



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive
DSpace Repository

News Center

News Articles Collection

2022-08-30

NPS Mourns Loss of Colleague, Rising Expert in Material Science

Hoag, Rebecca

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey California

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/70813>

This publication is a work of the U.S. Government as defined in Title 17, United States Code, Section 101. Copyright protection is not available for this work in the United States.

Downloaded from NPS Archive: Calhoun



Calhoun is the Naval Postgraduate School's public access digital repository for research materials and institutional publications created by the NPS community. Calhoun is named for Professor of Mathematics Guy K. Calhoun, NPS's first appointed -- and published -- scholarly author.

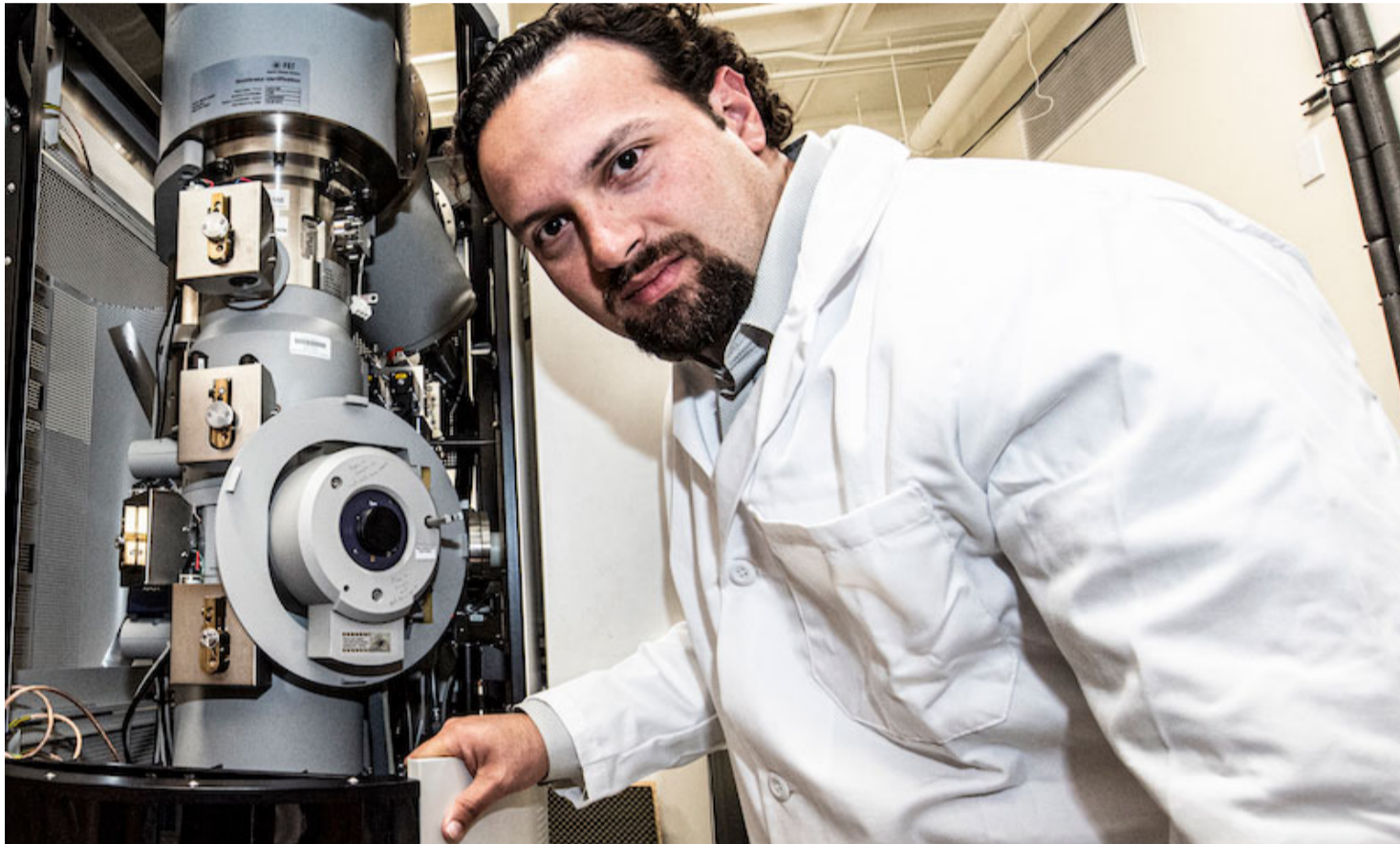
Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School
411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle
Monterey, California USA 93943

<http://www.nps.edu/library>



< NPS Mourns Loss of Colleague, Rising Expert in Material Science

By Rebecca Hoag | August 30, 2022



The Naval Postgraduate School is mourning the loss of Dr. Andy Nieto, a rising star in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department that passed away in a tragic accident at the young age of 33 while doing something he loved, scuba diving in the Monterey Bay.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) lost a rising star in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) department when Assistant Professor Andy Nieto tragically passed away in a scuba diving accident in Monterey Bay June 29, at the young age of 33.

Nieto joined NPS in 2018 after receiving a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from UC Davis. He became an NPS Teaching Fellow in 2020 and joined the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Young Investigator Program in 2021. He published 46 peer-reviewed publications, mainly exploring high-temperature ceramics and coatings to protect important equipment and vehicles from corrosion.

Recently, he worked with fellow MAE faculty Research Assistant Professor Troy Ansell on materials and coatings to [advance the resilience of turbine engines](#) to the ingestion of particulates like sand, salt and dust. This research will help save the lives of service members, with the potential to also improve hypersonic technology. It's clear in a recent [video](#) highlighting his work that Nieto had a natural talent for communicating complex scientific topics and was extremely passionate about this area of research.

In his free time, Nieto [loved](#) to travel and be outdoors, whether he was hiking, snowboarding, scuba diving, kayaking, or relaxing on a beach. He cared deeply for nature and the environment. Nieto also liked to work his brain in his free time as an avid chess player. He was climbing in the ranks and loved to play tournaments.

His legacy lives on through the many NPS students he taught and his wife, Richa, his family and his friends. His family honored Andy's memory through a conservation fund with [Point Reyes National Seashore](#), one of his favorite places to hike. Memorial gifts can be made in his honor to [Point Reyes National Seashore Association \(PRNSA\)](#). All donations should include the note: "In Memory of Andy Nieto."

CURRENT HEADLINES

[Students Explore Use of Persistent Augmented Reality to Advance Decision Cycle](#) | September 15, 2022

[NPS, Partners Develop Executive Course on AI/ML Foundations for Senior Leaders](#) | September 2, 2022

The NPS community was privileged to have Andy as a professor, colleague, mentor and friend.

[NPS Students Explore Naval, Defense Applications of Hybrid Airship Technology.](#)

| September 2, 2022

MEDIA CONTACT

Office of University Communications

1 University Circle
Monterey, CA 93943
(831) 656-1068

my.nps.edu/office-of-university-communications

pao@nps.edu



WHERE SCIENCE
MEETS THE ART OF
WARFARE

Mission

Provide defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service.

Naval Postgraduate School

1 University Circle, Monterey, CA 93943

[Driving Directions](#) | [Campus Map](#)

This is an official U.S. Navy Website | [Please read our Privacy Policy Notice](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Section 508](#) | [No FEAR Act](#) | [Whistleblower Protection](#) | [Copyright](#) and [Accessibility](#) | [Contact Webmaster](#)

[Sign In](#)

Connect with Us



Naval Postgraduate School

[1 University Circle, Monterey, CA 93943](#)

[Driving Directions](#) | [Campus Map](#)

About

[Mission](#)

[Leadership](#)

[News](#)

[Facts and History](#)

[Visit](#)

Services

[Naval Support Activity Monterey \(NSAM\)](#)

[Campus Services Technology \(ITACS\)](#)

[NPS Instructions and Notices](#)

[NSAM Chaplain](#)

[Counseling Support](#)

[Work Life and Wellness](#)

Technology

[Help and Support](#)

[Password Reset](#)

[Remote Access](#)

[Software Downloads](#)

[Webmail](#)

[Sakai CLE](#)

[Python](#)

Research

Library

Links

www.navy.mil

www.navy.com

www.foia.navy.mil

www.usa.gov

[Navy's FAQ](#)

Academics

[Departments](#)

[Degree Programs](#)

[Distance Learning](#)

[Administration](#)

[Executive Education](#)

[Professional Development](#)

Resources

[A-Z Directory](#)

[myNPS Intranet Access](#)

[NPS Directory](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[STEM](#)

[Programs/Internships](#)

[Gate Access](#)

[Maps & Directions](#)

