

Colin Devlin '03

Navy Veteran, Criminal Justice Student
at Penn State University



STATE COLLEGE, PA

Colin Devlin will be the first to say that there are many paths to a destination ... by land and by sea.

Colin entered Penn State University in January as a criminal justice major, with the goal of entering the FBI or Secret Service. Yet, it was the seasoning that he received in the U.S. Navy that helped instill the discipline he needed to prepare him for the rigors of college, Colin admits.

And the foundation that he received at Rosemont School of the Holy Child helped propel him, he says, to a successful stint in the Navy.

"I had attended Alvernia University, pursuing a degree in nursing," said Colin. "However, I was undisciplined about getting my classwork done. I needed motivation and discipline, so I joined the Navy."

Colin reached the rank of E4 petty officer 3rd class in the Navy and "I came out with multiple awards for my work ethic, like the Navy-Marine Corp Achievement medal. I was given assignments, and I got them done. I gained a lot of discipline, and now I am confident I have the necessary motivation to excel."

The education that he received at Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Colin said, "definitely instilled in me the morals of a Catholic education. Rosemont School helped shape me as the person I am today, and helped me stay on the right path in the Navy."

He looks back on his three years playing football at Rosemont School, and was grateful for the mission of teamwork that was instilled in him.

"The only way some things can get done is when everyone works together to accomplish the final goal," Colin said. "That's the way it is on deployment (in the Navy). Everybody has to work together."

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Last year Colin visited the 1st grade at RSHC during leave and saw how the education has advanced since he was a student.

"There was a lot more emphasis about technology," he said. "The students had a lot of good questions about it in the Navy."

"I remember when we (students) were shown one of the first digital cameras (at RSHC). Now the School has a 3D printer, which most schools don't have. Rosemont School always was ahead of the curve on technology, and I probably was more tech-wise in high school than most students."

Colin moved on to LaSalle College High School after graduation from RSHC. "We had many students from some public and Catholic schools, and I felt more prepared for the workload than they were," he said.

Near the end of his Navy tour, Colin was stationed on a 510-foot-long destroyer near the Persian Gulf, to support aircraft carriers and to discourage piracy.

"Sometimes on deployment, things can get so crazy," Colin said. "Once a priest came to us on ship, and I had time to go to Mass. It was a time to reflect and pray, and that helped a lot. My Catholic upbringing always was something I could fall back on." ✦



Colin Devlin with the 1st grade class last year.