

# NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON 2019-2020 UNIT NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER DATE TBD

NROTC Unit Rutgers University

## Key Events

- 5 Marines Graduate from OCS
- Navy Service Assignments Released
- 23 New Students in the Battalion
- Success at the Cornell MEC

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Congratulations to all hands on a great start to the 2019-2020 school year at the Rutgers / Princeton Navy ROTC Unit! It has been a very busy few months since we commissioned our 2019 graduates, with a full summer of training, indoctrination that quickly rolled into a hectic fall schedule. I appreciate how hard everyone is working and contributing to the overall success of the Battalion!

This fall we welcomed in 23 new students into the battalion, 21 Freshman and 3 sophomore transfers, bringing our unit total size to 65. Many of the freshman midshipmen successfully completed New Student Indoctrination, a demanding three week program conducted at Naval Station Great Lakes prior to reporting to the unit in late August. The teamwork, support, and camaraderie demonstrated throughout the battalion is inspiring!

One of the major milestones to commissioning for our Marine Option

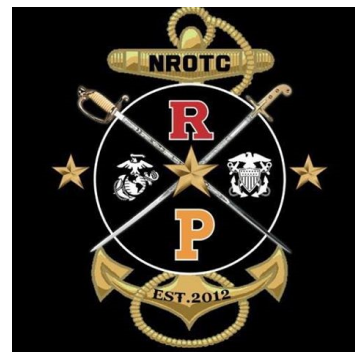
Midshipmen is attending Marine Officer Candidate School during the summer following their junior year. This six week course stresses and tests Marine candidates as they are immersed in academics, field tactics, and physical training to prove to themselves they are ready for the demands of the responsibilities of a Marine Corp Officer. Congratulations to MIDN Rohmeyer, MIDN Buchanan, MIDN James, MIDN O'Shea, and MIDN Banavige for successfully completing OCS! That is a very high number for any unit to successfully complete OCS, and is a testament to their dedication, determination, attention to detail and precision in execution....well done!

In October, the Battalion had a very successful showing at the Cornell University Military Excellence Competition (MEC), finishing in 3rd Place, behind the U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Military Academy. Again, the attention to detail in preparing for the MEC enabled precise execu-

tion during the competition, producing superior results....Bravo Zulu!

Finally, in addition to our five senior Marine Option Midshipmen, I would like to congratulate the Navy Option seniors on their service assignments. MIDN Kapr, MIDN Stewart, and MIDN Bohen screened for Naval Aviation; MIDN Toth and MIDN Calimilim screened for Surface Warfare (Nuclear); MIDN Rao screened for Submarine Warfare, and MIDN Dowling, MIDN D'Souza, and MIDN Kelly screened for Surface Warfare. Congratulations again to all!

The Rutgers / Princeton Battalion continues to make great strides and sets the example around campus each and every day! I could not be more proud of all of your accomplishments and successes and am honored to be a part of this great team. Continue to push yourselves in everything you do and take care of each other along the way!



*Commanding Officer Andrew Smith*

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## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

### MIDN 2/C BRADY WILLIAMS

This past summer, I went to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and spent a week shadowing an infantry officer. When I first arrived, we were sent to Camp Geiger for gear issue and then sent to Camp Lejeune for our introduction to the officer we would be shadowing. I shadowed Second Lieutenant Weis with Kilo company in Third Battalion Eighth Marines. Three other Midshipmen were also with Kilo company. Upon arrival we immediately went with Lieutenant Weis to join his platoon and learn how to properly clear rooms and secure a building. Seeing how the non-commissioned officers and officers conducted training with their own

leadership styles showed me that there is not only one effective way to lead that works for everyone. Later on I hiked with the platoon to an infantry immersion trainer and was able to observe the different squads completing simulated missions. Though each squad leader approached the situation differently, they were all effective in completing their mission. The next day I had to wake up and be at the armory at 0430 to draw weapons for a 20 kilometer hike which started at 0500. That was the longest hike I've ever completed and it proved to be a good training opportunity. Later that day I went back to Camp Geiger to return my issued

gear and prepare to go home. Overall the cruise offered me the ability to see the day to day operations of Kilo Company as well as see different leadership styles utilized by officers and enlisted personnel throughout the ma-



*“This attitude allowed me to create many connections that will stay with me for life.”*

### MIDN 1/C BANAVIGE

This past summer I attended and graduated from Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS), a 6-week program that all Marine options are required to attend before they can commission. The mission of OCS is to train

and evaluate candidates to see if they have what it takes to be a Marine Officer. Throughout OCS, candidates are evaluated on their leadership abilities, physical fitness, and academics. OCS was very challenging, but I learned many lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my time in the Marine Corps and beyond. One of the many lessons I learned is the importance of being a “good dude.” This piece of advice was given to me before I left for OCS, but I never truly understood the importance of it until after OCS. What I mean by being a good dude is genuinely caring about the

people around you and helping them when they are in need. There comes a time at OCS when everyone will need help with something; OCS is designed to make everyone fail at one point or another. While I was at OCS I kept this in mind and did my best to help my fellow candidates and genuinely care about their success as well as mine. This attitude allowed me to create many connections that will stay with me for life.



## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

### MIDN I/C RAO

This summer for my Naval ROTC training, I received an extraordinary opportunity to get underway on a Virginia-class nuclear powered fast attack submarine, the USS MINNESOTA (SSN-783). The entire training lasted for about two weeks during which I got to experience a plethora of trainings, drills and operations as they were getting ready for their big inspection before deploying. Going in to the training I was quite nervous about how I would be able to stay underwater with very minimal communication and no sunshine, but the moment I stepped on board I was greeted with such enthusiasm that my nervousness turned into excitement and curiosity for

***“There were three female officers on board who also explained to me that being a woman does not make a difference on the submarine.”***



the days to come. Right from the start, I was able to help with operations underway. The crew strapped me into harnesses and let me go up the ladder to the bridge from which it felt as though I was in charge of the entire submarine. On the bridge was only one other person who was actually assigned as my mentor for the duration of the program. He let me conduct a man overboard drill and explained to me the commands to say because it was my first time doing so. This was just one of many operations that I got to experience over the course of two weeks. Some others included using the periscope to scan for any threats and working with kitchen staff to make dinner for the whole crew. However, the best part about the entire experience was getting to know and talk to the officers and crew who have so much support and trust

amongst each other. There were three female officers on board who also explained to me that being a woman does not make a difference on the submarine because everyone is working together as one team, which I definitely observed for myself. Being able to go on the USS MINNESOTA was one of the most educational and challenging times of my life. I quickly became acquainted with everyone on board and realized right away just how motivated, hard working and supportive each person in the submarine force truly is. The submarine force is definitely not for everyone as it can be very challenging mentally to be underwater for long periods of time. However, it is the challenge and the people that continue to attract me to the submarine community.

***“It is the challenge and the people that continue to attract me to the submarine community.”***



## MIDN 2/C OLSEN

I traveled to San Diego to go aboard LCS 6, the USS Jackson, which is an Independence class variant of the littoral combat ship class. The crew was split up between a blue and gold crew designed to maximize sea time for the ship itself, while also giving each crew a break from sea. I was attached to the blue crew who had taken over the USS Jackson less than a month from when I reported in. As a result, the crew was still trying to determine ship capabilities and what necessary operations had to be carried out. However, it was a great experience as it simulated how my future career will abruptly begin.

My summer training consisted of shadowing several petty officer first class sailors within different departments aboard the ship. By doing so, I was able to get an idea of how departments like Operations, Engineering, and Combat Systems conduct daily operations. During the first week, I shadowed Fire Controlman 1 (FC 1) Diego as combat systems was preparing to load missiles aboard the ship for a future shock test. During the second week, I shadowed Electricians Mate 1 (EM1) Schaff as Engineering prepared to test their new ship's systems. This week consisted of going underway a few days, along with fixing the small boat aboard to prepare it for man overboard drills done by the search and rescue team. We also performed high speed

operations to test the maneuverability of the ship and it's max speed under given circumstances. While underway, I stood watch and was able to monitor engine systems. This week taught me the significance of tagging out equipment within the ship spaces and how to conduct the tag out properly. During the last portion of my training, I shadowed Boatswain Mate 1 (BM1) Braveboy as the ship prepared for shock trials and inspections done by Division 11. This portion taught me about underway replenishments (UNREPs) and how the crews of each ship communicate throughout the operation. I also learned how to man the lines while pulling out of and into port as we went underway for a week straight, along with learning knots that are used for multiple daily operations.

The littoral combat ship community is not your typical naval community. They don't follow certain Naval traditions. For example, the CO and XO made it a point to clean with us during cleaning stations some days. Everyone was responsible for cleaning their own dishes after chow as the ship didn't have enough culinary specialists (CSs). The relationships between enlisted and officers were much stronger as the crew size was less than our battalion. As a result, it was very easy to be held accountable as one

person can dramatically impact the rest of the crew. This was a perfect second class enlisted cruise as I gained a large amount of respect and appreciation for what these sailors do for one another. For my "dedication to duty and good work ethic," aboard the ship, I was presented with the following challenge coin.





## MIDN 3/C FULLER

\ This summer, I had the opportunity to attend CORTRAMID training in Norfolk, Virginia. The goal of this 3/C summer cruise is to help MIDN choose which naval community they would like to go into when they commission. The training was 4 weeks long and each week introduced us to a new community. The first week for my company was Marine Week. We traveled from Norfolk to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. We stayed in the squad bay at the School of Infantry and were introduced to different communities within the Marine Corps. We then traveled back to Norfolk for Surface Warfare week. We toured many different kinds of ships and were able to go underway on an LSD. The following week we flew out to San Diego, California for submarine training. We used simulators that allowed us to learn how to drive submarines and we went underway on a SSBN. The last week of CORTRAMID was aviation week where we had the opportunity to see and fly in helicopters and other US Navy aircraft.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at CORTRAMID East. Having the opportunity to talk to active duty officers and enlisted provided me with a greater perspective as to what my career in the Navy will be like. They also talked to us about their styles of leadership and how they overcome obstacles as junior division officers. Being able to talk to the active duty personnel helped me figure out which community I would like to commission to. This summer was truly a great experience that all midshipmen should look forward to!



## MIDN 4/C OGAWA



*"I think that this program has made me more sure of my choice to serve in the US Navy and be a part of Princeton-Rutgers NROTC."*

Following last year's pilot run, all incoming 4/C midshipmen on an NROTC scholarship were required to complete their first summer cruise, New Student Indoctrination (NSI) at the Navy Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, IL. Over the duration of three very intense weeks, the basic objective of the program was for the class of 2023 to receive standardized basic military training and a general idea of what midshipmen are expected to do at their home units. Training included standard drill, uniform maintenance, customs and courtesies, PT, basic knowledge, and fundamental warfighting trainers such as fire-fighting, seamanship, marksmanship, watch-standing, and swim qualification.

Every candidate earned the title Midshipman. Each

day was both mentally and physically stressful, and tight discipline was present in every aspect of our daily routine. But, as the training progressed, we all grew very close as a team as we worked together to successfully accomplish tough tasks and find the "fun" when training got dull. Slowly, we all learned to appreciate the process and to understand the meaning of service and the Navy core values. By the end of the program, we had all developed a strong sense of pride in our company and a great deal of respect for our enlisted and officer mentors and midshipman instructors.

Looking back, NSI was a very rewarding experience. I got to meet some of the coolest people ever, and I walked out of training a much more confi-

dent individual than before. While of course the experience was very demanding, I am grateful for this incredible and unique opportunity to learn valuable life skills and get to know some of my classmates. If anything, I think that this program has made me more sure of my choice to serve in the US Navy and be a part of Princeton-Rutgers NROTC.

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## MIDN 3/C HOWARTH

Early one Saturday morning, a sea of scarlet shirts boarded busses outside Deiner Park, New Brunswick. Each bus departed to various projects across the state that benefited the community. On one of those busses were 11 Midshipmen representing the Naval ROTC Unit at Rutgers and their community outreach program, The Scarlet Anchor Society. For years the Midshipmen of Rutgers NROTC have participated in Scarlet Day of Service. The event, spearheaded by the Rutgers University Programming Association, is one of the largest community service programs held annually here "On the Banks". Rutgers students volunteer for the day to take a few hours and give back to their surrounding communities. In previous years, Midshipmen have participated in assignments such as planting a community garden and restoring a municipal base-

ball field. This year, members of NROTC as well as other Scarlet Knights travelled to Hillside to volunteer with the New Jersey Community Food Bank. Upon arrival, Midshipmen were assigned roles as part of an assembly line as food donations were sorted by category and packaged to be given to families in need across the state. While some students were checking expiration dates on cans and categorizing items based on their nutritional value, others were carrying packed boxes to be weighed and marked by the food pantry to feed those in need. By the end of the day, Midshipmen had sorted and packaged 112 boxes of food that could now be

distributed. Working towards a goal bigger than ourselves as well as the use of teamwork to complete a mission more efficiently was already a well refined skill for the Midshipmen of Rutgers NROTC.





## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

### MIDN 2/C JOHN PETERSON

Drill events may be seen as the focal point of all Military Excellence Competitions, as this is one of the few times a variety of drill teams are gathered and put to the test. However, approximately half of these competitions are dedicated towards putting

midshipmen head to head in athletic competitions as well. There are a number of these ranging from the standard running and swimming, to the grueling Iron Man competition that measures multiple aspects of a midshipman's anaerobic strength and

cardiovascular endurance.

This year I represented NROTCU Rutgers / Princeton in the 4x400 meter sprint, as well as in the Fitness Medley. The 4x400 is a standard track event consisting of 4 teammates running 400 meters in a relay. This team also consisted of midshipmen Bohen, Hammack, and Gregor. In the end we were able to secure third place, continuing our reputation as a competitor in the track events.

The second event I participated in was the Fitness Medley. This event had each school send their best males and females to see who could do the best in a particular exercise or competition. These included doing the most push-ups, most pull ups, longest plank, most reps of 135 on the bench, and a tug-of-war tournament. I personally took part in the plank and tug-of-war. While I did not place individually in the plank, the tug-of-war team, consisting also of Midshipmen Buchanan, Chaisson, Shelton, and Kehrlle, took home second place. After compiling the scores of all the competitions in this event, the team secured 3rd place overall.



### MIDN 3/C JONES

On October 19th, I had the amazing opportunity to compete in the 2019 Cornell MEC with the Rutgers armed basic platoon as the platoon commander. The rush of competing and working together as a cohesive team was amazing. The early morning practices, putting in the hard work and dedication, and delivering our final product for me, as well as the rest of the team, made all the time and commitment worth while.

Rutgers, being a newly established unit (est. 2012), continues to be considered the underdogs. We are still one of the smallest units in the

country and the only NROTC unit in New Jersey, so the feats we have accomplished are that much more impressive. Even further, our platoon was composed of mostly freshmen, who have only been drilling for a few months. I am extremely proud of their progress, as they held their own in the competition, allowing us to take third place behind two service academies. On a more personal note, I too was put in a new position as platoon commander. From learning the sword manual to memorizing the drill card to calling cadence, I was there with my people every step of the way on this

learning experience. It felt as though with every heel driven into the deck, we became more in tune with each other; one sound, one entity, one fight. I wouldn't give up a single midshipman, and I look forward to doing it all over again next year at the 2020 Villanova MEC.



## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

### MIDN 1/C BRENDAN O'SHEA

This fall FEX (field exercise) was a great experience as a senior. Usually as Rutgers/Princeton Midshipmen we will travel to Fort Dix, New Jersey to conduct our fall and spring field exercises. However, the staff wanted to change the location to Quantico, Virginia to give the midshipmen a change in perspective as well as give them the chance to train in the same environment that they will be exposed to at OCS, also known as Officer Candidate School. Having this was not only beneficial I think to the mids, but also for the commissioning seniors as it allowed a different environment to train in before becoming officers in the Marine Corps. The big takeaway for me

as a senior was the change in responsibility on the FEX. Usually it has been my job as a midshipmen to train and utilize the FEX's to get ready for Officer Candidate School. While the FEX still provided valuable training for me, I took on the role of mentor to help the midshipmen who are starting out their NROTC career as well as those getting ready for their time at OCS this upcoming summer and to gain experience working alongside enlisted staff.

Looking back at the training exercises from the past, I thought this was a change that benefited everyone. While the distance to the field was a bit of a drive from New Jersey to Virginia, the train-

ing value was worth it. The events that most strongly resonated with me were the Basic School Endurance Course (E-Course) and the Obstacle Course. I created a change to the way that Small Unit Leadership Evaluations (SULEs) were conducted. By allowing them to be more spread out over the FEX, midshipmen had to demonstrate competence over a wider range of tasks such as op orders, leadership skills, and mental toughness.

Overall, I thought that this past fall FEX was a great experience; It helped me to improve as a leader and a mentor. Being able to instruct the midshipmen preparing for OCS and beyond has been incredibly rewarding. Working with the staff provides a greater appreciation for the hard work that both officers and enlisted personnel do to train their Marines.



### MIDN 4/C MCREA

***“Observing the upperclassmen take lead helped me develop leadership and character goals that are better tailored to the Marine Corps.”***

The fall FEX was a truly valuable experience. Although it was difficult, it enhanced my desire to become a Marine by giving me a new perspective on and respect for what life as Marine may hold. I awaited this weekend with anticipation and curiosity: upperclassmen often recount these events with a smile, always mentioning their difficulties, but also emphasizing the incredible bonding experience that it held and the value

of these rare training opportunities. I was excited to experience a FEX for myself.

This event was a wakeup call. The E-Course and O-Course alerted me to the physical and mental rigor of OCS and life as a Marine. I had only heard about and imagined the level of physical fitness required for this profession, so experiencing it for myself was truly eye-opening and valuable. Additionally, participating

in SULEs and observing the upperclassmen take lead helped me develop leadership and character goals that are better tailored to the Marine Corps.



## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

The bonding experience during the FEX exemplified the value of teamwork and camaraderie. I truly appreciated when other midshipmen would encourage me to keep going during the physical activities, and I don't believe I would have been able to perform without them. Additionally, it was very enjoyable and valuable to be able to interact so much with other midshipmen and to be able to bond

over our shared experiences during the weekend.

The past FEX helped me gain a more realistic view of what to expect at OCS. Not only did it emphasize the level of physical fitness necessary for success, but it also was a real-life example of the importance of leadership and group cohesion. It helped me to examine myself and identify appropriate goals, and it gave

me a new level of respect for our Marines and what they do every day.



*"The main event of the day was a dinner with guest speaker Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli who graduated from Princeton Army ROTC in 1987 and currently commands U.S. Army Europe."*

## MIDN I/C DOWLING

On November 11th, Princeton University held a program to celebrate



100 years of ROTC. The Army ROTC program began at Princeton in 1919 and has been uninterrupted. Navy ROTC left Princeton's campus in 1972, but returned in 2014. Princeton held its first tri-service commissioning since the departure of Navy ROTC in 1972 in June of 2019. Princeton commemorate the Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC programs on campus during the 100 Years of ROTC at Princeton program.

The day started with the annual Veteran's Day ceremony in the chapel. Later in the day Midshipmen and Cadets gave tours to Princeton ROTC alumni with a focus on military history on campus. Later

in the day there was a panel discussion: Deterrence in the Age of Vulnerability. The main event of the day was a dinner with guest speaker Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli who graduated from Princeton Army ROTC in 1987 and currently commands U.S. Army Europe. Lt. Gen. Cavoli talked about the web of Princeton connections throughout his career in the U.S. Army and the vast overlapping between his Princeton and Army experiences. Midshipmen and cadets were active in planning the event as well as participating in a joint-service color guard and choir.

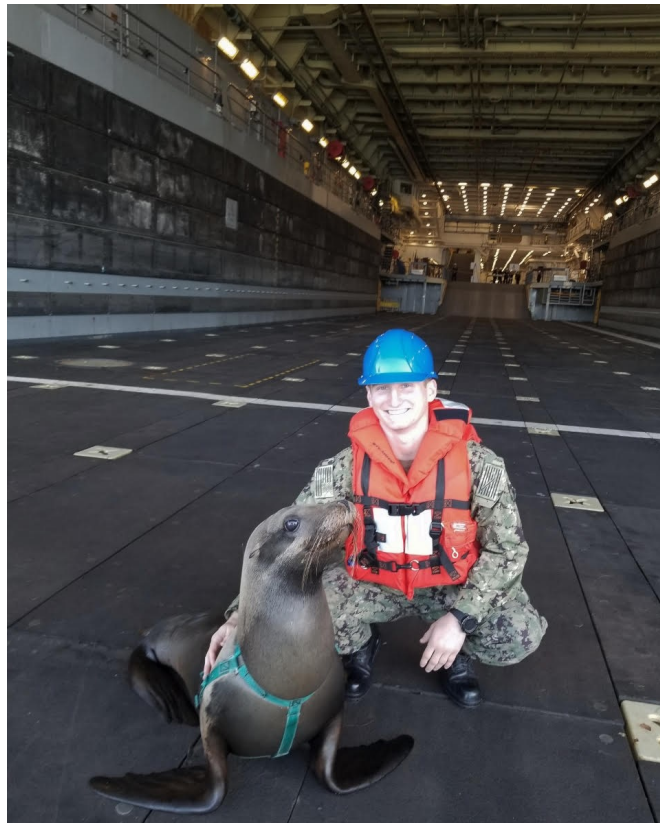
## NROTC RUTGERS/PRINCETON

### ENS JADEN FIELDS

I think the most impactful thing NROTC has done to prepare me is to learn to balance multiple priorities. In college, you had to balance classes, working out, NROTC responsibilities, your social life, family, and so much more. Being able to identify top priorities and manage them appropriately is a huge part of being a new ensign qualifying on a ship; it is super easy to get sucked into your DIVO job and forget about qualifying (or vice versa). NROTC Rutgers/Princeton puts a lot on your plate, but in the end it's all about preparing you and it has definitely helped me.

As far as advice goes, I'd like to tell all the MIDN that it's alright to be

hesitant and a little afraid, but do it anyway. Go get lost, ask the "dumb" questions, be outside your comfort zone because that's the fastest way to grow. To the new 4/C, stick it out. If you're unsure if this program is right for you at the very least go to CORTAMID and experience everything. It's a unique opportunity and a lot of fun. Dream big, don't settle. You guys are at a peculiar time in life where there are so many paths to choose from. Whether it be your career choice or degree, find something you're passionate about and pursue it to no end. Have a great year. Go RU! #BrowerBreakfast



*"Dream big,  
don't settle."*

### ENS WILLIAM BEASELY



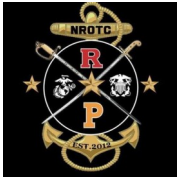
It is hard to believe that it has been two and a half years since commissioning with some of the greatest people I have ever met. Since then, the Navy and Marine Corps has been training me and my fellow classmates to join the fleet and help to strengthen the greatest military in the world. I am currently attached to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 40, also known as The Airwolves. HSM-40 is a Fleet Replacement Squadron whose goal is to train new pilots and aircrew how to fly and fight the MH-60R Seahawk. All of the pilots

here have completed primary flight training followed by advanced helicopter training. During my flight training, I have learned how much of a team the Navy is, and in particular, how much Naval aviation adds to the capabilities of the Navy as a whole.

I have come to learn that it doesn't matter which warfare community you serve in or what platform you fly or what class of ship you serve on. No matter what you do in the Navy or Marine Corps, you will come to enjoy your job. You will be surrounded by some of the greatest people that you will ever have the privilege of knowing. Going through flight school, you are con-

stantly tested and challenged by the rigors of trying to learn how to fly a new aircraft. Completing flight school on your own is not an option. The only way to make it through is to work with your peers and build off of each other. I look forward to seeing the Class of 2020 commission next summer and I wish you all the best of luck. FLY NAVY!





## NROTC UNIT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

NROTC Rutgers College Program Office

12 Lafayette St.

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Phone Number**  
(848) 932-8484

## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all midshipmen,  
staff, and alumni who made  
this newsletter possible. We  
appreciate all your hard work

