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First 50 Years: History of the Faculty in Operations Research at the Naval Postgraduate School

David Schrady December 2000

As noted in the article (Golden Anniversary, ORMS Today, February 2001), the Operations Analysis curriculum at NPS was supported by faculty from the Physics, and Mathematics and Mechanics departments from its initiation in 1951 until the creation of the Operations Research department in 1961. The principals were Peyton Cunningham who joined the Physics department faculty in 1932 and Charles Torrance who joined the Mathematics and Mechanics department faculty in 1946.

While Cunningham was the only Physics department faculty member to be involved with the management of the Operations Analysis curriculum (of course, many Physics faculty taught courses in the curriculum), the department of Mathematics and Mechanics hired many of the faculty who would become the plank owners of the Operations Research department. Tom Oberbeck joined the Math faculty in 1951. Ted Wallenius came to Math in 1958. Jack Borsting was hired in Math in 1959 and Richard Thatcher arrived in Math in 1960. In 1961, Bob Read, Max Woods, and Pete Zehna were hired in Math.

In 1960 NPS had eight academic departments in the Engineering School (there was also the General Line School and a Management School). These were the departments of Aeronautics, Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Mathematics and Mechanics, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgy and Chemistry, Meteorology and Oceanography, and Physics. The Operations Research department was created in 1961 with Tom Oberbeck as its chairman.

The 1962-63 NPS Catalogue showed the department with just two faculty: Tom Oberbeck and Louis Kahn. However Oberbeck had hired three other faculty in 1962: Julius Gandelman, Ali Kyrala, and Rex Shudde. In 1963, Oberbeck hired Al Andrus and Raymond Hemann. Separately the Math department hired Hal Larson in 1962 and Paul Milch in 1963. The 1964-65 Catalogue listed the Operations Research department faculty as Oberbeck, Andrus, Hemann, Shudde, and Thatcher. In the same Catalogue, the Math department listed, among others, Torrance, Borsting, Larson, Milch, Read, Woods, and Zehna.

In the summer of 1964, Oberbeck had a disagreement with the administration and left NPS. The Superintendent, RADM Bergin, asked Jack Borsting to become chair of the Operations Research Department and gave him 24 hours to think about it. Jack accepted of course and began to build the department. Neagle Forrest was hired in 1964 and LT(jg) Sam Parry also arrived that year. Borsting's recruiting went into high gear and six faculty were hired in 1965: Carl Jones, Steve Pollock, Hans Zweig, Glenn Lindsay, Alan McMasters, and Dave Schrady. LT(jg) Roger Schroeder also joined the OR department faculty in 1965.

The following year, 1966, Borsting hired Don Barr, Gary Tuck, Eamon Barrett, Arthur Carol, John Tiedeman, and Bryce Tysver. It was also the year when those in the Math department who had been teaching in the Operations Analysis curriculum transferred from Math to Operations Research. These five were Hal Larson, Paul Milch, Bob Read, Max Woods, and Pete Zehna.

In 1967, Borsting recruited Richard Burton, Harold Greenberg, Gil Howard, Ron Kochems (from the Defense Resources Management Center on campus), Clair Peterson (from the Business Administration and Economics department), and Gary Poock. In 1968 Kneale Marshall, Jim Taylor, George Heidorn, and Herb Schwartz joined the Operations Research department faculty. Jim Arima, Rick Butterworth, Tom Burnett, Robert Ferguson, and LT Keith Womer joined the faculty in 1969. Ed Brill, Bruno Shubert, Jim Esary, Jim Hartman, Russ Richards, Mike Sovereign, and Alan Washburn were recruited in 1970.

Gary Poock was the first faculty member recruited in the area of human factors. The new courses in economics and systems analysis were taught by Burton, Jones, Kochems, Peterson, Carol, Schwartz, and Sovereign.

1971 hires included Donald Gaver, Peter Lewis, Bill Raike, Marlin Thomas, and Dave Whipple. 1971 was also the year that the struggling department of Business Administration and Economics was folded into the Operations Research department. The name of the new department was Operations Research and Administrative Sciences (a mouthful), with Jack Borsting as the chairman. ORAS was a third of NPS; a third of the total faculty and a third of the total NPS students.

Doug Neil joined the OR faculty in 1972. LT Dan Boger, Ensign Jerry Brown, Gordon Bradley, and Sam Parry (back as a civilian) joined the faculty in 1973. Patrick Parker was hired in 1974. 1974 is also the year Borsting succeeded Milt Clauser as NPS Provost and Academic Dean. Schrady replaced Borsting as ORAS chairman.

In 1976, Schrady left the department to become dean of the information and policy sciences division, ORAS was split into its two component departments, and Mike Sovereign became chairman of the Operations Research department. 1976 also seems to be the first year in which the department enjoyed an Army officer as a military instructor (LTC Bob Castleman, succeeded in 1978 by LTC Ed Kelleher, and on and on). In 1978, LCDR Larry Cavaiola arrived as a military instructor (later a principal staff member of the House Armed Services Committee), and Patricia Jacobs was hired from Stanford. Wayne Hughes came to the department in 1979.

In 1980, Kneale Marshall, back from a two year assignment at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, became department chairman and Jim Eagle was hired. Kevin Wood was hired in 1982. Alan Washburn became the department chairman in 1983. Ed Rockower was hired in 1984. Rick Rosenthal and Gordon Nakagawa became faculty members in 1985, and Judy Lind arrived from China Lake to help out in human

factors also in that year. Dave Ronen and Dan Boger (back as a civilian) joined the faculty in 1986.

Peter Purdue was recruited from outside NPS to become department chairman in 1986. Laura Johnson and Toi Lawphongpanich were hired in 1987. Captain Tom Hoivik also joined the faculty in 1987. Mike Bailey and Lyn Whitaker were recruited in 1988. In 1990, Rob Dell, Bill Kemple, So Young Sohn, and Eric Theise joined the faculty. Navy captains George Conner and Frank Petho arrived in 1991. Arnie Buss joined the department's faculty in 1994. Purdue continued as department chairman until 1995 when he was selected to be a division dean. Dean Purdue was followed as chairman by Captain Frank Petho. Sam Buttrey and Kip Krebs joined the faculty in 1996. Rick Rosenthal became chairman in 1997, and Bob Koyak and Tom Lucas were hired in 1998. Retired Navy Captain Steve Pilnick joined the department in 1999. Susan Sanchez was hired in 2000 and the Marine Corps initiated a military instructor billet in the department (LTC Greg Mislick). In October of 2000, Jim Eagle became department chairman.

This review of faculty associated with the Operations Research department and its curricula has been largely limited to permanent civilian faculty. Additionally, the department and its students have been very well served over the years by numerous military and adjunct faculty.

Of those mentioned above, the current (January 2001) faculty of the Operations Research department include Gordon Bradley, Jerry Brown, Arnie Buss, Sam Buttrey, George Connor, Rob Dell, Jim Eagle, Donald Gaver, Tom Hoivik, Wayne Hughes, Patricia Jacobs, Bob Koyak, Toi Lawphongpanich, Tom Lucas, Gordon Nakagawa, Steve Pilnick, Peter Purdue, Bob Read, Rick Rosenthal, Susan Sanchez, Dave Schrady, Jim Taylor, Alan Washburn, Lyn Whitaker, and Kevin Wood.

Those known to be elsewhere include Mike Bailey who is at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Eamon Barrett at Lockheed Martin in Palo Alto, Jack Borsting at the University of Southern California, Rich Burton at Duke University, Rick Butterworth who is a consultant in Monterey, Kip Krebs at the Federal Aviation Administration, Steve Pollock at University of Michigan, Russ Richards at MITRE Corporation in Washington, DC, Dave Ronen at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Roger Schroeder at University of Minnesota, Marlin Thomas at Purdue University, and Keith Womer at the University of Mississippi. Dan Boger, Gil Howard, and Bill Kemple, and Patrick Parker are still at the Naval Postgraduate School, but in positions outside the department.

Retired faculty living in the Monterey area include Neagle Forrest, Carl Jones, Hal Larson, Peter Lewis, Kneale Marshall, Alan McMasters, Paul Milch, Bruno Shubert, Rex Shudde, Mike Sovereign, and Dave Whipple. Al Andrus is retired in Pulsbo, Washington, Don Barr is now retired from the US Military Academy faculty, and Sam Parry is retired in Gilbert, Arizona and working for Boeing.

Jim Arima, Peyt Cunningham, Jim Esary, Jim Hartman, Tom Oberbeck, Gary Poock, John Tiedeman, Chuck Torrance, Bryce Tysver, Max Woods, and Pete Zehna are deceased. Glenn Lindsay retired in 1997 and died in May 2007. Jim Esary died in 2007 also. Rosenthal died 2008.