

A paved walkway lined with trees and lampposts leading to a flagpole with an American flag.

**RISING THROUGH
THE RANKS**

by Lynn Haraldson-Bering

Throughout the United States Armed Forces achieving the rank of flag officer is viewed as having attained true eminence. Transcending mere success, these generals and admirals have risen through the ranks to become the nation's leaders, ambassadors, and guardians of democracy. W&J is proud to have at least nine distinguished flag officers among its alumni body. These officers have voluntarily devoted their careers and their lives to serving our nation.

The journey to such decorated careers starts early. The paths to these prestigious positions, though varied, are filled with fond memories of their alma mater and defining moments that happened on campus—moments when they suspected that they were prepared to lead and to make a difference.

Many credit their W&J education and the professors who volunteered as mentors and took active interests in their futures. All have exemplified, through their military service, the mission of the College: “To graduate men and women of competence and maturity who will be effective life-long learners, responsible citizens, and who are prepared to contribute substantially to the world in which they live.”

Rear Admiral S. Todd Fisher, retired United States Navy

A participant in W&J's ROTC program for two years, Rear Admiral Todd S. Fisher '63 joined



U.S. MILITARY 101

Flag Officer: A term applied to an officer holding the rank of general, lieutenant general, major general, or brigadier general in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps, or admiral, vice admiral, rear admiral, or commodore in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard.

Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms

the Navy in 1965. He planned to serve his country for three years and return to civilian life. Fresh out of Cornell with an MBA and a certificate in hospital administration, Fisher was stationed in Bethesda, Maryland, when his plan changed. He was becoming “Gung Ho” for the Navy, he said. So, he volunteered to serve on a Naval hospital ship from 1968–69 where he met his wife. Together they pledged to continue their naval careers as long as it was fun. “It was still fun 35 years later,” he said.

Fisher moved through the ranks working in military personnel administration and learning contract negotiation. In 1992, he was selected for rear admiral of the lower half (one star) and was named director of the Medical Service Corps of the Navy charged with overseeing all hospitals, clinics, and treatment centers of the Navy and Marine Corps. Three years later, Fisher was the first Medical Service Corps director to be selected as rear admiral of the upper half (two stars) and the first to serve as deputy surgeon general of the Navy and deputy director of Navy medicine.

Retiring in July 2000 after five years as

deputy surgeon general, Fisher is now CEO of the consulting firm Martin & Associates that works with industries interested in doing business with the federal government and its medical interests. He also serves as an independent consultant to the President's Task Force to Improve Healthcare Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. “As long as I can make a difference, I'll keep working,” he said.

“I liked W&J...The liberal arts curriculum was very valuable. It helped me sort out what I wanted to do when I grew up. The academic rigor also prepared me for Cornell and instilled in me the importance of life-long learning,” he said. Fisher, whose daughter, Alexandra, attends W&J, credits W&J's collegial environment with making it easy to be a participant in activities ranging from athletics to the arts.

The friendships Fisher forged through W&J include those with fellow flag officers, John Parker '63 and Patrick Sculley '69. “The three of us are really tight. Our friendship grew out of knowing that we are all flag rank and W&J grads,” he said. “They're both great guys.”

Major General **John S. Parker, retired** United States Army

When anthrax was sent through the mail to the Capitol and to several media outlets shortly after the events of 9/11,



Congress and White House officials called

on Major General John S. Parker '63 to explain the properties of anthrax and its possible use as a biological weapon.

As commanding general of the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Parker was prepared to aid his colleagues because he directed an institute that worked with these pathogens. He credits the culmination of his education and career experiences, for preparing him for the complex communication demands that he faced. "I think that communication is a very important skill, and the ability to communicate effectively across a number of agencies and institutions came into play during the anthrax incidents...Your entire career rolls up to that point," he said.

He remembers that journalism professor Mr. Robert Brindly helped him to hone his communication skills and to develop an appreciation for the power of accurate and effective communication. He recalls the professor asking to see him about a paper Parker had written. "He told me I used the longest sentences he'd ever seen!" Parker laughed. Mr. Brindly provided him with several tough assignments and within several weeks Parker's skills were much improved, he said.

Parker said, "I may have gotten lost in the sea of things at a larger university. The classes [at W&J] were small and the opportunity to know the faculty and professors on almost a first-name basis was beneficial because they knew your capabilities...They were all part of the milieu. To them you were a name, not a number, and they worried if you weren't in class."

Parker received his commission through W&J's ROTC program and began his active duty in 1966. "When I finished high school I knew I wanted to go to medical school," he said. He had heard that W&J had a good

W&J ALUMNI SHAPE MILITARY HISTORY

Since 1781, Washington & Jefferson College has been preparing young people to contribute to the world through their chosen professions and through military service. Tantamount to the impressive list of W&J alumni who are active or retired flag officers are the notable soldiers who dutifully served their country during the previous 220 years.

- Francis Dunlevy, a Latin student of Dr. Thaddeus Dod—a founder of the Pioneer Schools—fought in the Revolutionary War. Before his death, Dunlevy founded two classical schools, became a member of the Legislature of the Northwest Territory and of Ohio, and finally, served as president judge for fourteen years on the Court of Common Pleas, the first circuit court of Ohio.
- Another Dod scholar, Robert Marshall, studied mathematics. Son of Colonel James Marshall, he also fought in the Revolutionary War. His name appears next to Dunlevy's on the W&J War Memorial. A host of other graduates fought in the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812. Dozens of young men from both Washington College and Jefferson College fought on either side of the Civil War.
- Dr. Jesse William Lazear (1888) was a member of Walter Reed's military commission to study infectious diseases, namely Yellow Fever, in Cuba in 1900. Dr. Lazear let an infected mosquito bite him. The site caused his death two weeks later. His legacy—a set of notes exacting all of his symptoms and experiments—was left behind for Reed to use to find a cure for Yellow Fever. In 1929, Lazear was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice.
- H. Weir Cook '19 had been lost in the South Pacific during World War II in 1943. The Indianapolis airport is named after this highly decorated alumnus.
- Cook's World War I flying comrade, Gill Robb Wilson '15 became a well-known aviation editor. The airport in Parkersburg, West Virginia, is named in memory of Wilson.
- Joseph Albert Walker '42, a combat flyer in World War II, became chief pilot of NASA. He was awarded the only doctor of aeronautical science degree that the College has yet awarded.

Sources:

Venerable: W&J at 200, J.B. Donnelly. Booklet prepared for W&J Founders Day, 1980.

Banners in the Wilderness: Early Years of Washington and Jefferson College, Helen Turnbull and Waite Coleman, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1956.

pre-med program and that a high percentage of students were accepted to medical school, so he applied. He's glad that he did. "They [the faculty] knew that you went to W&J for four years to do something and they helped you to achieve your goal, not their goal," he said. Parker graduated from Georgetown University Medical School in 1974, and after completing a general surgery residency at Walter Reed Hospital, he completed a two-year thoracic surgery residency. He has extensive crisis management experiences having been fully engaged with casualties from Chernobyl, the Marine barracks bombing in Beirut, and the Berlin disco bombings.

Parker retired from the Army on March 31, 2002. He is now senior vice president at Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) in the enterprise and health solutions sector. He leads SAIC's efforts supporting the national homeland defense initiatives in the areas of chemical and biological defense, public health, and bio surveillance. He is also a member of the Homeland Security Project Coordinating Committee.

An introvert, according to the Myers-Briggs personality test, Parker says it takes a lot of energy for him to do the part of his job that requires extroversion. "I like finding the right answers for our nation and helping those who make the decisions to make the right ones," he said. And so, he believes, it is energy well spent. For every point that he has on the introvert scale, Parker says that his friend, Major General Patrick Sculley '69, has one point on the extrovert scale.

Major General Patrick D. Sculley, retired United States Army

While his friend, Fisher, served as deputy surgeon general of the Navy, Major General Patrick D. Sculley '69 was his counterpart in the Army. It's not



often that a college can boast of two alums simultaneously serving as deputy surgeons general. "That was unique," said Sculley, who retired May 31 while still wearing two other "hats"—chief of staff of the Army medical command and chief of the Army dental corps.

Sculley's military roots began with ROTC. W&J, he said, helped him to develop critical thinking skills that have served him well through the years. He credits W&J with making him self-confident and an articulate communicator. He credits Head Football

W&J AND NATIONAL GUARD PARTNER FOR DEFENSE TRAINING

Washington & Jefferson College's Information Technology Leadership (ITL) Program will provide training for the National Guard through a collaborative partnership established between W&J and the Guard. This training will enhance the Guard's readiness as it becomes a centerpiece of America's homeland security efforts.



The partnership is funded by a \$1 million federal appropriation made possible through the efforts of U.S. Representative John Murtha, the senior ranking minority member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and a W&J alumnus. It will provide the College with the resources to develop a plan for a curriculum that infuses the management of information into the routine operations and responsibilities of current and future Guard leadership. W&J's ITL Program will assist the Guard in integrating information technology into their preparedness for twenty-first-century missions. These skills will enhance the Guard's abilities for our national defense and could also help many Guard members to advance in their civilian careers.

According to Murtha, the need for this type of training has become more pressing since September 11. "I'm delighted that we'll be able to address this critical national need right here at one of our local colleges," Murtha said. In addition to strengthening the technological capabilities of Guard personnel, the partnership will also create a new crossover curriculum and enhance classroom capabilities at W&J in ways that will benefit students for years to come.

Rising Through the Ranks

Coach Chuck Green for giving him a chance and having confidence in him. His biology professors supported his love of science. Dr. Homer Porter was the chair of the Biology Department and, according to Sculley, he could teach anything. “He had a gift for language and demanded the most of students,”

he said.

Following graduation, Sculley attended The State University of New York at Buffalo and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1973. In 1994, he became the first commander of the U.S. Army Dental Command, and in 1996, he was appointed to command

the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Prior to his most recent duties as an active officer, he was named special assistant to the surgeon general.

On June 1, just one day following his official retirement from the Army, he assumed his new role as executive director of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society and publisher of *American Scientist* magazine. “I’ve certainly had some uncommon experiences,” said Sculley of his diverse career. “But W&J provided me with the discipline to be successful.”

ROTC—A Cross-Town Venture

In 1948, the eighth president of the College, James Case, inaugurated W&J’s first Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) unit. By the 1970s, W&J’s ROTC program had become one of the outstanding units in the nation. Though W&J’s program flourished to exceed the size of ROTC programs at larger universities, the program was cut in 1991 when the Department of the Army, facing federal budget cuts, decided to concentrate its resources on campuses with larger enrollments.

Today, the College offers Army ROTC for full-time students through a cross-town venture with the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt). Completion of the program requires that students fulfill the requirements of an academic major in a recognized degree field and to enroll in courses of particular interest and value to military science as well as in military science courses.

Army ROTC offers both two- and four-year programs. After completing either program, students are commissioned as second lieutenants. One W&J student was commissioned in Army ROTC this past year and two W&J students are currently enrolled in the program.

Beginning this past academic year, W&J and Pitt joined forces to provide W&J students with the opportunity to get involved in Air Force ROTC (AFROTC).

This cooperative venture offers both two- and four-year programs leading to a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Only full-time students with U.S. citizenship, or those who are eligible for citizenship, with at least two remaining years of college may enroll in AFROTC.

Students can complete the required courses for the program by attending a weekly 50-minute class and a leadership lab at Pitt. Physical fitness requirements can be fulfilled on campus with either a physical education class or a varsity sport. Applications are now being accepted, according to Captain Scott Koler.

Both ROTC programs offer scholarships, a monthly stipend, and a chance for students to hone time-management, physical fitness, and analytical skills.

Rear Admiral Walter B. Massenburg United States Navy

As early as high school, Rear Admiral Walter B. Massenburg ’70 had Naval Academy aspirations. During his freshman year at



W&J, he continued to pursue the Academy and was offered admission. But, by that time, Massenburg says that he loved W&J, and he stayed. He was a physics major and remembers feeling like the entire department was dedicated to teaching him. “They mentored us one on one,” he said.

What served him best, he said, was being treated like a member of the team by Basketball Coach Dave Scarborough, who was also associate dean of student personnel. Massenburg was the team’s equipment manager, but “I was just as important on that team, in the coach’s eyes, as the leading scor-

er,” he said. “The military is about building leadership and being cohesive as a team. Being the manager of the team prepared me for military life. The education that I received gave me the skills to work with people. All of my college experiences were the foundations of my Navy experience.”

Massenburg became a naval aviator in 1971. After serving in a number of squadrons, he was named assistant commander for logistics, naval air systems command. His work took him to Germany, Hawaii, the West Indies, and Washington, D.C. He graduated with distinction from the Naval War College, where he received an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies in June 1990. In 1995, he assumed command of the Maritime Surveillance Aircraft Program Office and in 1999 assumed leadership and management responsibility as the assistant commander for logistics. By February 2002, Massenburg was promoted to rear admiral of the upper half.

Brigadier General William Fedorochko, Jr., retired United States Army

Retired from the Army since 1993, Brigadier General William Fedorochko, Jr. '62, works for a federally funded research and development center, the Institute for Defense Analyses. With a background in defense resource management, he is able to assess a country's ability to plan for national security and investigate its management systems to be sure that they are com-



patible with NATO standards. Fedorochko makes an assessment and sends a report to the secretary of defense and then to the president who sends it to Congress. Based on Fedorochko's findings, Congress will oppose or support the country's membership in NATO.

An economics major, Fedorochko admits that he wasn't always a disciplined student. However, after joining ROTC, he learned much about responsibility and settled down. “The professors really cared about students. They'd shepherd and mentor them. They did a good job at that. It was a friendly, collegial atmosphere and the students were solid citizens.” Fedorochko called his first-year economics professor, Dr. Gene Booker, a mentor.

He served in Vietnam in the military assistance command, office of economic affairs. And during a second tour, he worked with the U.S. Embassy and the minister of economic development of Vietnam. Acquisitions and logistics were his areas of expertise. He was promoted to flag officer in 1989 and was named deputy director for structure and resources in 1990, working for the then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell.

Brigadier General Andrew N. Farley, retired United States Army

Brigadier General Andrew N. Farley '56 is now retired from the Army and practicing law in private practice. He agrees with his



colleagues that communication skills are groomed at W&J. And like his fellow flag officers, Farley can't say enough about the liberal arts experience. “The world changes so swiftly and the military's commitment to the country is to be prepared to meet the changing world. It can't be done unless you understand what's gone on before. My liberal arts studies at W&J were extremely helpful in my military career.”

Farley enrolled in the ROTC program at W&J, was commissioned upon graduation, and earned a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and an M.P.A. from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Through his military career, he served the Army and Army Reserves in a variety of roles, including platoon leader, battalion liaison officer, chief of staff of the 99th U.S. Army Reserve Command, and as executive assistant to the director of operations of the Defense Logistics Agency.

Farley believes that participating in W&J's academic environment and interacting with well-educated people taught him to respect the opinion of others and to be open to suggestions. “In the Army, I tried to epitomize that...I had troops evaluate me as a commander and leader. I brought ideas out of all ranks and analyzed them. This was very beneficial, and in democracy, it is essential.”

He continues to uphold the College's mission of instilling life-long learning and is constantly engaged with peers and young people in the sharing of ideas. “For those my age, it has been a precept. You don't stop learning. W&J asks students to challenge the world about them as they see it and force change,” he said.

Rising Through the Ranks

Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper, retired

United States Navy

Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper attended W&J during the 1952–53 academic year. It was a year that he says he will never forget—the year that prepared him for the rigors of the Naval Academy. “Having that year at W&J helped me to adjust to the Naval Academy,” he said.

He credits several W&J faculty members and staff for providing the solid base with which he began his career, namely English instructor William Gehres and math professor Dr. Wray Brady. He says that they both mentored him that year and helped him to meet his goal of getting an appointment to the Academy—another example of W&J’s dedicated faculty who focus on helping students realize their goals.

Following the Naval Academy, Cooper served in a number of capacities, including commander of the Navy Submarine Force in the Atlantic and assistant chief of naval operations for undersea warfare. Cooper retired ten years ago after a 33-year naval career. He is now under secretary for benefits in the department of veterans affairs. He says that he is always pleased to run into W&J graduates while he is working in Washington, D.C.

Major General Miles C. Durfey, retired

United States Air Force

Completing three years at W&J before enlisting in the Air Force at the start of his senior year, Major General Miles C.

Durfey says the liberal arts curriculum at W&J helped him successfully attain his law degree from Ohio State University.

Durfey earned his wings and was commissioned in 1953. After fighter gunnery school and a two-year stint in Japan, Durfey was discharged in 1956. With flying as his passion, he joined the Ohio Air National Guard soon after his discharge and spent the next 28 years in service, retiring as chief of staff in May 1985.

Durfey admired one W&J professor in particular. “The most memorable and remembered person on the faculty was Athletic Director Pete Henry,” he said. “He was one of the most gracious, amiable, and compassionate people that I have ever had the pleasure to know. He was always willing to give advice or just chat.”



The group of W&J alumni who have achieved flag status would not be complete without mention of Lieutenant General William M. Keys ’59 of the Marine Corps and Brigadier General Richard Lynch, M.D. ’62 of the Army Reserves—two flag officers whom we were unable to contact.

“It’s mind boggling, really,” said Fisher. “The traditional route to flag is the Naval Academy or Texas A&M. That there are that many flag officers from one small school, it is really quite remarkable.”

W&J President Brian C. Mitchell agrees that such a count is significantly noteworthy, but not surprising. He has traveled around the country meeting graduates and listening to their success stories. He expects that graduates, for decades to come, will continue to attribute many of their achievements to their W&J liberal arts experience.

“W&J alumni are serious and purposeful, committed to the world in which they live through strong traditions of voluntarism at W&J. They are equipped with skill sets necessary to succeed. It’s a powerful and winning combination,” says President Mitchell. “W&J will continue to educate future leaders through its commitment to long-standing traditions and its dedicated and committed faculty.”

Melissa Jablonowski contributed to this article.

U.S. MILITARY 101 - THE RANKS

ARMY	AIR FORCE	NAVY
General of the Army	General of the Air Force	Fleet Admiral
General	General	Admiral
Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral
Major General	Major General	Rear Admiral (Upper Half)
Brigadier General	Brigadier General	Rear Admiral (Lower Half)
Colonel	Colonel	Captain
Lt. Colonel	Lt. Colonel	Commander
Major	Major	Lieutenant Commander
Captain	Captain	Lieutenant
First Lieutenant	First Lieutenant	Lieutenant, Jr. Grade
Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Ensign

All ranks are listed in descending order.