

EMERITUS MATH PROFESSOR TEACHES, BLOGS ON THE OPEN SEA

Alex Feldman spent his summer on a 500-foot Navy destroyer called the John Paul Jones. After embarking from the Arabic island state of Bahrain, the emeritus math professor taught intermediate algebra to sailors on duty in the Persian Gulf through the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

Fourteen accredited colleges and universities offer degrees through NCPACE, enabling Marine Corps and Navy service members to take undergraduate, graduate or adult-learning courses while at sea.

Feldman was the only civilian onboard for most of his two-month engagement, but it didn't take long for him to become part of the community. In addition to teaching three classes, the former ultramarathoner participated in physical training with the crew every day, talked physics with his 24-year-old roommate and spent time in the pilothouse learning about navigation. He blogged about his experience almost daily, and it evolved from a

personal diary into a popular newsletter for crewmembers and their loved ones.

"The blog was probably the most appreciated part of what I did," Feldman says. "It got to be, in a funny way, a mark of honor for people when they appeared in it. It became more than just something in place of sending e-mail to my friends and family."

At the end of Feldman's tenure aboard the John Paul Jones, he was given a collection of the ship's official coins and a meaningful compliment from several high-ranking officers. They said he was the most engaged NCPACE instructor they had ever encountered.

"It was a great experience," Feldman says, "and I'm definitely thinking about doing it again."

To read Feldman's NCPACE blog, visit math.boisestate.edu/~alex/ddg53.html.



John Kelly

Popular 'Beat Pete' Scholarship Race Garners Award

Boise State's Beat Coach Pete Scholarship Run not only has sprinted to popularity within the local community, it also recently caught the eye of judges from the Western Region of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Held in April, the second annual run was awarded the association's 2009 Innovative Program Award in November. The award

recognizes an outstanding program that furthers the growth of students and enhances life on campus.

The annual Beat Pete race is sponsored by Campus Recreation, in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Athletics. Students, staff, faculty and community members are invited to race against football coach Chris Petersen in a three-mile run along the Boise Greenbelt.

Participants who best Petersen's time receive an "I Beat Pete" T-shirt. In addition, Coach Pete personally donates to the scholarship fund for each runner who finishes ahead of him. In 2008 he gave \$2,000, and in 2009 the figure rose to \$5,000. All race proceeds directly benefit the general scholarship fund and are dedicated to need-based scholarships and emergency funding for students.

The first two years of the race have resulted in \$33,000 in donations to the Boise State general scholarship fund, and organizers are looking forward to the third annual event on April 10, 2010.



Melissa Harris-Hartley