



# THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

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## General Eric Smith Presents 9th Olmsted Lecture



General Eric Smith, Commandant of the US Marine Corps, responds to questions at the 9th annual Olmsted Lecture.

General Eric Smith, Commandant of the US Marine Corps, was the distinguished speaker at the 9th annual Olmsted Lecture. This year's lecture was held at the National Press Club and was well attended by Scholars and their guests, foreign attachés and senior military leaders. Many members of the newest Scholar class were also in attendance.

Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott opened the event by welcoming guests and briefly describing the mission of the Olmsted Foundation. Subsequently, Chairman of the Board ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd introduced Gen Smith.

Gen Smith spoke about the need for the US military to conduct effective campaigning and the capabilities the Marine Corps provides in this respect. He reminded the new class of Scholars that they will represent the US military to many people who may never meet another member of the US military. Following his remarks, Gen Smith held an extensive question and answer period.

Gen Smith and his wife, Trish, stayed for the post-lecture reception where many attending had the opportunity to speak with them.

First organized in 2014, the Olmsted Lecture Series seeks to bring together senior leaders from our National Security and Foreign Policy establishment, along with members, friends, and family of the Olmsted Scholar community, to discuss a topic of mutual interest regarding our national defense and international relations.

## Foundation Board Selects New Chairman

At the most recent Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors meeting, the Directors chose ADM (Ret.) Jamie Foggo (OSC 87, Strasbourg) to succeed ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux) as the new Chairman of the Board. The term of office for a Foundation Chairman is typically four years, meaning that Foggo is expected to serve as Chairman until October 2027.

ADM Foggo began his current term on the board 3 1/2 years ago. In addition, he served as the active duty Director for the US Navy from 2011-2012.

ADM Tidd has been Chairman of the Board since 2019. He will remain on the board as a Director to finish out his eight-year term. Tidd also served as the US Navy active duty Director from 2007-2008, and again in 2012.



Incoming Chairman ADM (Ret.) Jamie Foggo accepts the Olmsted Chairman of the Board gavel from the outgoing Chairman ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd.

## Chairman's Corner



I'm honored to address the family of Olmsted Scholars in my first Chairman's Corner column for the Olmsted Foundation newsletter. My name is Jamie Foggo, and I am a member of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 1987 at the University of Strasbourg, France.

Last week, I relieved Admiral Kurt Tidd after a four-year run as our chairman. First and foremost, I would like to thank Admiral Tidd for his steady hand and perseverance in leading the Foundation to success over the last four years. I'm delighted that Admiral Tidd has agreed to remain on the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors for the next four years. I will lean on

him frequently as I move forward. Bravo Zulu, sir!

As I reflect on my forty-year career in the United States Navy as a submariner, Fleet Commander, and NATO Joint Force Commander, some of my fondest memories are of my time in Strasbourg, France as an Olmsted Scholar. The lessons I learned during my Olmsted experience served me well throughout my career. I trust that all of our Scholars on active duty around the globe feel the same way. We need you now more than ever. I have never seen so many challenges for our men and women in uniform across the Joint Force in my entire career. The authoritarian triangle of China-Russia-North Korea poses a significant threat to America and her allies in the Indo-Pacific and in Europe. Iran's backing of terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah threatens peace and security in the Middle East.

As General Olmsted so aptly stated: "It is not enough to know one's own strengths, weaknesses, and general characteristics. Solutions to difficulties that arise between nations require knowledge and depth of understanding of the particular nations involved."

Accordingly, the things that you learn during your Olmsted journey will not only benefit the Joint Force as our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Guardians stand the watch far away from America's shores, but they will also benefit you for the rest of your life.

I'm excited to lead this organization for the next four years. Feel free to connect whenever you like. I value your feedback. In the meantime, keep charging and sail safe!

*James G. Foggo  
Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board*

## President's Perspective



As I type this column, I am once again struck by the beauty of the Fall season here in Washington, DC. The trees are vibrant in their hues, the air is clean, and it is still warm enough to enjoy a hike in the woods or a visit to one of the many incredible museums here in the nation's capital.

Like our new chairman, I would like to thank our departed chairman, Admiral Kurt Tidd, for the great leadership he has given our Foundation these past four years. He has been constant in his effort to ensure that when the Board selects officers as Scholars, they choose those with the greatest chance of becoming senior leaders in their respective Services. Considering the remarkable success our Scholars have achieved in promotion and command selection in recent years, it is obvious he achieved that outcome for the Foundation. And so, as he departs, this Army "shipmate" offers him a giant HOOAHH for a job very well done!

In addition, I want to welcome Admiral Jamie Foggo as our new chairman. Throughout his entire 40-year career in the Navy, Jamie was one of the staunchest supporters and advocates of the Olmsted Scholar Program. He always highlights his Scholar experience as a cornerstone of his great success in the Navy. I know I speak for all 766 Olmsted Scholars when I say, "Welcome aboard, Jamie!"

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the recent Olmsted Lecture, at which we were honored to hear remarks by the new Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Eric Smith, who gave a remarkable presentation to a sold-out audience at the National Press Club. And finally, I just completed a very successful trip to Europe to visit four different Scholar families in three countries, as you will read about in this newsletter (PS: Spoiler alert – They are ALL doing exceptionally well!)

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

## Olmsted Foundation “Lights the Night”



Kneeling (L to R): Hongmei and Michael O’Kelley; Kenai and Reuben Luone. Standing (L to R): Sean Cosden; Paxton, Mike, Nicky and Isla Polidor; Robyn, Jared and Matias Wilhelm; Katherine and Turner Brown; David and Amy Macdonald; Bruce Scott; Gary Sampson; Seth and Aaron Burton. Not pictured; Tiffany and Kailer Luone, and Elizabeth Cosden.

For the fifteenth year, the Olmsted Foundation participated in the annual Light the Night walk in Reston, Virginia sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Olmsted team walks to honor the memories of Colonel Bob Yablonski (OSC 80, Lyon), Captain Steve Murphy (OSC 96, Kiev) and Brigadier General Tony Smith (OSC 62, Paris).

The Olmsted team raised well over \$18,000 this year and was ranked in the top ten corporate teams. Over the last 15 years, Olmsted Foundation teams have raised a total of more than \$190,000 to support the fight against blood cancers.

The Olmsted Foundation would like to express its appreciation to all the Scholars and family members who supported or donated to this year’s event. More information about the Light the Night walk can be found at: <https://pages.ils.org/ltn/nca/NorthVA22/thegeorgecarololmstedfoundation>

## Kosinski Awarded Order of the Rising Sun



Lt Gen Leo Kosinski (OSC 00, Tokyo).

Air Force Lt Gen Leonard Kosinski (OSC 00, Tokyo) was one of this year’s recipients of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. This prestigious award is presented each year by the Japanese government. The award citation noted Kosinski’s contribution to strengthening the relationship between Japan and the United States in areas of national defense. The award was presented by Ambassador Tamaki Tsukada, the deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Japan, at a ceremony in August. Lt Gen Kosinski currently serves as the Director of Logistics (J4), Joint Staff. Prior to this assignment, he was the Deputy Commander of the Fifth Air Force in Yokota, Japan.



The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.



# A Visit to Scholars in Europe

by Bruce K. Scott

As I alluded to in my earlier column, I had a wonderful visit to some of our second-year Scholars and one first year Scholar in Europe from September 21 to October 11, 2023. I started my visits with Eddie Chang and his family at Louvain University in Brussels. I then visited Jane Mercer and her family in Poznań, Poland; followed by a visit to Tyler Sinisgalli and his wife, Sierra, in Krakow, Poland. I ended my visits with Rob Lenzen and his family in Bratislava, Slovakia. With all of these visits that the Staff and Directors do, our purpose is to see how the Scholars and their families are doing and make notes on anything that we on the Staff can improve. In addition we meet with key professors at all the universities and inform them what a unique program we have, and that all of our Scholars are future leaders in their respective Services. I am glad to report here that ALL the Scholars I visited are doing incredibly well. Please enjoy some of the photos taken on this wonderful trip!



President and CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott gathered with Scholars in the Brussels area for a reunion dinner. From bottom of the stairs: Jason Reber, COL Angela Reber (OSC 09, Kyiv), MAJ Eddie Chang (OSC 22, Louvain), Alexandra Johnston, LTC Seth Johnston (Marshall Scholar), MG Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiberg), Lt Col Mo Tanner (OSC 12, Strasbourg), Joe Tanner, LTC Brandon Frei (OSC 17, Tuebingen), Jacqui Frei, MAJ Curtis Cordon (OSC 21, Cluj-Napoca), Joanna Cordon, Yseult Bergman, LTC (Ret.) Bill Bergman (OSC 69, Groningen).



MG Bruce Scott joined Eddie & Grace Chang (OSC 22, Louvain) and Adam & Michelle Cribb (OSC 22, Malaga) during his trip to Belgium to see some of the local sites. Here they are seen in front of the Royal Palace of Brussels.



Eddie & Grace Chang hosted a reception at their home. Pictured L to R: Changs, Sarah Tabart (with her baby Elena), Daniela Rey Vargas, Michelle Cribb with son Aaron, Arnaud Collignon, MG Scott, Adam and AJ Cribb, and several school colleagues.





MG Scott and CPT Jane Mercer meet with Vice Dean Professor Anna Potyrała and Professor Rafał Wiśniewski of Adam Mickiewicz University.



Justin, Daniel and Jane Mercer (OSC 22, Poznań) with MG Scott in front of their home.



Samantha, Flynn, Cooper, Emilia and Maj Rob Lenzen (OSC 22, Bratislava) pose while touring Bratislava with MG Scott.



MG Scott met friends and colleagues of Maj Lenzen. Danyil Sokhat-skyi, Marko Čirny, Ladislav Horvath, Maj Robert Lenzen, Professor Zsolt Gál, MG Bruce Scott, Ivan Stopol.



MG Scott presented an Olmsted coin to Professor Pawel Laidler, Dean of the Department of Political And International Studies at Jagiellonian University.



CPT Tyler Sinisgalli (OSC 23, Krakow) with his wife, Sierra, and MG Scott stand in front of a vista of Krakow during the third stop of MG Scott's trip to Europe.



## Foundation Board Farewells Two Directors



Chairman of the Board Kurt Tidd (center) thanks outgoing directors Bob McClure (left) and Torkel Patterson (right) for their service to the Olmsted Foundation.

COL (Ret.) Robert McClure (OSC 83, Mainz) and CDR (Ret.) Torkel Patterson (OSC 81, Tsukuba) ended their 8-year terms on the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors in October. Chairman of the Board ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd presented each of them a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board. McClure served as chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee, and Patterson was chairman of the Outreach and Marketing Committee.

## Olmsted Scholar Promotions and Selections

### Selected for Wing Command by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Col John Blocher (OSC 09, Budapest)

### Selected for Wing Command (Alternate) by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Col Scott Morgan (OSC 10, Bucharest)

### Selected for Group Command by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Col Thomas Walsh (OSC 14, Ljubljana)

### Selected for Delta Command by the US Space Force:

- ◆ Col Phoenix Hauser (OSC 08, Beijing)

### Selected to be a National Defense Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School Government, Harvard University:

- ◆ Lt Col Kira Coffey (OSC 16, Guangzhou)

### Selected for Senior Service College by the US Army:

- ◆ COL Kenneth Wainwright (OSC 12, Jerusalem)
- ◆ LTC Timothy Peterman (OSC 10, Bangkok)
- ◆ LTC Ronald Garberson (OSC 13, Chiang Mai)
- ◆ LTC Ronald Hudak (OSC 13, Lyon)
- ◆ LTC Andrew Pesature (OSC 13, Buenos Aires)
- ◆ LTC Jared Koelling (OSC 14, Ho Chi Minh City)

### Selected for Senior Service College (Alternate) by the US Army:

- ◆ LTC Michael Anderson (OSC 13, Belgrade)

### Selected for Promotion to Lieutenant Commander by the US Navy:

- ◆ LT Riley Harsh (OSC 22, Florianopolis)
- ◆ LT Christopher Manchigiah (OSC 24, Bratislava)

### Selected for promotion to Major by the US Army:

- ◆ CPT Jane Mercer (OSC 22, Poznań)
- ◆ CPT Andrew Blood (OSC 23, Bogota)
- ◆ CPT Alexander Jefferies (OSC 23, Rabat)
- ◆ CPT Brandon Thoennes (OSC 23, Freiburg)
- ◆ CPT Adam Irons (OSC 24, Rio de Janeiro)
- ◆ CPT Randall Roos (OSC 24, Singapore)

### Selected for Intermediate Level Education by the US Army:

- ◆ CPT Jane Mercer (OSC 22, Poznań)
- ◆ CPT Andrew Blood (OSC 23, Bogota)
- ◆ CPT Alexander Jefferies (OSC 23, Rabat)
- ◆ CPT Brandon Thoennes (OSC 23, Freiburg)
- ◆ CPT Adam Irons (OSC 24, Rio de Janeiro)
- ◆ CPT Randall Roos (OSC 24, Singapore)

### Selected for Intermediate Developmental Education by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Maj Daniel Jones (OSC 24, Zagreb)
- ◆ Maj Michael O'Kelley (OSC 24, Jerusalem)

## Scholar Leads Educator Orientation Visit

by CDR Matthew Howell (OSC 20, Tbilisi)



While serving as Executive Officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Mid America, I took part in an annual Educator Orientation Visit (EOV) to Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, CA. The EOV is an opportunity for my team to take a group of high school educators on a week-long visit to a fleet concentration area. The goal of the program is to showcase the US Navy in action and demonstrate the many career opportunities the Navy offers to young men and women. This program is especially important in the Midwest, where many people are simply unaware or unfamiliar with the Navy and what we do.

This year, we took a group of 8 educators from across Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois to San Diego on our EOV. They were able to observe the Navy's core warfighting areas through ship, submarine, special warfare, and aviation squadron visits, as well as the Navy's support structure, including the Naval Hospital at Balboa and the aviation fleet readiness center. During each tour, the educators were able to hear directly from young Sailors about the opportunities the Navy had provided them.

CDR Matthew Boyce (OSC 19, Belgrade) and CDR Matthew Howell (OSC 20, Tbilisi) at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California.

Prior to our visit, I was able to reach out to CDR Matt Boyce (OSC 19, Belgrade), Commanding Officer of Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron 40 (VRM-40), who agreed to provide a tour of his squadron for our educators. We spent the better part of an hour with him and his team,

who provided an overview of the Osprey aircraft and its mission set. The group was able to tour the squadron spaces as well as an aircraft static display while engaging directly with the young Sailors assigned to Matt's squadron. It was an awesome event that our educators thoroughly enjoyed – made possible only because of Matt's and my shared experience as Olmsted Scholars!

After our formal visit, Stephanie, Orson and I, along with the Boyces, met up at Pomegranate Restaurant in San Diego for some delicious Georgian food! We spent the evening in true Georgian fashion, eating many different Georgian delicacies, drinking wine, and toasting! We had a wonderful time and enjoyed our chance to reminisce about our Olmsted experiences.

## Scholar Finishes *Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc*



CDR Andrew Catoire (OSC 22, Lyon) completed the 2023 *Ultra -Trail du Mont-Blanc*.

This summer, CDR Andrew Catoire (OSC 22, Lyon) completed the *Ultra -Trail du Mont-Blanc* (UTMB), somewhat of a mythic course for trail runners of the world that has been on his bucket list for years. The race starts and finishes in the heart of Chamonix in the French Alps. The mountainous course traverses Italy and Switzerland while covering 173 kilometers with over 10,000 meters of positive elevation gain. To complete the course, runners must finish in 46 hours 30 minutes or less. Catoire's parents were able to come out and crew for him, making the experience all the more special. They met him at eight or nine points along the course, hitting three countries in two days along the route and fighting off fatigue to cheer him on and help with refueling. Catoire started at 6:00 PM on a Friday and made it back to Chamonix just before noon on Sunday (41:47 total time), where his parents and a fresh beer awaited him.

The UTMB website describes the race as, "A race like no other, it transcends the sport, and has established itself as an iconic trail race, renowned worldwide."

All Olmsted Scholars are encouraged to go to [www.olmstedfoundation.org](http://www.olmstedfoundation.org) and update their Scholar profiles.

## New Scholars Gather for “Great Scott BBQ”



MG Scott welcomed guests to his home for the annual “Great Scott BBQ.”

Olmsted Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott once again hosted the “Great Scott Barbeque” for the newest class of Scholars in language training in the DC area. They and their families enjoyed a beautiful day on the banks of the Potomac. This event also gave the new Scholars an opportunity to meet informally with Foundation staff and local Directors.



Scholars and their families enjoyed the beautiful weather and time in the pool and on the patio and lawn.



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