



THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

Summer 2023

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Foundation Welcomes Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024 at Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception



Front Row (L to R): CPT Royce Woodard (Granada), CPT Bryce Greene (Bucharest), Maj Michael O'Kelley (Jerusalem), Maj Daniel Jones (Zagreb), CPT Jeremy Irons (Rio de Janeiro), Capt Emma Mickelson (Poznań), LT Patricia Schleisman (Hanoi), LT Julie Martin (Sofia), LCDR Sean Margot (Paris), 1stLt Turner Brown (Ljubljana).

Back Row (L to R): CPT Aaron Collett (Bologna), Capt Steven Roshong (Salzburg), Capt Jeremy Butler (Bishkek), Capt Reuben Luone (Thessaloniki), Maj Joshua Harnisch (Kyoto), LCDR Charles Cassiano (Lisbon), Capt Patrick McDonnell (Valparaiso), Maj Jenner Yuhás (Mendoza), LCDR Mark McSharry (Berlin), LT Christopher Manchigiah (Bratislava). Not Pictured: CPT Randall Roos (Taipei).

Oroza Receives 2023 Yablonski Award



CDR Carlos Oroza (OSC 15, Lyon) accepts the Yablonski Award from Foundation President & CEO Bruce Scott and Mrs. Bonnie Smith.

The 2023 Yablonski Esprit Award was presented to CDR Carlos Oroza (OSC 15, Lyon) at this year's annual meeting at Anderson House. The award is named for the late Col Robert Yablonski, USAF, who like Oroza studied in Lyon as a member of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 1980. Yablonski served on the Foundation's Board of Directors from 1997 to 2008 and also as the Executive Vice President from 2000 to 2008.

Each year, the Yablonski Award is presented to the Scholar who best exemplifies enthusiasm for the ideals embodied in the Olmsted Scholar Program. Part of Oroza's citation reads, "Throughout his career, Carlos has been a role model, active recruiter, and vocal proponent for the Olmsted Scholar Program. He is a magnet for Scholar candidates seeking advice and perspective, enthusiastically supporting them throughout the application process."

Chairman's Corner



Fellow Scholars — as you read this, the 21 members of our Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024 are kicking off their language training, many struggling with the challenges of mastering a new language, and most having already hit their first “wall.” You remember, when progressing with your new language, beginning to feel like you are really “getting it,” then suddenly feeling like you no longer understand a single word and must be the dumbest box of rocks in the room. As we all can attest, this first “plateau” can be discouraging but is only temporary, and when we keep grinding away, we regain comprehension and confidence. For many Scholars, this is the first time they’ve ever run into a real academic “wall.” Our Scholars are typically high-performing, hard chargers from high school, through university and commissioning programs, and into their military assignments. But that doesn’t always prepare them to learn a new language. This growth experience arms Scholars with the understanding — and critical confidence — that patience and hard work enable us to engage in all manner of new assignments, even when we feel completely ill-prepared. Enhanced self-awareness and intellectual tenacity are just two of the invaluable tools Scholars bring back to their Services, and they are a big reason Service leaders embrace the unique value proposition presented by General Olmsted’s visionary endowment.

Your Foundation receives frequent feedback from Service Chiefs and Vice Chiefs about how important the Olmsted Experience is in developing the kind of strategic-minded leaders required for the many national security challenges that lie just over the horizon. The Olmsted Lecture is where we often hear directly from these senior leaders, and this October we look forward to hearing from General Eric Smith, currently the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and recently nominated to be the next Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Smith is very familiar with our program and is looking forward to sharing his perspectives. I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear from one of our premier national security leaders, and I look forward to seeing you in October!

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

President's Perspective



Well, once again, we on the Staff of the Olmsted Foundation find ourselves in the middle of a scorching hot summer here in Washington, DC. Like many Americans across the country, we are captured in this enormous heat wave.

I am reminded of Bill Murray’s classic comedy, “Ground Hog Day” because the unbearable heat and humidity of July and August returns, exactly the same, every summer.

This is a perfect lead-in to our next big event at the Olmsted Foundation: The Great Scott Barbeque (an annual tradition), which will occur at my home the weekend of September 16, 2023. We invite all Scholars in the Class of 2024 to bring their families and bathing suits to my home on Mason Neck, Virginia in southern Fairfax County. I live on five acres on the Potomac, with a large swimming pool, kayaks, paddle boards and a passel of fishing poles for the adventurous who want to fish off my pier in the Potomac.

Also this year, with the end of the COVID pandemic around the world, we on the Staff are trying to visit current Scholars at their homes and universities. As you will read later in this newsletter, our Vice President Col. (Ret.) Sean Cosden visited Scholars in Taiwan and Thailand in April and May. In addition, I am planning to visit Scholars in Poland, Slovakia, and Belgium during the last week of September and first week of October, prior to our Board of Directors Meeting later that month. As a rule, we try to visit Scholars in their second year, meet their university presidents or faculty heads, and hear firsthand about the adventures (and any issues) Scholars or families have had on their tours. We truly enjoy these visits, and we learn so very much from each family.

In closing, all of us at the Foundation hope 2023 will continue to be a healthy, happy, and productive year for you and your families. And we hope all our alumni, as they read this newsletter, will be reminded of their own journeys into the unknown as Olmsted Scholars.

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

Cosden Visits Scholar Families in Asia

Olmsted Foundation Vice President Colonel (Ret.) Sean Cosden (OSC 06, Sofia) visited four Scholars in Asia this past April and May. His first stop was Taipei, Taiwan, where Cosden was able to visit with both Maj Matt Fryer (OSC 22) and MAJ Thomas Spencer (OSC 21).

In Thailand, Cosden stayed with Maj Joseph Deavenport (OSC 21) in Bangkok, and in Chiang Mai he visited Capt Eric Everhart (OSC 22). In each of the three cities he had the opportunity to talk with the Scholar families, tour the universities, and meet with professors and colleagues of the Scholars. He also presented each university with a copy of the Olmsted Foundation Register of Scholars.

Cosden is the first Foundation officer to travel overseas since before the pandemic. Staff members look forward to more opportunities for visits in the future to gain insights and understand how to improve the Olmsted Experience.



Olmsted Vice President Sean Cosden at dinner with professors, classmates and friends of Capt Eric Everhart (OSC 22, Chiang Mai) and his wife, Megan.



Cosden attended a joint reception in Taipei for professors, classmates and friends of Maj Matthew Fryer (OSC 22) and MAJ Thomas Spencer (OSC 21) and their families.



In Thailand, Cosden visited Chulalongkorn University with Maj Joseph Deavenport (OSC 21, Bangkok) to meet with professors from the faculty of Political Science.

Scholars Attend White House Trophy Presentation



From L to R: Col Ben and Heather Jonsson, Lt Gen Leo and Chika Kosinski, Gen DT and Mary Thompson.

President Biden presented the Commander-in-Chief trophy to the US Air Force Academy football team in the East Room of the White House this past April. The trophy is awarded annually to the winner of the college football series between the US Military Academy (West Point), US Naval Academy, and the US Air Force Academy.

Present for the occasion were three Scholars. Gen David (DT) Thompson (OSC 93, Linz), Lt Gen Leo Kosinski (OSC 00, Tokyo) and Col Ben Jonsson (OSC 06, Amman) attended the ceremony with their wives. Jonsson is currently assigned as the Vice Superintendent of the Air Force Academy.

2023 Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception

Historic Anderson House in Washington, DC was again the setting for this year's Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception. Held the first weekend in June, the event capped orientation weekend for the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024. During a pre-reception held upstairs in the Olmsted Gallery, the new Scholars met and visited with Foundation leaders. Afterward, they were met by former Scholars who acted as sponsors and hosted them for the dinner. The Annual Meeting opened with the presentation of colors and national anthem by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. During the meeting, Olmsted President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott offered welcome remarks and presented the Yablonski Award to CDR Carlos Oroza, after which the new class of Scholars was introduced.



Guests gathered in the Olmsted Gallery to hear introductory remarks.



Lt Col Hunter Grunden (OSC 19, Aix-en-Provence) visits with Olmsted Foundation Chairman of the Board of Directors ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux).



Executive Vice President COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena) and Col (Ret.) Dave Estep (OSC 86, Dijon) at the pre-reception. Estep is a former Olmsted Foundation Executive Vice President.



Guests gathered in the Great Stair Hall of Anderson House as the new Scholars descended the stairs from the Olmsted Gallery pre-reception.





The US Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps presents the colors to open the Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting.



Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott conducts the business meeting after welcoming the gathered guests.



Guests gathered in the Hoyt Garden of Anderson House for a cocktail hour and the Annual Meeting.



Foundation Director LTG (Ret.) Nadja West and her husband Don visit prior to dinner.

A Heartfelt Message to New Olmsted Scholars

by RADM (Ret.) Tom Marfiak (OSC 1973, Paris)

It was an honor and privilege to attend this year's reunion and reception for new Olmsted Scholars at Anderson House in Washington. It has been fifty years since I began my tour as a Scholar in Paris with my young family after five years at sea, including two deployments to Vietnam. Accordingly, I want to thank General and Mrs. Olmsted for their vision and generosity in creating this remarkable program at a time when the need for it could not have been greater. I also want to thank General Scott and the staff for their unstinting support throughout the years and for organizing these annual galas where we can reunite as part of the greater Olmsted family.

Just after WWII, it became clear that the United States needed new ways to prepare leaders for the challenges ahead. General Hap Arnold suggested the idea of a National War College to educate future generals and admirals in what later became known as joint professional military education. A few years later, General Olmsted had the idea that by starting even earlier, the very best young officers could be educated broadly and equipped to lead their Services and the nation in the future. In the early 1960s, the first Olmsted Scholars went abroad to begin their studies in Europe and Latin America.

Back then, the Army, Navy, and Air Force each selected two or three scholars a year. By the early 1970s there were only about 50 of us. Today there are over 750. In the not-too-distant future, someone will become the 1,000th Olmsted Scholar. I hope that many members of this year's Scholar class will be able to mark that special occasion at a future reunion.

When I became a Scholar, the world was dominated by the Cold War, decolonization, and instability in Southeast Asia. Since 1990 and the fall of the Soviet Union, it has been driven by forces like terrorism and the rise of China. Certainly, the challenges have been relentless and demanding. But through it all, Olmsted Scholars have always served at the cutting edge. May it continue to be ever so.

I cannot tell you what the future may bring. We are already well into the 21st century, and new clouds are gathering on the horizon. We will need the vision and perseverance of Olmsted Scholars, just as we will need the dedication to excellence that General Olmsted embodied. Be strong and work together so our country

Olmsted Scholar Promotions

Selected for promotion to Colonel by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Lt Col Victor Kent (OSC 10, Prague)
- ◆ Lt Col Andrew DuBois (OSC 11, Taipei)
- ◆ Lt Col Scott Wallace (OSC 13, New Delhi)
- ◆ Lt Col Joseph Gorman (OSC 14, Taipei)
- ◆ Lt Col Shane Hughes (OSC 14, Bangkok)
- ◆ Lt Col Melissa Dombrock (OSC 15, Rabat)
- ◆ Lt Col Kevin Anderson (OSC 17, Valparaiso)

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

- ◆ Maj Matthew Pfarr (OSC 19, Madrid)
- ◆ Maj Esther Anderson (OSC 20, Seoul)
- ◆ Maj Ryan Clisset (OSC 20, Poznań)
- ◆ Maj Stephen Crozier (OSC 20, Lima)
- ◆ Maj Adam Bergoo (OSC 21, Santiago)
- ◆ Maj Curtis Cordon (OSC 21, Cluj-Napoca)
- ◆ Maj Thomas Daniels (OSC 21, Granada)

Selected for promotion to Commander by the US Navy:

- ◆ LCDR James Billings (OSC 14, Shanghai)
- ◆ LCDR Jennifer Hower (OSC 14, Jerusalem)
- ◆ LCDR Michael Hogan (OSC 15, Izmir)
- ◆ LCDR Nick Avila (OSC 16, Belgrade)
- ◆ LCDR Kevin Dewey (OSC 17, Guilin)
- ◆ LCDR William Bogdanowicz (OSC 18, Santiago)
- ◆ LCDR Zachary Smith (OSC 18, Thessaloniki)
- ◆ LCDR Riley Walls (OSC 19, New Delhi)
- ◆ LCDR Jeffrey Feldmann (OSC 20, Freiburg)
- ◆ LCDR Andrew Catoire (OSC 22, Lyon)

Selected for promotion to Major by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Capt Jeremy Butler (OSC 24, Bishkek)
- ◆ Capt Reuben Luone (OSC 24, Thessaloniki)
- ◆ Capt Steven Roshong (OSC 24, Salzburg)

– this great experiment in democracy – will continue to serve as a beacon on the headland for the rest of the world.

I will always be proud to have served as an Olmsted Scholar. Thank you, General Olmsted for this great gift. And to our newest class of Scholars: Carry on, and know that I, and every other Scholar, will be cheering you along the way. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Scholars Hike Darby 40 Miler



Scholars CPT Alex Holland (OSC 23, Florence) and MAJ Elliott Corey (OSC 22, Bologna) met up at Lake Garda, Italy with soldiers from the 173rd Abn Bde to conduct the annual Darby 40 Miler. The 40-mile hike honors the men of 10th Mountain Division and COL William O. Darby, founder of the American Rangers, who was killed in action in Torbole, Italy on April 30, 1945.

CPT Alex Holland (OSC 23, Florence) and MAJ Elliott Corey (OSC 22, Bologna) at Lake Garda.

All Olmsted Scholars are encouraged to go to www.olmstedfoundation.org and update their Scholar profiles.

Reber Takes Command

In June, COL Angela Reber (OSC 09, Kyiv) took command of Allied Command Counterintelligence (ACCI)(NATO)/650th MI Group in Mons, Belgium. Admiral Joachim Rühle (DEU), SHAPE Chief of Staff, presided over the ceremony.



COL Angela Reber (OSC 09, Kyiv) speaks to the crowd at her change of command ceremony in Mons, Belgium.

There are allies from well over 20 countries currently within ACCI. At the ceremony, the Reber family was joined by her former Russian professor from her undergraduate years at Iowa State University, who became an Orthodox nun 20 years ago and now lives in France. The Reber family have visited her many times over the years.

Olmsted Foundation Funds Undergraduate Travel Programs



Citadel cadets visiting Georgia participate in a hands-on exercise at the European Union Parliamentary Center.

The Olmsted Foundation's undergraduate program offers overseas travel and cultural immersion opportunities to service academy cadets, midshipmen, and ROTC students attending or associated with selected Title 10 senior military colleges.

This year, The Citadel sent a group of cadets to Estonia, Norwich University sent a group to Georgia, the University of North Georgia sent two cadets to Romania, and the Coast Guard Academy sent several to Colombia.

The Olmsted undergraduate program offers a great opportunity for future military officers to immerse themselves in a foreign culture and explore the world prior to receiving their commissions.



Cadets from Norwich University visited the Georgian Foundation for International Studies in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Cadets Caleb Hubbard and George Thompson of the University of North Georgia visited Romania to participate in a summer academic internship at the Nicolae Balcescu Land Forces Academy (LFA) in Sibiu, Romania.

Foundation and Scholars in the News

MAJ Scott A. Clark (OSC 19, Krakow), US Army, “Upon the Fields of Friendly Strife,” *Military Review*, May-Jun 2023, <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2023/Upon-the-Fields-of-Friendly-Strife/>



ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux), RDML Mike Baker (OSC 03, Istanbul) and BG Joseph Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig) met at a recent CAPSTONE class for which ADM Tidd served as senior mentor.



MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg), Col (Ret.) Mike Hopkins (OSC 03, Parma) and Gen DT Thompson (OSC 93, Linz) at the recent retirement ceremony for Col. Hopkins in the Pentagon..



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