

Past Commander General, CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret) represented the Naval Order at the Prizes and Awards Ceremony for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences during the United States Naval Academy's 2024 Commencement Week activities. Col Michael Styskal, USMC, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Samara Firebaugh, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, participated in the presentations.

The United States Naval Academy Essay Contest began in 1934 in the Political Science Department as a multiple-choice quiz on national and world current events. In 2000 it became an essay contest slanted toward historical and political science topics, and has further evolved. Naval Order awards have been presented for 91 consecutive years. They are presented to midshipmen in the Academy Division of Humanities and Social Sciences which includes the Departments of Economics, English, History, Languages and Culture, and Political Science. Finalists are nominated by Academy instructors and chosen by a committee of Division professors. The Naval Order's participation in the School Awards program grew from a single "Naval Order of the United States Prize" to the "Naval Order's Captain James F. Brooke, III Memorial Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Award," the "Senior Division Award" and the "Junior Division Award." The 3 recipients of Naval Order prizes are:



The 2024 "Captain James F. Brooke, III Memorial Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Award recipient is Midshipman First Class Eric Poe who received a sword and plaque for his paper titled "Doctrine Developed in Darkness: How MKULTRA's Illegal and Unethical Experiments Informed CIA Doctrine for Decades". MIDN Poe's senior honors thesis analyzes a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

program involving mind control and behavioral modification that influenced agency tactics, techniques and procedures. He concludes that checks, balances and oversight are essential to preventing programs from running amok.



The 2024 Naval Order of the United States Senior Division Award. Midshipmen Second Class Evie Blauvelt is recipient of a clock and plaque but, as a member of the Navy sailing team, was unable to accept the award because she was participating in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Women's Fleet Racing Championships in Boston, MA. MIDN Blauvelt's paper titled "The Toxic Model Minority" suggests that everyone shares

the common experience of feeling like an outsider in some environment. It concludes that

identification of Asian Americans as a “model minority” further contributes to discrimination.

The 2024 Naval Order of the United States Junior Division Award. Midshipman Fourth Class Brady Humphrey received a clock and plaque for his paper titled “Armenian Foreign Policy and the OSCE Minsk Group: A Lack of Real Peace Efforts and the Need for Change”. The Organization for Security and Co-operation

in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group was created in 1992 to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. The paper analyzes the Minsk Group’s efforts over 3-decades, concluding that although the Minsk Group has experienced limited success in mediating the conflict, Armenia should engage other entities in the region to revitalize its foreign relations.

