



THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

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Foundation Welcomes Olmsted Scholar Class of 2025 at Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception



Front Row (L to R): CPT Ryan Deits (Regensburg), CPT Patrick Fugate (Bolzano), CPT Thomas Carlson (Santiago), CPT Samuel Morell (Cluj-Napoca), Maj Karen Miller (Seoul), Maj Staci Rouse (Split), 1stLt Andrew Hollister (Bogota), LT Diane French (Rabat).

Back Row (L to R): CPT Louis Beto (Istanbul), LT Daniel Gregory (Florianopolis), LT Nathalie Pauwels (Tokyo), Maj Cody Adkins (Vilnius), Maj Ernesto Guerrero (Tbilisi), Capt Jonathan Hebel (Taipei), Maj Christopher Maloney (Krakow), Capt Joseph Shiver (Athens). Not Pictured: LCDR Matthew Murphy (Lyon).

Denaro Presented with 2024 Yablonski Award



Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott is joined by Mrs. Bonnie Smith to present the award to Brig Gen Brian Denaro.

Brig Gen Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou), USSF, received the 2024 Yablonski Award in June at the Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception at Anderson House. The award is named for the late Col Robert Yablonski, USAF, who 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.

The citation for Brig Gen Denaro's award reads in part "Over his very successful career, Brian has been an active recruiter and vocal proponent for the Olmsted Scholar Program. He is a fantastic Scholar role model, especially within the small community of Air Force and Space Force engineers and acquisitions officers."

Chairman's Corner



During our recent Annual Meeting, Reunion, and Reception at Anderson House in Washington, DC, we introduced 17 new Olmsted Scholars to the broader community of active and retired Scholars who came to share in the fellowship of the evening. It was a spectacular event, in perfect weather, put on by MG Bruce Scott and our amazing, professional Foundation Staff. We also bestowed the 2024 Robert Yablonski Esprit Award upon Brig Gen Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou), USSF, for his tremendous service to the Foundation and the wider Olmsted community. A perennially active recruiter and mentor for numerous classes of Scholars, Brian is also a role model for candidates from the Space Force and the engineering and acquisition specialties. Bravo Zulu and congratulations, Brian!

As I write this column, I am serving at NATO's Joint Force Command - Norfolk as a Senior Mentor for the Commander's Operational Planning Course (COPC). In this course, 26 O-4s and O-5s from a dozen NATO countries are learning how to plan an allied campaign. Many of them have never met their allied counterparts before. Their experience underscores the value of our program, whereby Scholars gain an understanding of foreign cultures and make lasting friendships that open doors in future assignments around the world.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, NATO is at a critical crossroads as it celebrates its 75th anniversary with a meeting of Heads of State and the installation of a new Secretary General. We live in dangerous times, and we need allies, partners, and friends now more than ever. Olmsted Scholars are enablers that do just that. We are stronger together!

Keep charging, keep the faith, and keep doing what you are doing! If you are a Scholar, work and play hard, master the language and culture of your country, then graduate and get back to your warfighting community so we can maximize the return on our investment in you.

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

President's Perspective



I am writing this column on July 16th, and as it is every time I write my remarks for the Summer newsletter, it is incredibly hot and humid here on the outskirts of Washington, DC. We have had nine consecutive days with the temperature exceeding 97 degrees, and today it is supposed to hit 102 degrees with humidity to match. I am really starting to believe that climate change is happening.

The Chairman has already discussed this year's wonderful Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception that occurred, as it does every year, the first weekend in June. Once again, I was proud to have our Executive Vice President, Colonel (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl introduce the 17 Scholars of the Class of 2025. I know it sounds like a "broken record" (I suspect vinyl is the proper term now), but each year the Scholars selected by our Board of Directors seem more impressive than their predecessors. They are all now engaged in their language training, and shortly I

will host those in the area and their families at the annual "Great Scott Barbeque" at my home on the Potomac.

Although the phrase, "May you live in interesting times!" is often attributed to be of ancient and Chinese origin, it is neither. It was originally said by the American politician Frederic R. Coudert, Jr. back in 1939, and he was certainly living in interesting times when he said it. Well, we are back in interesting times, which will test our Scholars as they return to and continue their service facing many international challenges. With wars in Gaza and the Ukraine, ships being attacked by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, growing concern about China and Iran, and the constant nuclear saber rattling by North Korea, our military is blessed to have so many Scholars who are experts in all these regions.

You are force multipliers!

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

Elfendahl Visits Scholars in Europe

Olmsted Foundation Executive Vice President Colonel (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena) visited five Scholar families in southwest Europe during April and May to obtain first-hand feedback on the Olmsted Scholar Program and assess the quality of the experiences in the visited locations.

The first stop of the trip was in Coimbra, Portugal, where COL Elfendahl was able to spend time with Capt Claire Smith (OSC 23) and her husband, Charlie, who guided him around the university, town, and local area. He then traveled to Spain and stayed briefly in Malaga with Maj Adam Cribb (OSC 22), made a day stop in Granada to check in with CPT Ashton Woodard (OSC 24), and visited in Madrid with LCDR David Elsenbeck (OSC 22). Before concluding the trip, Elfendahl also visited France where he stayed briefly in Lyon with CDR Andrew Catoire (OSC 22), who is completing his studies there at Jean Moulin University III.



COL Elfendahl and his wife Leanne joined Capt Claire Smith (OSC 23, Coimbra) and her husband Charlie (both at far right), along with roughly 20 of their friends and colleagues, for a traditional Portuguese *Festa* featuring two roast suckling pigs and many other Iberian specialties.



Maj Adam Cribb (OSC 22, Malaga) and COL Elfendahl presented a copy of the Foundation's *Register of Scholars* to Professor Victor Solbes, Director of the Master's degree program in Peace, Conflict, Education and Human Rights at the University of Malaga.

In four of the five cities, Elfendahl had the opportunity not only to talk with the Scholars and their families, but also to tour the universities and meet with professors and colleagues of the Scholars. In addition, he presented each university a copy of the Olmsted Foundation's 60th anniversary *Register of Scholars*. Most importantly, these visits provided some valuable insights and ideas about how to improve the Olmsted Experience for future Scholars.



COL Elfendahl and Leanne enjoyed a street-side lunch in Granada, Spain with CPT Ashton Woodard (OSC 24, Granada), his wife, Ann, and their daughter, Elizabeth. Afterwards, they toured the Alhambra fortress overlooking the city.

MG Hilbert Assumes Command of Army Division



MG Joseph Hilbert and his wife, Beth, are joined by Olmsted President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott after Hilbert takes command.

MG Joseph Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig) assumed command of the Army's 11th Airborne Division at a ceremony in July at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. Most recently, Hilbert served as Director of Force Development in the Army G8 at the Pentagon. In addition, he commanded the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwöhr, Germany. Hilbert is the first Army Scholar to command



MG Joseph Hilbert accepts the guidon of the 11th Airborne Division. (US Army Photo by Spc. Kourtney Nunnery)

a division since John Abizaid (OSC 78, Amman) commanded the 1st Infantry Division in 2000. As an Olmsted Scholar, Hilbert earned a Master of Arts degree in European Studies at the University of Leipzig.

2024 Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception

Once again, Anderson House in Washington, DC was the setting for the 2024 Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception the first weekend in June. On Saturday evening, the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2025 was welcomed at a private reception held in the Olmsted Gallery, where they had an opportunity to meet the Foundation's Directors and other distinguished guests. Afterward, they descended to the Great Stair Hall, where they were greeted by Scholars who acted as their sponsors for the evening and hosted them at dinner. The annual meeting was held outdoors and began with the presentation of colors by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. The meeting concluded with the introduction of the new class of Scholars.



The Olmsted Scholar Class of 2025 is welcomed by President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott during a private reception in the Olmsted Gallery.



Scholars and guests gather in the backyard of Anderson House for a cocktail hour prior to the Annual Meeting.



The presentation of colors by the US Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps begins the Annual Meeting.



Vice President Col (Ret.) Sean Cosden holds General Olmsted's West Point tarbucket for Mrs. Bonnie Smith during the centerpiece drawing.

Blocher Assumes Command of 93d AGOW



Col John Blocher (OSC 09, Budapest) accepts the guidon of the 93d Air Ground Operations Wing. (Photo by SrA Courtney Sebastianelli)

Col John Blocher (OSC 09, Budapest) assumed command of the 93d Air Ground Operations Wing at Moody AFB, Georgia in July. The wing provides environmental intelligence, forward-based command and control, precision strike, and austere air base defense capabilities for the joint force.



Col John Blocher was congratulated by Foundation Vice President Col (Ret.) Sean Cosden after the Change of Command ceremony.

A 1999 graduate of the Air Force Academy, Col Blocher is an A/OA-10 pilot and has flown 150 combat hours. As a battalion Air Liaison Officer and Joint Terminal Attack Controller with the 3rd Infantry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Blocher earned the Bronze Star for heroism and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor.

As an Olmsted Scholar, Blocher earned an MA in International Relations at Corvinus University of Budapest.

Avichal Takes Command of Norfolk District



COL Sonny Avichal speaks after assuming command. (Photo by Alysia Rigano)

COL Sonny Avichal (OSC 12, Lima) is the new commander of the Norfolk District, US Army Corps of Engineers. The Norfolk District performs the dual military and civil works mission of engineering, construction and water resource management in the Tidewater region and throughout most of Virginia.

COL Avichal is a 2002 graduate of West Point and attended Pontifical Catholic University of Peru as an Olmsted Scholar. Most recently, Avichal was the Command Engineer for Special Operations Command - Africa.

In addition to many guests and family members, Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott attended Avichal's Change of Command.

Howell Commands NTAG

CDR Matthew Howell (OSC 20, Tbilisi) took command of the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Mid America this past April. NTAG Mid America is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. In his change of command remarks he said "I will hold myself and each of you to high standards, to uphold the core values of honor, courage, and commitment."



CDR Matthew Howell is joined by CAPT (Ret.) Dave Sauve (OSC 01, Santiago) and MAJ Jacob Stucky (OSC 20, Lyon) at his Change of Command.

CDR Howell is a Naval Flight Officer, a graduate of George Washington University, and attended the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs as an Olmsted Scholar.

Boswell Takes 40th BEB Guidon



LTC Timothy Boswell (OSC 14, Paris) is the new commander of the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, in Ft. Bliss, Texas. The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team supports CENTCOM regional missions.

LTC Timothy Boswell addresses the troops at the Change of Command for the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion. Boswell took command on June 24th.

Prior to this assignment, Boswell attended the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) in Ft Leavenworth, Kansas.

LTC Boswell is a 2006 graduate of West Point, and earned a Masters degree in Geopolitics & International Relations while an Olmsted Scholar at the Catholic Institute of Paris.

Colonels Mark & Elia Hickie Retire

In early July, Colonels Mark & Elia Hickie (OSC 13, Rio de Janeiro) retired from the US Air Force in a joint ceremony at the Pentagon. In their remarks, the Hickies thanked the many members of the Olmsted family in attendance, including Lt Gen Leo Kosinski (OSC 00, Tokyo), Lt Gen Dag Anderson



Mark & Elia Hickie enjoying the moment at their Air Force retirement ceremony. (Photo by SPC Joseph Spraktes)

(OSC 00, Brno), President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott (OSC 79, Freiburg), Col Fernando Cruz (OSC 13, Moscow), Col Mike and Lt Col Nicola Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung), and Mrs. Patty Stratton.



The Hickie family posed for photos at Mark & Elia's retirement ceremony. (Photo by SPC Joseph Spraktes)

While reflecting back on their careers, the Hickies spoke about how the community of Scholars is one of the best parts of the Olmsted program, which they hope to continue nurturing and supporting in retirement for years to come.

The Hickies will remain in the greater Washington, DC area for the time being. They and their children are planning extensive travel in the Spring of 2025, and they hope to visit current Scholars in places around the world during their travels.

Coast Guard Cutter Port Visit Reunites Scholars

by LCDR Mike Moyseowicz (OSC 19, Chengdu)

In May 2024, there was a Olmsted mini reunion in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am the Operations Officer on Coast Guard Cutter *James* (WMSL 754). The cutter's port visit to Buenos Aires was considered a major diplomatic breakthrough. It included visits by Argentina's newly elected president, cabinet members, and senior military officials. When planning the visit, we jumped on the opportunity to have the first Coast Guard Olmsted Scholar, LCDR Melissa Martinelli (OSC 18, Buenos Aires), fly down from headquarters and return to her Olmsted city of study to capitalize on the opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations.

The *Prefectura Naval de Argentina* (the equivalent of the US Coast Guard) hosted a roundtable discussion, led by their commandant and other senior government officials. Topics included Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing (IUU-F), which Melissa studied during her scholar time in Buenos Aires, and works in her current assignment. She joined my CO and one other rep from headquarters as the three US Coast Guard subject matter experts on this interagency discussion.

Additionally, with heightened media interest over the cutter's arrival and the US Coast Guard partnership, Melissa was interviewed and featured prominently across Argentina's news outlets. Topping it off, we were able to link up with Ryan Fortney (OSC 22, Buenos Aires) as he finished the final week of his Olmsted tour. He and Melissa knew all the spots and took us out for amazing food, wine, and camaraderie.

You can view photos from the cutter visit here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/embajadaecuubuenosaires/albums/72177720316590141/>



Melissa Martinelli (OSC 18, Buenos Aires), Mike Moyseowicz (OSC 19, Chengdu), and Ryan Fortney (OSC 22, Buenos Aires) together in Buenos Aires.

Norwich University Cadets Visit the Philippines

Each year, the Olmsted Undergraduate Program sponsors 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 summer, ten cadets from Norwich University traveled to the Philippines accompanied by Dr. Travis Morris, Director of the Norwich Peace and War Center. The cadets are sophomores and juniors, and all plan to receive commissions as officers in one of the branches of the US Armed Forces. They spent almost two weeks traveling around the country learning about the history, government and culture of the Philippines.



The Norwich University cadets visited the Manila American Cemetery. They placed a wreath and participated in the ceremony to lower the American and Philippines flags.



During the last two days of their visit, the cadets attended the Jungle Environment Survival Training (JEST) Camp where they learned jungle survival skills from two Filipino instructors.

Service Academy Cadets Intern at NATO School



Service academy cadets pose at the entrance to of the NATO School. Pictured (L to R) are: Ajay Letchuman (USMA), Reed Eddington (USFA), Isabella Cook (USMA), Blake Cheater (USFA).

In 2023, the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors approved funding for an international summer program for Service Academy cadets at the NATO School Oberammergau (NSO). This year, two cadets from West Point and two from the Air Force Academy took part in this internship.

Olmsted Scholar Promotions and Selections

Selected for promotion to Colonel by the US Air Force:

- ◆ Lt Col Maureen Tanner (OSC 12, Strasbourg)
- ◆ Lt Col William Herbert (OSC 15, Hangzhou)
- ◆ Lt Col Patrick Parrish (OSC 16, Santiago)
- ◆ Lt Col Nicola Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung)
- ◆ Lt Col Kirby Sanford (OSC 17, Buenos Aires)

Selected for Promotion to Captain by the US Navy:

- ◆ CDR Mark Anderson (OSC 12, Sofia)
- ◆ CDR Jared Wilhelm (OSC 14, Mendoza)

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

- ◆ Maj Christopher Bukowski (OSC 20, Tokyo)
- ◆ Maj Mason Gordon (OSC 21, Tel Aviv)
- ◆ Maj Jason Johnson (OSC 21, Krakow)
- ◆ Maj Daniel Cohoon (OSC 22, Jerusalem)
- ◆ Maj Ryan Fortney (OSC 22, Buenos Aires)
- ◆ Maj Ryan Martelly (OSC 22, Kyoto)

Selected for Promotion to Commander by the US Navy:

- ◆ LCDR David Elsenbeck (OSC 22, Madrid)

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/>

CPT Louis Beto (OSC 25, Istanbul), US Army, “The Special Forces Scholar,” by Keith Hamel, in *West Point* Volume 14, Issue 3, Summer 2024, page 49, <https://www.westpointaog.org/news/west-point-magazine/>



Anderson Visits with Czech Prime Minister

Lt Gen Dag Anderson (OSC 00, Brno) was invited to a reception in honor of the Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala. Many years ago, Fiala was the head of the Political Science department at Masaryk University and was the person who admitted Lt Gen Anderson. He remembered Anderson as the only American to attend the program.

At the reception, Prime Minister Fiala tested Anderson’s language retention by speaking almost only Czech for several minutes. Afterwards he introduced Anderson to several guests as his former student who had clearly used his education well.

10th ANNUAL OLMSTED LECTURE

GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 - National Press Club, Washington, DC



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



On a recent trip to Brazil, ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux) met up with Col Ben Menges (OSC 07, Lima). Col Menges is the Air Attaché at the US Embassy in Brasilia.



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