollards and shore tie boxes, he saw opportunity and potential challenge; and just as I one day looked forward to developing such a seaman's eye, I said *hasta luego* to CAPT Sauve with excitement that before long Santiago would feel like home to us as well, as we prepare to blaze our trails across South America.

So, my word to the wise for my classmates and future scholars is don't miss the forest for the trees. Don't let the rigors and drain of language training let you pass up opportunities to make new connections, leverage the knowledge of prior Scholars, and above all, experience the camaraderie that is the hidden gem of this program. And of course, don't miss out on the opportunity to come visit, we'd be happy to have you!

Olmsted Scholar Promotions

Nominated by the President for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General in the US Air Force:

- ◆ Col Benjamin Jonsson (OSC 06, Amman)

Selected for promotion to the rank of Colonel by the US Army:

- ◆ LTC Timothy Peterman (OSC 10, Bangkok)
- ◆ LTC Walter Reed (OSC 12, Cadiz)
- ◆ LTC Andrew Pesature (OSC 13, Buenos Aires)

Selected for promotion to Captain by the US Navy:

- ◆ CDR William Carr (OSC 07, Kyoto)
- ◆ CDR Shane Jacobs (OSC 08, Baku)
- ◆ CDR Peter Mallory (OSC 09, Strasbourg)
- ◆ CDR Eric Hui (OSC 11, Santiago)

Selected for Command (Special Mission) by the US Navy:

- ◆ CDR Michael Deloach (OSC 19, Chiang Mai)

Selected for Command (Aviation) by the US Navy:

- ◆ LCDR Will Bogdanowicz (OSC 2018, Santiago)

Selected for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by the US Army:

- ◆ MAJ Peter Gomez (OSC 14, Madrid)
- ◆ MAJ Caleb Ling (OSC 16, Chiang Mai)
- ◆ MAJ Brandon Gilles, (OSC 17, Poznań)
- ◆ MAJ John Kline (OSC 17, Madrid)
- ◆ MAJ Jennifer Purser (OSC 17, Brno)
- ◆ MAJ Walter Biner (OSC 18, Stockholm)



Foundation President and CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce K. Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg) and Executive VP COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena) visited the US Naval Academy recently and posed after lunch with 12 USNA midshipmen who traveled last summer to Belgium, France and Germany on Olmsted-sponsored overseas travel programs. Also pictured is Mr. Tim Disher, Direction of International Programs for USNA.

Foundation and Scholars in the News

ADM (Ret.) Jamie Foggo (OSC 87, Strasbourg), US Navy and RDML Michael Baker (OSC 03, Istanbul), US Navy, The Navy as an Extended Arm of Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific, *Maritime Nation Podcast*, <https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/the-navy-as-an-extended-arm-of-diplomacy-in-the-indo-pacific/>

CDR Kevin Ringlestein (OSC 21, Parma), US Navy, When Two or Three Shall Meet, *Shipmate*, <https://www.usna.com/shipmate>

LCDR Rory Yoder (OSC 21, Zagreb), US Coast Guard, Coastie in Croatia: Reflections on an “Olmsted Experience,” *The Bulletin*, https://olmstedfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/051_Bulletin_Olmsted-Croatia_Feb_23-1.pdf

Maj Jennifer Walters (OSC 23, Aix-en-Provence), US Air Force, and Richard D. Newton, Any Time Any Place? Why Cutting the Air Force’s Irregular Warfare Capabilities is a Mistake, *Modern War Institute*, <https://mwi.usma.edu/any-time-any-place-why-cutting-the-air-forces-irregular-warfare-capabilities-is-a-mistake/>

2023 Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception



On Saturday, June 3rd, Anderson House will once again be the setting of the Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception for Olmsted Scholars. By now, all Scholars should have received their invitations. Please join us to welcome the new Scholar Class of 2024 and for an evening of camaraderie. We encourage Scholars to sign up as soon as possible.



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



www.olmstedfoundation.org