

West Point

SUMMER 2019



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150

YEARS

Grant Statue Dedication

A Publication of the West Point Association of Graduates

FRIENDS AND FAMILY PROGRAM



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West Point
ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

Cullum Hall was built with funds from the 1892 bequest of George W. Cullum, Class of 1833.

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Since 1869, the West Point Association of Graduates has been dedicated to supporting the graduates of the United States Military Academy. When you make a gift to us as part of your estate or financial plans, you become an integral part in continuing our historic traditions for years to come.

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West Point

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ON THE COVER: A new statue of Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, was dedicated at West Point on April 25, 2019. Photo: Ted Spiegel.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Graduates:

What a busy few months we have had here at the Academy and at the Association of Graduates!

First, on April 10 and 11, approximately 140 graduates returned to their Rockbound Highland Home for the 2019 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit, during which a mix of experienced CEOs, investors, and service providers came together to be inspired in their business ventures and to form new avenues for partnership and collaboration with other members of the Long Gray Line. Two weeks later, on April 25, WPAOG unveiled its latest gift to the Academy, a statue of President and General Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, generously funded by the Honorable Bob McDonald '75 and his wife Diane. The Grant Monument became the first statue to be placed on the Plain since the Eisenhower Monument in 1983. A week later, on May 2, the Academy held its 20th annual Projects Day, and WPAOG held its traditional Donor Tribute Day. A few weeks later, on May 21, WPAOG presented the Distinguished Graduate Award to five deserving members of the Long Gray Line: GEN (R) David A. Bramlett '64, Dr. Victor F. Garcia '68, LTG (R) Robert L. VanAntwerp '72, GEN (R) Walter L. Sharp '74, and LTG (R) Robert L. Caslen Jr '75. Congratulations to them all! Then, a day later, on May 22, the highlight of 2019 for WPAOG, graduates around the world offered their best wishes on the sesquicentennial of the Association of Graduates with a virtual birthday toast, commemorating the day in 1869 when 15 graduates held the first organizational meeting of "the Association" in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818 and President of the College of the City of New York. Finally, on May 25, 985 members of the Class of 2019 received their diplomas and exited Thayer Gate as newly commissioned second lieutenants.

Time for a breather, right? Not at West Point.

As this magazine is reaching your mailbox, Summer Training is in full gear, with approximately 1,200 new cadets entering the Academy as members of the Class of 2023 and currently going through the rigors of Beast Barracks. Members of the Class of 1973, their 50-Year Affiliate Class, were present on R-Day to support the families who just said "good-bye" to their son or daughter. Many of the "Proud and Free!" will return on August 12 to complete the March Back with the soon-to-be plebes, who will be officially welcomed into the Corps during the A-Day Parade on August 17. Also during this week, WPAOG will hold its annual Leaders Conference, sponsored by the Class of 1967, which brings around 300 West Point Class, Society, and Parent Volunteer Leaders to the Academy to receive updates, to learn about new initiatives, and to refine their outreach skills to engage members of the Long Gray Line. One of the programs that I am excited to discuss with alumni during the Leaders Conference is WPAOG's new enhanced Career Services, which you can read more about on page 44 of this issue.

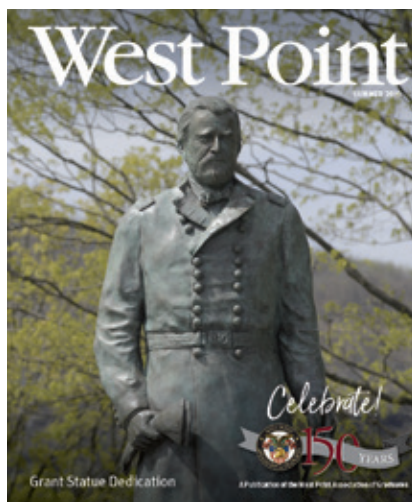
Once the academic year commences, there will be fall reunions, football Saturdays, and the Nininger and Thayer Award presentations to keep us busy as we work to fulfill our vision to be the most highly connected alumni body in the world. Yes, the WPAOG calendar is always full, but we wouldn't wish it any other way! As always, I thank you for your support of West Point and the Long Gray Line

Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line,

Todd

Todd A. Browne '85
President and CEO
West Point Association of Graduates





IN THIS ISSUE | GRANT STATUE DEDICATION WPAOG 150TH ANNIVERSARY

5 Celebrate with Us!

Throughout 2019, WPAOG will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Here's how you can be a part of the celebration!

6 The Modern Association of Graduates Takes Shape:

AOG History Part III (1946-1995)

Our series on WPAOG's 150 year history continues: The Association of Graduates' evolution from 1946-1995 saw AOG take on a new fundraising mission with the Superintendent's Fund, Class Giving campaigns, *Margin of Excellence* enhancements and brick and mortar projects for the Academy.

14 WPAOG Distinguished Graduate Awards 2019

18 COVER STORY | "Duty, Honor, Country" in Bronze: The Dedication of the Ulysses S. Grant Monument

Only a select few statues adorn the Plain at West Point: Presidents, generals, and Academy leaders including Washington, Thayer, Sedgwick, Patton, MacArthur, and Eisenhower. Now a statue of President and General Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, has joined their number.

24 Statues and Monuments on the Plain

26 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit

28 ASSEMBLY: AOG's First Alumni Magazine

32 Happy Birthday WPAOG! Grads Salute with Virtual Toasts from Around the World!

34 Photo Essay: Graduation Week 2019

38 "Symbols of Devotion to our Alma Mater": Class Gifts Through the Years

42 Projects Day 2019—Celebrating Academic Excellence

44 WPAOG's Enhanced Career Services

46 USMA Black Wins 2019 Sandhurst Competition

48 Army Volleyball Dreams of Going Places: From Italy to the NCAA Tournament

52 WPAOG Staff and Services: Class and Annual Giving, Data Services

ADVERTISERS

Academy Leadership	39
Army Residence Community	31
Balfour	51
Battle Monument Group	31
Boeing	27
Century 21	C2
Eisenhower Hall	69
Herff Jones	39
SACC	65
USAA	15, C3

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION: Congratulations 2019 DGA Recipients

Class of 1968	60
Class of 1972	61
Class of 1975	64
Classmates of Walter L. Sharp '74	63
The Flippen Group	62
MOAA	65
The Pasha Group, LLC	59

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the President
- 4 From the Superintendent
- 36 Poster: Bridge to Thayer Hall
- 41 WPAOG Military Retiree Recognition Program
- 51 Mailbox
- 54 West Point Bookshelf
- 56 WPAOG News
- 66 Gripping Hands
- 68 Parents Corner
- 69 Start the Days
- 70 Be Thou at Peace
- 71 Past in Review

“Graduation Week, in many ways, captures the essence of our purpose here: educating, training, developing and inspiring leaders of character for the Army.”



To the Long Gray Line:

Graduation Week is always an exciting and inspiring time at West Point, not only because we graduate a new class of leaders into the Army but also because of the many opportunities to interact with the hundreds of distinguished leaders from the Long Gray Line who visit here for their class reunions and other activities. We were honored to host more than 740 grads from as far back as the Class of 1944,

bringing centuries of experience. It was an honor meeting many of you, and I hope you enjoyed being back at your alma mater and interacting with today's generation of cadets.

We recently celebrated Commitment to Serve Week, a series of events beginning with the Grant Statue dedication and culminating with the Coach K Awards Dinner, all highlighting the theme of selfless service, to inspire the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community to a lifetime of service to the nation, to the community, and to others. In many ways, I feel that Graduation Week was an extension of Commitment to Serve Week, because what better way to inspire cadets and others to a lifetime of service than to just have them spend a few minutes with our alumni, upon whose shoulders today's and future generations of leaders stand.

The highlight of the week, of course, was the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019, where we welcomed 985 new lieutenants to the Long Gray Line. These young men and women will contribute to readiness—the Army's number one priority—ready to lead as Army officers, ready to fight and win today in the crucible of ground combat, and ready to help lead the Army renaissance to ensure the Army can fight and win tomorrow.

This is a very talented class that includes 28 graduate scholarship winners and 32 honor graduates. 81.4 percent of the class will start their careers in a Combat Arms branch, to include 111 women. This is also a very diverse class that included not only West Point's 5,000th woman graduate but also the largest concentration of women and of African American women in our history. Additionally, the class also included the 1,000th Jewish graduate.

As this year's commencement speaker, Vice President Mike Pence, told the graduating class, “You are taking up your duties at a time of growing challenges to freedom all around the world...no matter where you're deployed, you will be the vanguard of freedom...the work you do has never been more important. America will always seek peace, but peace comes through strength. And you are now that strength.

“It is a virtual certainty that you will fight on a battlefield for America at some point in your life,” he continued. “You will lead soldiers in combat. It will happen.”

Graduation Week, in many ways, captures the essence of our purpose here: educating, training, developing and inspiring leaders of character for the Army.

Developing leaders of character is at the core of everything we do here. Simply put, it is why we exist as an institution. The Army Strategy calls for “smart, thoughtful and innovative leaders of character who are comfortable with complexity and capable of operating from the tactical to strategic level.” Everything we do here is toward that end, and every member of the West Point team is committed to that purpose.

Through individual development efforts integrated across the academic, military, physical, and character programs, combined with opportunities to develop leadership skills, and all within a culture of character growth, our goal is to develop leaders of character, committed to the values of our Army and West Point, who live honorably, lead honorably and demonstrate excellence.

General Milley once said that “we must develop leaders who have incredible character under intense pressure, leaders that can be trusted to do the right thing when no one is watching except the enemy and the news media...who make the right moral and ethical choice in the most emotionally charged environment humans can ever face, the environment of ground combat.” These are the kind of leaders we strive to develop every day, and you can be assured that our graduates continue to lead and serve honorably around the globe, providing the innovative and values-based leadership our Army demands for the 21st century.

Leader development is a continual process: as one class leaves, another soon arrives, and on R-Day we welcomed more than 1,200 new cadets who will comprise the Class of 2023, as they take their first steps on their own journey toward becoming leaders of character.

I'm pleased to welcome an essential member of the West Point team, Mr. Mike Buddie, as our next Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Mike, who most recently served as Athletics Director at Furman University, was selected from a field of extremely talented candidates by the Army West Point Athletic Association Board of Directors after an extensive nationwide search. We welcome Mike and his family to the West Point team and know he will lead Army West Point Athletics to continued and greater success on the fields of friendly strife.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Major General Steve Gilland '90 for his outstanding leadership as our 77th Commandant of Cadets. Steve and his family are headed to Korea, where he'll take command of 2nd Infantry Division. We wish the Gillands all the best in their next assignment.

Finally, congratulations to the West Point Association of Graduates on 150 years of serving West Point and its graduates. They are a strong and faithful organization that supports the cadet leader development experience in a monumental way!

As always, thank you for all you do for West Point and the Long Gray Line.

Beat Navy!

Darryl Williams '83

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army

60th Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy



Celebrate with Us!

150 Years | 1869 – 2019

Honor the Past. Prepare for the Future.



Throughout 2019, the West Point Association of Graduates is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Here's how you can be a part of the occasion!

Learn and Inspire: *Discover Our History*

Our website, WestPointAOG.org/150th is a communications hub for our celebration, containing a wealth of information on WPAOG history and events.

“On This Day”: Throughout 2019, WPAOG is sharing “On this Day” facts highlighting historic events or achievements of West Point graduates each day of the year. These facts can be found on a timeline on our website at WestPointAOG.org/150thOnThisDay and we are also sharing them on our social media platforms, so be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. WPAOG gratefully acknowledges the detailed historical research for “On This Day” done by Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Voigtschild Minus '93 (Retired). For more than a year, Minus combed through West Point and WPAOG history to collect 365 facts, one for each day of the year.

West Point magazine is featuring articles in each issue of 2019 on WPAOG's history and the WPAOG of today, and how we continue to serve West Point and the Long Gray Line.

Our *First Call* newsletter and all WPAOG social media platforms are sharing 150th stories throughout the year.

Participate: *Celebrate with fellow graduates and share your stories and images*

- Share your 150th celebrations on social media using **#WPAOG150**. Follow WPAOG on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more information.

- WPAOG's **Leaders Conference** in August 2019 will feature a special 150th celebration. Details online at WestPointAOG.org/WPAOG/LeadersConference.
- **Virtual Birthday Toast:** On WPAOG's “Birthday,” May 22, 2019, graduates around the world shared a virtual “Happy Birthday” toast. Learn about the events of the day on p. 32 of this issue.
- A special 150th video was shared at Founders Days and may be viewed at Vimeo.com/WPAOG.
- **Flat Cullum:** George W. Cullum (1833), one of West Point's most notable graduates, will be seen everywhere in 2019! The Spring issue of West Point magazine included a “Flat Cullum” cutout to incorporate in your photos and share with us. Flat Cullum is also available to download online at WestPointAOG.org/150thParticipate

Commemorate 150 Years with Exclusive Memorabilia

- Founders Day—WPAOG provided free 150th celebration packets to all West Point Societies for Founders Day events.
- A selection of exclusive 150th-themed memorabilia is available to order online at WPAOGGiftShop.com or by phone at **800.426.4725**.
- WPAOG will offer exclusive 150th banners to Societies and will proudly display a 150th logo, flag and building decorations throughout the year.

More information: *Need more information or have a fact you want to share? Contact us at 150@wpaog.org*

“As we mark the midpoint of WPAOG's 150th Anniversary year, I'd like to thank the Long Gray Line for your creative and enthusiastic participation in this special celebration. Please continue to join in as we renew our connection with West Point and each other throughout the year. I am grateful to the 150th Planning Committee for their outstanding support.”

—LTC(R) Deirdre Dixon '84, Ph.D.

Chair, 150th Anniversary Planning Committee, WPAOG Board of Directors



The Modern Association of Graduates Takes Shape

AOG History Part III (1946-1995)

By **Keith J. Hamel**, WPAOG staff

For the first 30 or so years of its existence (1869-1900), the Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy barely resembled the WPAOG that West Point graduates know today. Back then, its mission was "...to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates;" its activities consisted of an annual meeting and the publishing of an annual report (dominated by a "Necrology" section of obituaries for those graduates who died the previous year); and its finances

primarily relied on an estate gift from George Cullum, Class of 1833, who bequeathed \$250,000 to build the Memorial Hall that bears his name and left \$10,000 to fund "the current and necessary expenses" of the nascent Association. In its second stage of existence (1901-45), changes to AOG's mission, governance, and operations signaled its desire to become more like a contemporary alumni association. Some of the initiatives from that era included "Alumni Day," featuring a wreath-laying ceremony at Thayer Statue that is still practiced nearly 100

years later; the “Stained Glass Windows” project, a precursor to Class Giving, where classes purchased windows in the Cadet Chapel (with some classes also purchasing a panel for a class that graduated 100 years earlier which had no living members); and the introduction of *ASSEMBLY* magazine, which replaced the *Annual Report* with a quarterly publication chronicling news involving West Point cadets, faculty, and alumni. The third part of WPAOG’s history (1946-95) begins with the founding of the West Point Alumni Foundation and continues through the opening of Herbert Alumni Center, the current home of the West Point Association of Graduates, the modern alumni association with which all graduates are familiar today.

West Point Alumni Foundation

The West Point Alumni Foundation, Inc. (WPAF) was founded on December 26, 1945 by trustees of the much older Association of Graduates. In the years immediately preceding WPAF’s founding, the financial condition of AOG was dangerously close to running in the red. Other than the annual yield from an \$100,000 endowment, AOG’s only income source was the one-time \$15 initiation fee it charged for membership, which included a lifetime subscription to the recently launched *ASSEMBLY* magazine (April 1942). Unfortunately, printing and mailing costs had escalated to such an extent during World War II that it was impossible to continue issuing *ASSEMBLY* on the support of membership fees alone. Looking at ways to increase revenues for the organization and save its new alumni magazine, the AOG Board of Trustees considered publishing a “Register of Graduates” similar to the one the U.S. Naval

Academy’s graduate association had been publishing since the mid-1930s. Not only would it raise funds through subscriptions, this new annual Register (different than the decennially published *Biographical Register* that Cullum had started in 1868 and that AOG had continued through Volume IX [1940-50]) would generate revenue from advertisements in the new publication. As AOG President Robert M. Danford, Class of 1904, noted in his letter for the July 1946 issue of *ASSEMBLY*, “The publication of this Register, if we may judge by that of the Naval Academy, should give us an additional, material, and much needed source of revenue for the Association.” There was, however, one rather larger sticking point to the AOG’s plan.

At this point in time, AOG’s Secretary and Treasurer (who was also the Editor of *ASSEMBLY*) was an active duty officer who also served in the Office of the Superintendent as the Academy’s Alumni Secretary. According to the provisions of the annual Army appropriations bill, “No appropriation for the pay of the Army shall be available for the pay of any officer or enlisted on the active list of the Army who is engaged in any manner with any publication...which carries paid advertising of firms doing business with the War Department.” AOG was, in essence, a quasi-government staff section of USMA, and, as long as AOG had an active duty officer on its staff, it was prohibited from soliciting advertisers for its publications.

To solve this dilemma, Danford and Chauncey Fenton, also from the Class of 1904, who were members of the AOG Board of Trustees, pushed for the formation of a separate corporation,

Below: MG (R) Robert Danford, Class of 1904, upon being elected to serve his third term as President, addresses members at the 76th annual meeting of the Association of Graduates on June 4, 1945.



Left: COL (R) Chauncey Fenton, Class of 1904, served as President of the West Point Alumni Foundation from 1946 to 1962 and served as AOG President from 1947 to 1955.

Below: AOG introduced subscription rates to the Long Gray Line in the April 1947 issue of *ASSEMBLY*.



CHANGE OF POLICY FOR THE PUBLICATION OF Assembly and the Register of Graduates, U. S. M. A.

At their meeting on March 29, 1947 the Trustees of the Association of Graduates voted that a change of policy for the publication of **ASSEMBLY** and the **REGISTER OF GRADUATES, U.S.M.A.** is imperative.

Costs of paper, printing, labor, etc., have risen so drastically over the past few years that publication of **ASSEMBLY** can no longer be continued as heretofore without a deficit resulting.

Publication of the **REGISTER OF GRADUATES AND FORMER CADETS** was initiated last year in an effort to secure needed funds for the Association. The principal income from this publication will normally come from advertising, but, due to the unfavorable business situation which has prevailed throughout the year, all money obtained from advertising was absorbed in printing costs. Proceeds from sales of the **REGISTER** to date have been little more than sufficient to meet the costs incurred in preparing the **REGISTER** for publication and are not yet sufficient to meet the cost of publishing both the **REGISTER** and **ASSEMBLY**. While the long range prospects for income from the **REGISTER OF GRADUATES** remain favorable, it is impossible to pay costs on prospects, hence the necessity for action now.

Beginning with the October 1947 issue of **ASSEMBLY**, that publication, as well as the **REGISTER OF GRADUATES**, will be placed on a subscription basis, and **ASSEMBLY** will also be published by the West Point Alumni Foundation, Inc. for the Association of Graduates.

Subscription rates will be as follows:

- (1) To members of the Association of Graduates—**REGISTER OF GRADUATES**—\$3.00 per year

that became the West Point Alumni Foundation (WPAF), which was to be operated entirely by persons not on the active list of the Army. According to Michael Krisman, WPAF's last Executive Manager, the purpose of WPAF was multifold: "To acquire and disseminate information on the history, activities, objectives and methods of the United States Military Academy, and its place in the National Defense organization of the United States; to acquire, preserve, and disseminate historical materials relating to it and the Armed Forces of the Nation; to encourage and foster the study of military and naval science; to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge among worthy [youths] in preparation for entrance to West Point or other military or naval schools; to receive, provide, and maintain funds and apply the income therefrom in furtherance of these purposes."

WPAF was first established as a Maryland corporation, but on August 6, 1946, New York authorized its request to do business in the state as a foreign corporation—with a governing board of nine officers and directors, no membership other than its Board, a paid staff of civilians and retired military, and a headquarters in New York City (with a satellite office in Cullum Hall). The first *Register*, with Danford as its editor, was published shortly thereafter. It contained short biographical briefs of 16,161 graduates and listed 7,847 former cadets. It also contained well over 100 advertisements, everything from full-page spreads by Curtiss-Wright Corporation and Coca-Cola to one-eighth-page, classified-type ads by Mall Portable Power Tools and The Loesch & Green Construction Company. What's more, in the "Acknowledgements" section of the inaugural *Register*, the officers and directors of WPAF recognized, "with grateful appreciation," all the advertisers who published in the *Register* and "urge[d] their patronage upon our subscribers." The 1946 *Register* also placed a half-page, in-house ad on page 338 that said, "The West Point Alumni Foundation,

Inc., wishes to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to the advertisers in this, the *1946 Register of Graduates of the United States Military Academy*, for their part in making possible the production of this volume."

WPAF was evidently staking its fortunes, and those of AOG, on advertising, now and in the future. According to a report in the January 18, 1946 edition of *ASSEMBLY*, AOG expected that the advertising included in the *Register* would provide “a greatly desired and needed source of revenue,” and, in that first year, funds received through WPAF increased AOG’s income sheet \$5,807.64, nearly a 40 percent rise from 1946’s number. Yet, despite this apparent surge in revenue, the continually rising costs of paper, printing, labor and shipping threatened the solvency of the Association and forced the AOG Board of Trustees to end the lifetime membership benefit and to institute subscription rates for *ASSEMBLY*, starting with the October 1947 issue. Even with this move, the balance sheet was still bleak. In July 1948, Fenton, now AOG President, remarked, “A subscription for both *ASSEMBLY* and the *Register* at \$3 gives the Association a profit of 74 cents; a subscription to *ASSEMBLY* alone at \$1.50 gives a deficit of 46 cents.”

Tax-Exempt Donations

Help came from an unexpected source: the Internal Revenue Service. In a letter dated December 1, 1948, the Commissioner of the IRS granted tax-exempt status to the Association, confirming that gifts to AOG for operational purposes could now be deducted from the income tax of the donor.

Interestingly, it was WPAF's purpose statement, which AOG later adopted in modified form at its June 1949 annual meeting, that allowed AOG to receive its IRS privilege. AOG's new mission now stated, "The objects of the Association shall be to acquire and disseminate information on the history, activities,



Above: MG Garrison “Gar” Davidson ’27, the 44th Superintendent of West Point, first called on AOG members to provide donations for facilities at West Point that were not likely to receive appropriated funds. **Left:** In the January 1949 issue of *ASSEMBLY*, AOG announces that it has received tax-exempt status from the IRS and begins to call on graduates to support the Association and “to invest in our Alma Mater.”

January, 1949

ALL WEST POINTERS, ATTENTION!

Please note that:

The Association of Graduates needs more funds to accomplish more completely its mission. The war classes have greatly increased the size of our Association; new activities have been undertaken; the cost of labor and materials and everything else has skyrocketed; and the income from sources now available is not sufficient to permit the Association to do many things that urgently need to be done.

Contributions, gifts and bequests to the Association of Graduates are now deductible under the Federal Income Tax, Gift Tax, and Estate Tax laws.

Do you make annual contributions for religious, educational and other worthy purposes? Do you plan to provide in your will for similar purposes? If so, you now have an opportunity to let the Association of Graduates share in your gifts, as the Association has qualified as an educational society under paragraph 101(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The following extracts from a letter signed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, dated December 1st, 1948, in which this decision was rendered, are quoted for your information:

"Contributions for religious, educational and other worthy purposes are deductible under the Federal Income Tax and Estate Tax laws.

"Contributions made to you are deductible by the donors in arriving at their taxable net income in the manner and to the extent provided by section 23(o) and (q) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and corresponding provisions of prior revenue acts."

"...respending provisions of the Code, as amended, 'Bequests, legacies, devises or transfers, to or for the use or benefit of any person, whether or not the user or beneficiary is an individual, and whether or not the user or beneficiary is a resident of the United States,' your use are deductible in arriving at the value of the net estate of a decedent for estate tax purposes 812(d) and 861(a)(3) of the Code and/or corresponding provisions of prior revenue acts. Gifts of property for purposes in computing net gifts for gift tax purposes are deductible in the manner and to the extent provided in section 1004(a)(2)(B) and 1004(b)(2) and (3) of the Code and/or corresponding provisions of prior revenue acts."

8 WestPointAOG.org

continued publication of our quarterly magazine, ASSEMBLY, and the annual REGISTER OF GRADUATES, U.S.M.A. (both the very life blood of our Association) on the same high level of quality and informative value which we intend to maintain requires additional editorial and clerical assistance and greater facilities than we now have. All come for the Association in the future if we are to continue to keep before our graduates and the country the contributions that West Point has made, and will continue to make to the Nation.

Specifically, some of the things for which greater income is needed are as follows:

Expansion in office facilities, equipment and number of personnel for the office of the Association at West Point. It must be remembered that while the West Point Alumni Foundation, Inc. publishes ASSEMBLY and the REGISTER OF GRADUATES for the Association, a great amount of the research and record keeping incident to the REGISTER and all of the editorial work incident to the REGISTER are done in the office of the Association at ASSEMBLY are done in the office of the Association at West Point.

In 1952 the Military Academy will celebrate its centennial anniversary.

In 1952 the Military Academy will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary. Plans for this celebration are being made now. The Association of Graduates, and its personnel and facilities in its office at West Point, will be intimately involved, in cooperation with other agencies at West Point, in the planning and preparation for this event. In this connection, the Association has already underwritten financially the publication of the sesquicentennial book, MEN OF WEST POINT, to be ready for distribution by 1952. The purpose of the book is to bring out the value of West Point to the Nation in the first 150 years of the existence of the Academy.

In order to assure the perpetuation of the Association

In order to enlist the aid and cooperation of West Point graduates in the work of the Association, there is a great need at West Point for the expansion of facilities which can serve the needs of visiting graduates.

The items above are merely a few examples of the things the Association ought to do in the accomplishment of its mission. In all of these endeavors more funds will be required by the Association if it is to be a live and active organization, working for West Point and the Academy stands for

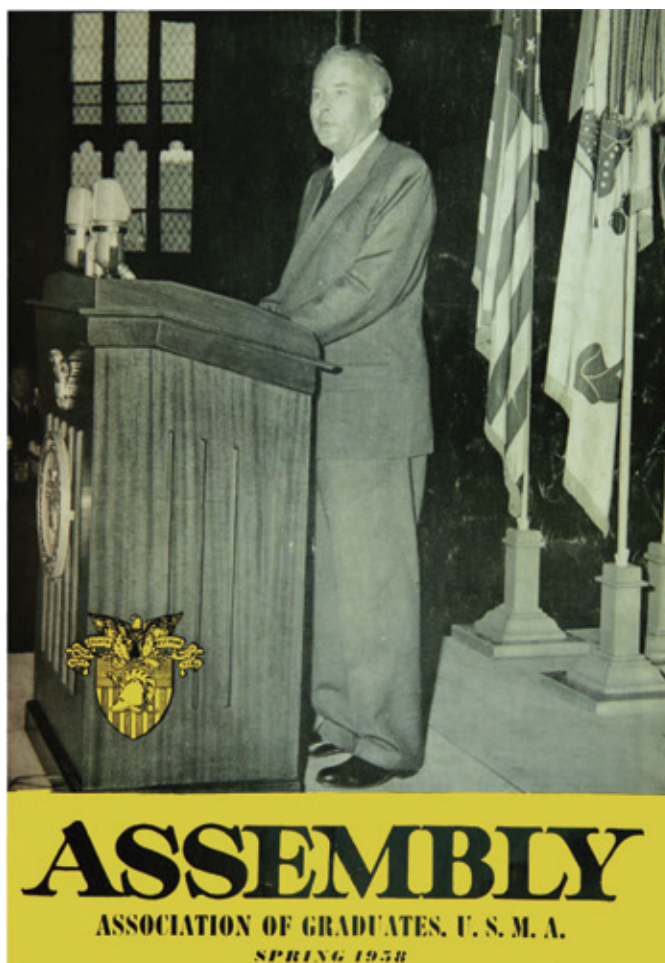
objectives and methods of the United States Military Academy; to acquire, and preserve historical materials relating to that institution; and to encourage and foster the study of military science there by worthy [youths].” Not being religious, charitable, or scientific, AOG needed to alter the Association’s purpose to emphasize the “acquiring and disseminating information on USMA” to ensure tax-exempt status as an “educational society.”

Just one month after receiving its good news, AOG put out an appeal in the January 1949 issue of *ASSEMBLY* with an article titled “All West Pointers, Attention!” asking graduates for financial assistance, claiming that the “war classes have greatly increased the size of the Association, new activities have been undertaken, and the cost of labor and materials and everything else has skyrocketed.” The second paragraph of that appeal reads, “Contributions, gifts and bequests to the Association of Graduates are now tax-deductible under the Federal Income Tax, Gift Tax, and Estate Tax laws.” According to the article, greater income was needed for “Expansion in office facilities, equipment and number of personnel for the office of the Association at West Point.” While the primary focus was AOG, the article ended by noting that, ultimately, “Your gifts...will be of great benefit to West Point.” This last point was reinforced in a January 1950 letter by Fenton, written from his role as Chairman of the Association’s Fund Raising [*sic*] Committee, in which he explained AOG’s needs but also stated that giving to the Association provides “an opportunity to invest in our Alma Mater.”

Granted, AOG already benefited the Academy by maintaining graduate records for USMA’s reference, by providing information to local West Point Societies about USMA activities so that it could recruit prospective cadets through graduates, and by recent initiatives such as the Thayer Award (first given in March 1958), but could the ’49 fundraising appeal unconsciously have been suggesting something more? Major General Garrison “Gar” Davidson ’27, the 44th West Point Superintendent, seemed to think so and envisioned a future in which AOG could directly assist West Point financially. In a speech before West Point Society members on September 26, 1958, Davidson said, “There are quite a few facilities that are necessary at the Military Academy for which it is probable that appropriated funds will not be available in the foreseeable future.” Earlier, he had asked the AOG Board of Trustees to hire a Kansas City survey firm to conduct a fundraising campaign feasibility study. The Fall 1958 issue of *ASSEMBLY* briefly references the survey stating, “At press time there was little information available except the fact that generally the alumni strongly favor such a campaign.” Indeed, the firm later recommended that West Point, through AOG, conduct a 19-month, \$3 million campaign for facilities at the Academy. Yet, Anthony McAuliffe, Class of 1919, President of the Association, rejected the proposal, fearing that such a fundraising effort would put AOG’s relatively recent tax-exempt status in jeopardy.

West Point Superintendent’s Fund

Davidson’s successor, Major General William C. Westmoreland ’36, also saw opportunities in asking graduates to financially support the Academy, but instead of approaching AOG he turned to WPAF as the organization best able to assist him. After all, the last sentence of WPAF’s mission statement read,



Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, Professor of Physics, University of California, accepts the inaugural Sylvanus Thayer Award on March 21, 1958.

“...to receive, provide, and maintain funds and apply the income therefrom in furtherance of [the United States Military Academy].” In the spring of 1961, shortly before June Week, a group of senior graduates, headed by Lucius D. Clay, Class of 1918 June, and George Olmsted ’22, met in New York City to hear from Westmoreland what special needs the Military Academy had that could not be met from appropriated or other fund sources.

The result of this meeting was the establishment of the West Point Superintendent’s Fund. During the formative stages of the Fund, Westmoreland visited Congress and discussed the proposed endowment with leaders of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, who reacted positively to the idea of soliciting private donations for what Westmoreland called, “nice-to-have facilities for the Academy and for use by the Corps of Cadets,” later defined by Major General James B. Lampert ’36, West Point’s 46th Superintendent, as “worthwhile projects which have a direct bearing on cadet welfare.” In a WPAF brochure outlining the goals of the Fund and addressing questions raised by graduates, Clay wrote the following: “Today, the alumni of other schools and colleges, including state-supported schools, give heavily and gladly to their schools and in doing so become more deeply interested than ever...Become a part of West Point’s development and future.”

General Robert E. Wood, Class of 1900, one of four “Honorary Advisors” of the West Point Superintendent’s Fund Committee



Top left: The terminal end of the T-bar lift at the Victor Constant Ski Slope circa 1963, which was one of the first gifts funded by WPAF's West Point Superintendent's Fund. **Top right:** In the spring of 1962, COL Charles N. Branham '22, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Point Superintendent's Fund, accepted donations to the fund from GEN Henry C. Hodges Jr., Class of 1881, the oldest living graduate at the time, and from 2LT John F. McLaughlin '61, the youngest graduate at the time.

WEST POINT SUPERINTENDENT'S FUND



West Point Alumni Foundation Inc.

(along with Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903; Dwight Eisenhower, and Omar Bradley, both Class of 1915) made the initial contribution to the Fund. After one year, the Fund raised nearly \$100,000 toward its \$1 million goal from 92 graduate donors, 29 of whom gave more than \$1,000. According to the minutes of AOG's 93rd Annual Meeting, some of this early money went to install a ski lift, to partially pay for work being done on the First Class Club (the old Ordnance Compound), to improve the echo division of the Cadet Chapel organ, and to meet the expenses of three cadets who were selected to take part in Operations Crossroads-Africa (a practice that continues today in the form of AIADs). Clay, Chairman of the Fund Committee, publicly suggested that graduates give an annual contribution of one dollar for every year since their graduation.

True to form, at a birthday party celebrating his 102nd birthday in the spring of 1962, Henry Hodges Jr., Class of 1881, West Point's oldest living graduate, presented Charles N. Branham '22, Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund, with a gift of \$81, while Lieutenant John F. McLaughlin '61, the Long Gray Line's youngest graduate, gave \$1.

Early publicity for the West Point Superintendent's Fund went to great lengths to establish that this new fund should be viewed as separate from AOG's annual request. "The Association of Graduates is alumni-oriented and its fund-raising [*sic*] efforts are generally directed toward awards and other alumni activities in the fields of education and history," stated an article in the Summer 1961 issue of *ASSEMBLY*. Nine months earlier, in the Fall 1961 issue, Westmoreland addressed the matter in his regular Superintendent's letter, writing, "The Superintendent's Fund, on the other hand, provides a development fund which, through its listing of specific additional educational and

extracurricular projects, will stimulate interest, guide donors into giving for useful purposes, provide an organized approach to such giving, and thus encourage contributions."

Coincidentally, just as the Superintendent's Fund was being established, AOG received the sum of \$1 million from the will of Agnes Pierce, widow of Palmer Pierce, Class of 1891, who served as AOG Treasurer (1905-07), President (1931-34), and Trustee (1938 until his death in 1940). Listed in AOG financial report as the "Palmer E. Pierce Memorial Fund," the terms of the gift simply stated that "the Trustees of the Association shall in due course establish a suitable memorial in memory of my late husband..." With no restrictions on the gift, AOG invested the money in U.S. Treasury bills, earning \$18,479 in interest in the first year, and eventually used it to build the semi-circular dining room extension of the West Point Club. In 1962, another graduate, Gilbert Youngberg, Class of 1900, left \$50,000 for AOG in his will, which the Association also deposited in its Endowment Fund.

By the mid-1960s, both AOG and WPAF were humming along, each doing what it did best. According to the report "Two Decades of Change," written in 1992 by AOG's first Executive Vice President, Robert Lamb Jr. '46, "WPAF, acting through its fundraising committee, annually conducted a relatively low-key private fundraising program for the Academy (which was renamed "The West Point Fund" in 1969) and served as the publisher of two alumni publications (*ASSEMBLY* and the *Register of Graduates*), while AOG conducted alumni events (such as class reunions), operated a catalogue gift shop, maintained historical and biographical records on graduates, solicited funds for its annual appeal (supplemental AOG operating funds), and exercised editorial responsibility for *ASSEMBLY*." While separate entities, the relationship between AOG and WPAF was actually synergistic: AOG represented the graduates from which most of the funds raised by WPAF came, and WPAF solicited advertising for AOG's publications, which the Association could not do given the active duty officer serving as its Secretary-Treasurer.

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

TIMELINE (1946-1995)



1947

ASSEMBLY magazine becomes a paid subscription publication



1955

West Point Alumni Foundation moves its headquarters from NYC to Cullum Hall at West Point.



1961

West Point Superintendent's Fund established under WPAF Chairman Lucius Clay (1918 June), left, and Vice Chairman George Olmsted (1922).

1976

LTG Sidney Berry '48, 50th Superintendent, develops *Margin of Excellence* concept in letter to Alumni.



1983

Eisenhower Monument unveiled, the first West Point Fund project for which AOG oversaw the work and presented the product to the Academy

1987

- First West Point Societies Presidents Conference, precursor to today's Leaders Conference.
- Class Giving support established at WPAOG.

1993

Starting with the Class of 1994, all graduates automatically become members of the Association without paying an initiation fee.



1995

Herbert Alumni Center officially opens; AOG staff moves into its new home.

1948

AOG granted tax-exempt status by Commissioner of the IRS.

1958

Inaugural Thayer Award presented to Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence. The Class of 1931 defrayed costs of what became WPAOG's most prestigious annual award.



1972

- AOG and WPAF sign agreements transferring fundraising and publication responsibilities from the Foundation to the Association.
- Robert Lamb (1946), the final active duty officer to serve on the Association staff, retires; the next day he assumes the new paid position of AOG Executive Vice President.



1986

West Point Societies Program established

1992

First Distinguished Graduate Awards presented.



WPAF Dissolved

AOG celebrated its centennial in 1969, although there is no mention of the Association recognizing its 100th year of existence in any AOG publication that year (it wasn't even brought up at the annual meeting!). In the first year of the Association's second century, two events occurred that significantly changed the direction of AOG: First, Paul Thompson '29 was elected President; second, Major General William Knowlton '43JAN took over as Superintendent from Major General Samuel Koster '42. Thompson and Knowlton, as it turned out, were made for each other, as each was interested in reorganizing and reforming the work of AOG. Weeks before his departure, Koster had announced plans to raise \$10 million through WPAF in order to endow cadet activities, calling the plan the "\$10 Million Cadet Activities Endowment."

Ambitious (since, from its inception in 1961, the West Point Fund had raised just \$1.02 million), Koster's plan reportedly

resulted in a 369-percent increase in contributions over FY1969, but Knowlton suspended it in the spring of 1970 fearing "that there may be some duplication of our fund-raising efforts" and announcing that "a study is being made to sort out our alumni-related fund-raising efforts." A year later, in the *1971 Annual Report of the Superintendent*, Knowlton declared, "Pending at present is a reorganization and consolidation of the West Point Alumni Foundation and the Association of Graduates." To hasten this shakeup, Knowlton had earlier introduced plans to remove the active duty officer from the Office of Assistant to the Superintendent (Gifts Program) who had been working for AOG, and thus limiting the Association's ability to solicit funds for USMA, and to establish the Alumni

Affairs and Gifts Program Division, a precursor to today's Directorate of Academy Advancement.

While Knowlton forced the merger between AOG and WPAF, it was up to Thompson to seal the deal. As noted in Lamb's report, the leadership at WPAF feared that funds raised would be directed to AOG "and that USMA at most would get crumbs." At a fall 1970 meeting, Thompson convinced George Olmsted and Cortlandt Schuyler, both Class of 1922 and key WPAF Board members, that this would not be the case. Just a few years earlier, Schuyler had served as AOG President, and his views were valued by Board members of both organizations. Schuyler agreed to work with Thompson on the details of the reorganization, and the following fall they presented these details to the WPAF Board of Managers, who ultimately "decided that it would be in USMA's best interests to transfer its fundraising and publishing responsibilities and all its assets to AOG." On February 8, 1972, AOG and WPAF signed two memorandums of agreement (one for fundraising and one for publishing) to that effect. To that point in time, WPAF had raised \$1.8 million for the Academy. It continued its existence as a backup to AOG from 1972 to 1987, receiving more than \$1,450,000 in gifts and bequests, all of which were transferred to AOG before the Foundation finally voted itself out of business on March 21, 1988.

Seeds of "WPAOG" Sown

Stepping back a bit, one more significant event occurred closely after AOG's centennial, but it's unclear whether it had a direct impact on Thompson and Knowlton's vision to reorganize the Association. In 1972, AOG received a \$1.5 bequest gift from the estate of Leah and Clement Trott, Class of 1899. According to Lamb's report, "The Trott gift gave the AOG the financial flexibility and capability to expand program and activity support of the Academy, as the Cullum gift had provided graduates their administrative center and 'alumni house' at West Point." Lamb would certainly know: Even though AOG was losing its active duty officer in the Superintendent's office, who did a tremendous amount of work for the Association, the Trott gift allowed AOG to now hire and pay a full-time Executive Vice President, and the person the Association hired was Robert Lamb. He retired from his position as Alumni Secretary on the Superintendent's staff on August 31, 1972 and the next day reported to AOG in his new role, which he labels in his report as "managing director." The Trott gift also allowed AOG to hire Stephen O. Fuqua '33 as Director of Development, Michael Krisman '39 as Director of Publications, and a handful more staff personnel for its offices on the lower floors of Cullum Hall.

The early 1970s were an exciting time for the Association. Its membership among graduates was hovering around 97 percent, it completed a record annual appeal in 1970 (\$61,996), and in 1972 AOG's Endowment Fund exceeded the \$3 million mark, providing more than \$100,000 in interest and dividend income to annually fund the Association's operating expenses (in recognition of its surplus, AOG presented a gift of \$25,000 to the Academy). "By the summer of 1973, the basic elements of the reorganization of the Academy's alumni affairs were in place," noted Lamb in his report. Despite these positives, there were still challenges for the reorganized AOG, none bigger than trying to convince more and more graduates to support the Academy with a donation. Most of these graduates had served in an Army for which almost all recreational activities and facilities were paid by appropriated dollars, and they did not comprehend why the Academy needed private funding. Lieutenant General Sidney Berry '48, the 50th Superintendent, addressed this matter in his March 1976 *ASSEMBLY* letter, stating: "Public funds support the necessities of cadet life, education and training. Privately contributed funds augment programs and activities supported by public funds, provide extracurricular opportunities for cadets, and in general improve the quality of education and training at West Point. In short, they provide the *margin of excellence* we desire and expect for the Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets," coining a phrase that is essential to AOG's mission today.

More changes familiar to today's AOG came in the 1980s. As the new decade began, AOG had just inaugurated its new travel program with a cruise from Texas and added new trips (three-to-five annually) in the coming years, and it had launched the West Point Preparatory Scholarship Program, which provided funds to deserving candidates who needed additional instruction at a military junior college to ensure success at West Point. In 1981, AOG President George Dixon Jr. '40 convened a long-range planning conference in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, one of the outcomes of which was the establishment of a West Point Societies Program. Dozens of West Point Societies had been in existence by this time, most assisting the Academy with its Admissions efforts, but they had been relatively autonomous. The new program, which



MG William Knowlton '43JAN

was finally implemented in the fall of 1986 with Morris Herbert '50 as its first Director (aided by James "Skip" Wensyel '52 as Deputy Director of Information), sought to align the 75 or so active societies and encouraged them to assist AOG in achieving its objectives toward the Academy, rather than their own individual objectives. On May 1, 1987, AOG held the first West Point Societies Presidents Conference, a forerunner of today's Leaders Conference, during which Denis Mullane '52, Chairman of AOG's Societies Committee, discussed four key topics with the 53 society representatives present: admissions support, information dissemination, community relations, and strengthening support between AOG and societies. Around this time, AOG also established a new development program to assist West Point classes in their efforts to support the Academy, latter known as Class Giving, complete with support from AOG Financial Services to administrate the funds, ensuring that interest on said funds was properly reinvested (Williams Harrison Jr. '52 became AOG's first Director of Financial Services and Treasurer). Finally, in 1992, AOG introduced the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA), its second major annual award (the first being the Thayer Award). James Van Fleet, Class of 1915; Matthew Ridgeway, Class of APR1917; Andrew Goodpaster '39, and Thoralf Sundt Jr. '52 were the first recipients of the DGA.

Conclusion—AOG'S New Home

By the end of the 1980s, AOG was taking in more than \$5 million annually in donations, establishing a financial position

that finally allowed it to realize a decades-long desire to eliminate membership dues, which it did starting with the Class of 1994. What's more, in 1990, Thomas Russell '59, a Planned Giving Officer, took a phone call from the son of graduate who was inquiring about how much money it would take to have a building at West Point named for his father, James K. Herbert, '30. Russell explained that the names for public buildings at the Academy were made by the Secretary of the Army and not named for donors, but that AOG would be willing to name its long-desired alumni center after his father. Thus, upon his death in 1990, Herbert bequeathed \$3 million to AOG, which became the lead gift in a campaign to build what became known as the Herbert Alumni Center. Ground was broken for AOG's new home on April 8, 1993, and its cornerstone was dedicated on October 12, 1993 during Homecoming ceremonies. When the AOG staff moved into Herbert Alumni Center on March 1, 1995, the Association had just completed two banner years: its Development staff raised \$11.04 million from 14,454 gifts in 1994, with graduate participation increasing to 24 percent, an all-time high; and, a year earlier, it stood up its Office of Alumni Support (derived from the West Point Societies Program and complete with Society, Classes, and Communication divisions). But this was just the start of some amazing successes for AOG. Now that it was working out of Herbert Alumni Center, it was about to realize a goal it had established for itself at the 1990 Board of Trustees strategic planning conference, a goal to raise \$100 million for USMA in 10 years, a goal that became known as the Bicentennial Campaign for West Point, and it's the opening subject in the next and final installment of AOG's 150-year history. ★



BG James K. Herbert '30





West Point Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Awards 2019

During the last week of April and into the beginning of May, the United States Military Academy at West Point celebrated the first-ever “Commitment to Service” week, a series of events (from the Grant Statue dedication to the Coach K Awards dinner) that highlighted the theme of a lifetime of selfless service to the nation, to the community, and to others. Speaking at the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) Luncheon, which honored the five graduates recognized in 2019, as well as welcomed the more than 740 graduates who returned to their alma mater for spring reunions, Lieutenant General Darryl Williams ’83, the 60th Superintendent of West Point, remarked that “Commitment to Service” week should be expanded to include the DGA event. “I can’t think of a better way to inspire cadets to service than to have them spend a few minutes with this year’s DGA recipients,” Williams said, noting that if there were ever a “Who’s Who” or hall of fame for selfless service, it would be filled by the five Distinguished Graduates for 2019: General (Retired) David A. Bramlett ’64, Colonel (Retired) Victor Garcia M.D. ’68, Lieutenant General (Retired) Robert L. VanAntwerp ’72, General (Retired) Walter

L. “Skip” Sharp ’74, and Lieutenant General (Retired) Robert L. Caslen Jr. ’75.

In his few minutes with cadets, Sharp said he would reiterate the lesson of hard work. “I’m living proof that if you work your tail off, you get back a million-fold what you’ve put in,” Sharp said. He also said that he would remind cadets of the honor, privilege, and responsibility of serving with soldiers and protecting the United States. “It’s such a great honor.”

Caslen, who served as Superintendent to three-quarters of the Corps still present at the Academy and humbly noted that he was receiving his DGA because of what they accomplished, would pass along several lessons to cadets, all involving “character,” his signature issue. “A leader needs to set the conditions so that trust is sustained and exists, and trust is a function of competence and character, so the leaders in the military must be men and women of character, because if they fail in character, they fail in leadership,” Caslen said.

VanAntwerp, who was First Captain when Caslen was a plebe (“He was my mail runner!”) said that he would pass along three



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lessons for leaderships to cadets: 1) invest in relationships to build trust, 2) become a great communicator, and 3) develop a “get to” attitude in order to recognize the things you are privileged to do. Explaining this last point, VanAntwerp said, “When I got up this morning, I asked, ‘What do I get to do today,’ and realized that I get to celebrate my DGA with about 60 family members and classmates...it’s a great day.”

Garcia said he would instruct cadets to have insatiable curiosity, develop competence, and exhibit compassion and empathy for the people whom they serve. “We all came here to be transformed as cadets, to become leaders,” Garcia said, “and the art of leadership is getting others to want to follow you in a sense that they are doing something for a greater purpose.” For Garcia, this means not only defending the freedoms of this country but also tackling critical social challenges such as rising inequality and disparities.

“This year’s DGA class represents nearly 175 years of combined service in uniform,” said the Superintendent, “to say nothing of the decades of experience and service beyond their Army careers.”

The DGA is given to graduates whose character, distinguished service, and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: “Duty, Honor, Country.” Bramlett, who was in the mess hall as a yearling in 1962 and heard General Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, deliver his famous Thayer Award speech, colloquially known as “the Duty, Honor, Country speech,” said that those values unite all 2019 DGA recipients. “When you look at the biographies of these five graduates, what can one divine about what links them together?” Bramlett posed. “Throughout their lives you’ll see themes of service, commitment, and of course, duty.” The perfect themes for any “Commitment to Service” event. ★

2019 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients



David A. Bramlett '64

GEN (R) David Bramlett has devoted nearly 35 years of uniformed service to the nation and nearly two decades more following his retirement from the Army. After graduating in the top 10 percent of his class and commissioning Infantry, Bramlett commanded at every level, from platoon through division, serving in Vietnam twice with distinction. Following graduate study at Duke University, he returned to West Point as an instructor in the Department of English (1972-75) and then again as the 62nd Commandant of Cadets (1989-92). He has earned the Silver Star Medal and six Bronze Star Medals (three with “V” device) and, for his outstanding service and support to the Infantry, was recognized by the Chief

of Infantry with the Doughboy Award in 2016. Bramlett continues to support the Army as a mentor and volunteers non-stop in his adopted state of Hawaii: board president of the USO of Hawaii, board president of the Hawaii Army Museum Society, vice chair of Chaminade University Board of Regents, and more. “But what really puts a defining point on him as a person is the teaching missionary work he did in the Pacific Rim area,” says GEN (R) Dennis J. Reimer '62, the 33rd Chief of Staff of the Army. “Dave is a gentleman and a caring leader who treats everyone with dignity and respect, and he gets things done right!”



Victor F. Garcia '68

From growing up the son of Puerto Rican immigrants in Harlem, NY, to becoming one of the nation’s leading pediatric trauma surgeons, COL (R) Victor Garcia, M.D., has always embodied the excellence, integrity, and character that West Point seeks to instill in its graduates. Following graduation, Garcia headed to Fort Benning, GA, where he was elected commander of his Ranger School class. After an assignment with the 8th Signal Battalion in Germany, he entered Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, completing his residency in general surgery at Walter Reed Military Medical Center in 1978. After studying pediatric surgery under Dr. C. Everett Koop (13th Surgeon General of the United States) at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where he studied pediatric surgery, Garcia returned to Walter Reed and, in 1987, became the Chief of General Surgery Services. After retiring from the Army, he

founded the Trauma Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, serving as its director until 2009. During that time, he not only focused on advancing the treatment of traumatic injuries but also preventing them. He developed the “Buckle Up for Life” program with Toyota, co-founded the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence, started a nonprofit to address the root causes of health disparities, catalyzed the development of a for-profit inner city business to stimulate economic growth in disadvantaged inner city neighborhoods, and co-developed an artificial technology-based medical platform that predicts and treats blood flow instability during trauma care. In May 2018, in recognition for his work, Garcia received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Xavier University. Father Michael Graham, President of Xavier University, calls Garcia “a champion for the marginalized, a man who truly lives his life for and with others.”



Robert L. VanAntwerp '72

From First Captain of the Corps of Cadets to the last general officer in his class to retire from active duty, LTG (R) Robert L. VanAntwerp accomplished much in his 39 years of service. Serving in the Corps of Engineers, VanAntwerp laid over 250 kilometers of highway across southern Iraq as commander of the 326th Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, supported the response and recovery efforts following the 1994 Northridge earthquake as the Los Angeles Engineer District commander, and led 37,000 personnel deployed to 33 countries around the world providing engineering, project management, construction, and operational support valued at more than \$45 billion as Chief of Engineers. However, as Mitchell Landrieu, former mayor of New Orleans, notes, there is no more notable example of VanAntwerp's leadership than that following Hurricane

Katrina (2005). "Under his leadership," Landrieu says, "USACE accomplished the impossible... and his urgency to complete the project likely saved New Orleans from what could have been another devastating flood in 2012 when Hurricane Isaac made landfall." VanAntwerp is also credited with the success of the "Army Strong" Campaign, which he approved as commander of U.S. Army Accessions Command. During his time in this post, the Army grew from 428,000 soldiers to 570,000 soldiers, helping it meet the demands for the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. VanAntwerp currently serves as an executive of the Flippen Group providing Executive Development consulting, coaching, and Leadership Keynotes. He is the former Chairman of the Board of Eagle Creek Renewable Energy and Board Director of USAA, Cardno-GS, and Calibre Systems.



Walter L. Sharp '74

Called the "George Marshall of our generation" by his classmate GEN (R) Martin Dempsey '74, the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN (R) Walter "Skip" Sharp served multiple tours on the Joint Staff, culminating as the Director of the Joint Staff; fought in Iraq during Operations Desert Shield/Storm; led peacekeeping operations in Haiti and Bosnia; and commanded more than 28,500 troops in the Republic of Korea (ROK). During his command tour in Korea he stood fast and courageously defused several volatile crises, including North Korean forces sinking a South Korean naval vessel and shelling an island, killing sailors and ROK citizens. Addressing these incidents, ROK Ambassador Ho-Young Ahn says, "Despite the rising tensions on the Peninsula, General Sharp's calm and resolute leadership helped deter future belligerence from the North." Sharp continues to work

on ROK-U.S. relations as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Korean Defense Veterans Association and a director on The Korea Society Board of Directors. He also is on the MOAA Board of Directors. Sharp has served West Point in retirement, leading the Class of 1974 to raise more than \$4 million for the atrium of the Malek West Point Visitors Center, the largest class gift ever given to USMA for a single purpose. "Throughout his 37 years of active duty, Skip proved himself to be a leader of extraordinary ability and strategic vision," says GEN (R) John Abizaid '73. "A tested combat leader, a respected mentor and a strategic advisor to the highest levels of our government and that of several major allies, Skip Sharp's contribution to the defense of our nation is unequalled."



Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75

One of only four officers to have served as both West Point's Superintendent (59th) and Commandant of Cadets (70th), LTG (R) Robert L. Caslen's career spans more than four decades, three war zones, and the Pentagon on 9/11. Commissioned as an Infantry officer, Caslen commanded at every level, from platoon to division in light, airborne, and mechanized units. Notably, he served in Operations Desert Shield/Storm, coordinated joint and interagency counterinsurgency operations in Nicaragua and El Salvador, deployed to Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, commanded the 25th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division-North in Iraq, and was Chief, Office of Security Cooperation following the planned 2011 withdrawal of U.S. security forces in Iraq. He also had three tours at West Point: first, as an assistant football coach and company

tactical officer; second, as Commandant (who initiated the Cadet Leadership Development Program with its extended field training exercises at Camp Buckner for rising First-Year cadets); and, finally, as Superintendent. Regarding this last post, one of his nominators said, "Perhaps Douglas MacArthur deserves credit as West Point's finest Superintendent, but history will show us that Bob Caslen's impact on the Academy lasted longer and was more transformative." Affectionately called "Supe Daddy" by cadets, Caslen instituted a fourth pillar of West Point Leader Development ("character," also known as "honorable living"); stood up numerous improved facilities and a new barracks, as well as academic and athletic centers; promoted a winning culture at the Academy, and inspired approximately 8,000 future officers in the U.S. Corps of Cadets.

The flat terrain of manicured green rising approximately 150 feet above the Hudson River is sacred ground at West Point. Since January 27, 1778, when a brigade of the Connecticut militia under the command of Brigadier General Samuel Holden Parson established a camp on this ground, now known as “the Plain,” West Point has been the site of the longest continually occupied U.S. Army garrison in America. The life breathed into it on that day, never to be extinguished, has made the Plain the heart of the Academy, the symbolic home “where they of the Corps have trod,” and the literal home “where the Corps of today...follow, close order, behind...”

For these reasons, West Point strictly guards the sanctity of the Plain. Per USMA Regulation 1-4 (Administration, Memorialization and Recognition Program), only a handful of monuments are allowed to adorn its periphery and face in toward its center. Until 2019, only five statues held this distinction. The first one, unveiled on June 11, 1883, was, appropriately, a monument to Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, “the Father of the Academy.” This was followed in 1916 by the General and President George Washington equestrian monument, a bronze

replica of the sculpture of Washington in Union Square in New York City, erected in 1856. The George S. Patton Jr., Class of 1909, Memorial Monument was next, dedicated on August 19, 1950. Then, on September 11, 1969, the Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, memorial took its position near the barracks that also bears his name. Finally, a monument for Dwight D. Eisenhower, Class of 1915, was dedicated on May 3, 1983. (An earlier 1868 monument to John Sedgwick, Class of 1837, faces outward from the Plain.)

“Duty, Honor, Country” in Bronze:

The Dedication of the Ulysses S. Grant Monument

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff





LTG Darryl Williams '83 (center right), the 60th Superintendent of West Point, and the Honorable Robert A. McDonald '75 (center left) unveil the Ulysses S. Grant Monument on April 25, 2019.

In preparing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the Committee on Armed Services for the 114th Congress, upon an idea suggested by Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio's 2nd Congressional District, noted that "The Plain at the United States Military Academy contains statues of several famous West Point graduates, ...but does not include a statue of...Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843" (whose childhood home of Georgetown, Ohio is part of Representative Wenstrup's district). The committee then encouraged the Secretary of the Army to erect a statue of Grant in time for the sesquicentennial of his inauguration as the 18th president of the United States.

Grant's inauguration was held on March 4, 1869, but West Point unveiled the Grant Monument on April 25 in order to kick off "Commitment to Service" week, a series of events (such as Projects Day and the yearling Inspiration to Serve cemetery tour) highlighting the theme of a lifetime of selfless service to the nation, to the community, and to others. "Ulysses S. Grant embodied the West Point motto of 'Duty, Honor, Country,'" said Professor and Head of the Department of History Colonel Ty Seidule. "The Grant statue will inspire generations of cadets to become leaders of principle and integrity for the nation."

Going all the way back to the Thayer Statue, the granite and bronze protectors of the Plain and its meaning to West Point and

the nation have been charged with inspiring the Corps. In his address at the unveiling of that first statue (which, according to a June 12, 1883 *New York Times* article, was witnessed by "Gen. Grant"), George Cullum, Class of 1833, said, "May this monument, reared in loving gratitude to the 'Father of the Military Academy,' on this historic plain [*sic*] of West Point, ever stimulate the élèves here educated to win a like recognition for merit and patriotism." Similarly, at the dedication of the MacArthur Statue, Clyde D. Eddleman '24, then President of the Association of Graduates, said, "It is my hope, and the hope of all West Point graduates and friends of the Academy, that this memorial will serve as an inspiration to future cadets"; and upon accepting the Eisenhower Monument on May 3, 1983, Lieutenant General Willard W. Scott Jr. '48, the 52nd USMA Superintendent, said, "It should serve as an inspiration for generations of cadets to come and encourage them to follow the example of one whose life was devoted to service to his country."

"Why does Ulysses S. Grant inspire us?" asked Lieutenant General Darryl Williams '83, the 60th USMA Superintendent, early in his address at the unveiling ceremony for the 1,200-pound, 7-foot, 6-inch Grant Statue before a crowd of cadets, distinguished visitors, graduates, faculty, staff and tourists. "When we think of the qualities and the traits required to effectively and

successfully lead in the crucible of ground combat, we think of determination, we think of grit, we think of excellence, the ability to overcome adversity, the will to win, humility, and, most importantly, integrity and character—General Ulysses Simpson Grant personified all of these qualities and many more,” Williams said. “He is a leader who still inspires us today, more than a century-and-a-half later, and he’s a leader of character for all of us to emulate, an exemplar of our values of ‘Duty, Honor, Country.’”

According to then-Cadet Joseph Mannino ’19, USCC Brigade Command Sergeant Major, the “mission” of the statues surrounding the Plain is unmistakable. “From the moment we show up as new cadets for Beast Barracks, they make us learn about all the statues on the Plain and their significance,” Mannino said. “It’s kind of hard for cadets not to notice these statues as they pass by; they are very inspiring figures.”

But, as the Superintendent noted in his address, graduates need not be sculpted works of art to inspire. “It’s appropriate we begin Commitment to Service week with today’s ceremony not only because of whom we are honoring, a leader who personified duty and service, but also because of the couple who made this wonderful addition to the Plain possible,” Williams said. The Grant Statue was funded through a “generous donation” from the Honorable Robert A. McDonald ’75, former Chairman, President and CEO of The Procter & Gamble Company and 8th U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and his wife, Diane. Members of the West Point Association of Graduate’s Dwight D. Eisenhower Lifetime Giving Society, which recognizes giving in excess of \$5 million, as well as the Five-Star Cullum Society (for planned estate gifts), Bob and Diane are also the founders of the annual McDonald Conference for Leaders of Character at West Point, which brings together top undergraduate students and leaders from diverse backgrounds to bolster leadership skills, foster critical thinking and collaboration, and develop potential strategies for addressing imperative global issues.

“We are thrilled to be able to help bring to life this incredible tribute to President Grant’s legacy of leadership,” said Secretary McDonald, addressing the crowd before the unveiling. Before the ceremony, McDonald, who has read every book ever published on Grant, spoke about the general and president’s outstanding

leadership and the example he set for every West Point graduate in terms of service. “We would not be the nation we are today if it weren’t for Grant,” McDonald said. “As a soldier and a leader deserving acclaim, today he stands proud among those who have also spent a lifetime serving the nation: Washington, Eisenhower, MacArthur—this is where Grant belongs.” McDonald lived in MacArthur and Eisenhower barracks as a cadet and noted that those two graduates made a huge impact on his life. “All of the statues on the Plain should cause cadets to feel like they are members of the Long Gray Line, a member of something that is a lot bigger than themselves, and make them want to aspire, at least in part, to these milestone members,” McDonald said. And cadets should feel the weight of McDonald’s assessment during any review, as the monumental stare of Grant falls upon them as soon as they are given the “Ready, Front!” order and march in step directly toward the general before executing the final parade turn.

“We would not be the nation we are today if it weren’t for Grant...As a soldier and a leader deserving acclaim, today he stands proud among those who have also spent a lifetime serving the nation: Washington, Eisenhower, MacArthur—this is where Grant belongs.”

—The Honorable Robert A. McDonald ’75

While cadets are the primary audience for the statues on the Plain, the needs of the public were also a priority in determining the placement of West Point’s newest statue. So says Marlana Cook, Curator of Art with the West Point Museum, who was a member of the ad hoc sub-committee (comprised of subject experts on Grant, art, and cultural resources) that was nominated in June 2016 by the standing 11-member USMA Museum Historical Memorialization Committee (MHMC) to make “executive” decisions regarding the Grant Monument. “We sought



LTG Darryl Williams '83, the 60th Superintendent of West Point, addresses those gathered for the unveiling of the Ulysses S. Grant Monument.



The Honorable Robert A. McDonald '75 and his wife, Diane, funded the Ulysses S. Grant Monument.



At the conclusion of the unveiling, the Cadet Glee Club performed renditions of the "Alma Mater" and "The Army Song."

a compromise so that both groups, cadets and the public, could be inspired by the Grant Monument," said Cook. Originally, the sub-committee considered Reconciliation Plaza and the sidewalk in front of Grant Hall as potential homes for the Grant Monument, but, due to the security currently in place around

these areas, MHMC opted instead for a location near Trophy Point along Washington Road, approximately 125 feet east of Thayer Monument.

"We wanted the Grant Monument to be publicly accessible because of who Grant is, a graduate who became President of the United States," said David Reel, Director of the West Point Museum and an MHMC member. To facilitate visitors who would like to see and appreciate Grant up close, the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) used funds from the McDonalds' donation to build a semi-circular plaza, complete with four granite benches, around the monument, which also features a 4-foot, 6-inch granite pedestal noting Grant's historic achievements. With the completion of this project, the number of major gift-funded buildings and monuments delivered to the Academy by WPAOG, which is also celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2019, now exceeds 50.

According to Cook, once MHMC decided to place a statue of Grant on the Plain, it also decided to design that statue similar to the other military commanders encircling the parade field. "We decided that he should be in the military uniform of a four-star general, that he should be standing, that he should be 1¼-to-1½ scale life-size, that he be without a hat, and that the statue display part of Grant's personality (as an accomplished equestrian holding riding gloves) but still formally respect its position on the Plain," said Cook. The sub-committee also decided that a green patina



Todd Browne '85, WPAOG President and CEO, offers remarks on the Ulysses S. Grant Monument.



Members of the Cadet Equestrian Team performed a ride-by salute during the ceremony in recognition of Grant's reputation as a stellar horseman while a cadet.

should be applied to the bronze statue, given that all the 19th century statues on the Plain display an aged patina.

In the fall of 2017, after McDonald had agreed to fund the monument, Cook set out to find an artist to sculpt the statue. She put together a list of artists whose past work, she felt, rose to the level of this project. “I looked into artists doing public works sculptures, seeking someone whose work really looked like the subject, and I considered their experience working with government agencies,” said Cook. She submitted three names to WPAOG, who selected Paula Slater, M.A., from her list.

Over her 30 years as a full-time professional sculptor, Slater has been internationally recognized for her many beautifully detailed bronze monuments and memorials. Two of her works have been designated State Landmark Monuments, and she sculpted the U.S. Military Working Dog Teams National Monument at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Slater worked with Cook

and the sub-committee, using original artifacts that are part of the West Point Museum's teaching collection—Grant's field coat, sword belt, and shoulder board—to develop a resin maquette of Grant. “I am a detail nut and loved working on the intricacies of Grant's buttons and his eagle belt buckle,” Slater said. She also made artistic choices to give Grant a bit of flair and to show his antipathy for military dress (as a cadet, Grant reportedly received several demerits for uniform infractions). “The bowtie is a bit crooked and his jacket is open as well to show this,” Slater said.

As long as Slater's choices were historically accurate, Cook and the subcommittee supported them. The committee did, however, recommend changes to Grant's collar (“...too thick and too high,” an August 2018 memo highlights, “...actual collar is shorter and naturally stands at the nape of the neck.”); his sword belt (“The sword belt should rest above the top buttons on the back of the coat...There should be no puffing or billowing of the coat fabric

“When we think of the qualities and the traits required to effectively and successfully lead in the crucible of ground combat, we think of determination, we think of grit, we think of excellence, the ability to overcome adversity, the will to win, humility, and, most importantly, integrity and character—General Ulysses Simpson Grant personified all of these qualities and many more.”

—LTG Darryl Williams '83, USMA Superintendent



Guests of the Honorable Robert A. McDonald '75 and his wife, Diane (center), pose for a picture after the unveiling ceremony for the Grant Monument. Bob and Diane generously funded the statue, its granite base, and the surrounding plaza.

above the sword belt"); and the appendages below and on either side of the sword belt ("...appendages are actually flaps for the opening to pockets on either side of the coat tails").

One element of the Grant Statue that is uniquely Slater is the face. She specializes in portrait sculpture and says she spent a great deal of time perfecting Grant's countenance. "I wanted to capture that look of his humanity, his humility, and his anguish of having to make life-and-death decisions, and tried to bring that alive in his expression," Slater said.

"I am very impressed with his face: It's amazing," said Cook, who has three large-scale portraits of Grant from the late 1800s in her collection and used them for comparison purposes. "It was extremely important to the sub-committee to get the statue as representative of Grant as possible, and I'm very happy with the final product."

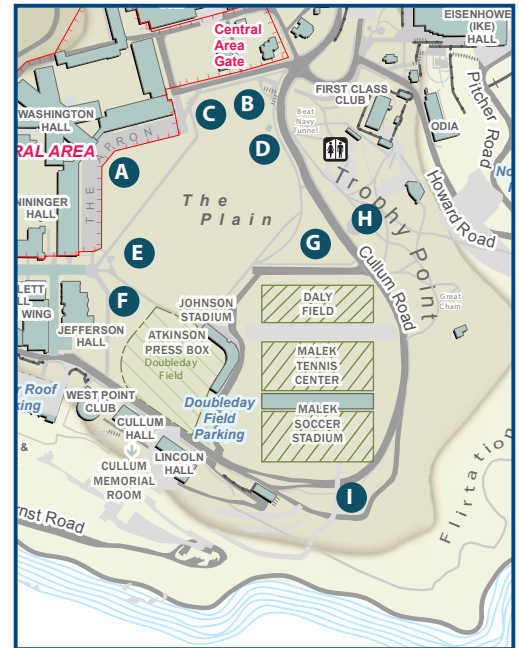
Slater is also thrilled with her work, as well as its new home. "This is a special piece for a special place," she said. What's more, she is excited that the Grant Monument will be around inspiring cadets and citizens for decades to come. "Bronze is called 'the King of Metals' because it will last for centuries," said Slater. For more than 100 years, the statues of the Plain have stood to testify to the values of "Duty, Honor, Country," and thanks to the McDonalds and the new Grant Monument, these values will reverberate across West Point's sacred ground for hundreds more. ★



Paula Slater (right), sculptor of the Grant Statue; Pat Ortland '82, WPAOG COO; and Chris Branson, WPAOG Repair, Maintenance and Minor Construction Manager pose with the Grant Statue before it is placed on its granite pedestal.

West Point: Statues and Monuments on the Plain

Only a few statues have the distinction of adorning the Plain at West Point: Presidents, generals and Academy leaders. Now a statue of President and General Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, has joined their ranks.



Battle Monument

Washington



Grant



Sedgwick

A Washington Monument

- General George Washington
- Commander of the Continental Army
- First President of the United States
- Unveiled: 1916
- Recognized critical importance of West Point site and advocated establishment of a military academy

B Thayer Monument

- Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808
- Third USMA Superintendent
- "Father of the Military Academy"
- Erected: 1883

C MacArthur Statue

- General Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903
- General of the Army
- Medal of Honor recipient
- 31st USMA Superintendent
- Dedicated: 1969

D Grant Statue

- General Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843
- General of the Union Army
- 18th President of the United States
- Dedicated: 2019

E Eisenhower Monument

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Class of 1915
- General of the Army
- 34th President of the United States
- Erected: 1983

F Patton Statue

- General George S. Patton Jr., Class of 1909
- Dedicated: 1950
- General's stars and gold cavalry insignia melted into hands of the monument

G Sedgwick Monument

- Major General John Sedgwick, Class of 1837
- Highest ranking Union officer to die in the Civil War
- Dedicated: 1868
- Legend holds that if a cadet is deficient in academics, s/he should go in full dress at midnight before an exam and spin Sedgwick's spurs for good luck

H Battle Monument

- Dedicated 1897 by Civil War veterans of the Regular Army
- Designed by Stanford White
- 46-foot-tall Granite column topped by bronze figure "Fame"
- Bronze cannons inscribed with Civil War battles
- Granite spheres ringed with bronze bands and column inscribed with names of 2,230 officers and soldiers of Regular Army killed in the Civil War

I Kościuszko Monument

- Brigadier General Thaddeus Kościuszko
- Appointed Engineer-in-Charge of West Point fortifications by Washington in 1778
- Designed Revolutionary War Defenses at West Point 1778 - 1780
- Pedestal and column erected: 1828; statue added: 1913



Thayer



Eisenhower



MacArthur



Patton



Kościuszko



2019 WPAOG ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

On April 10-11, about 140 graduates returned to West Point for the second West Point Association of Graduates Entrepreneur Summit. According to Guy Filippelli '97, 2019 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit Chair, participants in the summit included a mix of aspiring entrepreneurs, experienced CEOs, investors and service providers who all came to be inspired in their business ventures and to form new avenues for partnership and collaboration with other members of the Long Gray Line.

The idea for an Entrepreneur Summit began with Doug Doan '79 and some other members of his class. "We saw a group of young entrepreneurs made up of service academy graduates, the quality of whom was greater than any of us, but they were not being valued by the investment community," said Doan. "We agreed that we will exclusively invest in their young companies, but, more than money, we also agreed to mentor them, knowing that the leadership training they received at West Point and the skills they gained in the military made them better equipped and better prepared to run and grow a company than anybody else on the planet." The idea of providing money and mentorship to young grad entrepreneurs led to the first WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit in October 2017.

"There's an entrepreneurial spirit inherent in the West Point experience," said Filippelli. "One doesn't attend West Point to become an entrepreneur, and going here doesn't automatically make you an entrepreneur, but every grad has likely had an entrepreneurial thought or has been part of an entrepreneurial venture." Related to this last point, Elad Yoran '91, one of the summit's guest speakers, noted how the archetype of the entrepreneur is a platoon leader, someone who operates with scant resources, leading a small group under tough conditions, in order to execute a defined mission.

"Being an entrepreneur is like facing the Cadet in the Red Sash over and over again," said Josh Lospinoso '09, who felt the conference provided the perfect venue for attendees to "commiserate" together, find valuable take-aways in others' experiences, and get advice in a friendly environment. "It's been tremendous for networking," he said.

Whether they attended to get advice on starting and funding a company, to share experiences, to scout investment opportunities or partnerships, or to volunteer their time and services, the 2019 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit provided an environment in which everyone was able to benefit. And like other great entrepreneurial endeavors, the summit is looking to take it to the next level in the future.

In his closing remarks, Filippelli noted that graduates would soon be filing an application to turn the Entrepreneur Summit into a WPAOG Special Interest Group (SIG) similar to West Point Women and the West Point Alumni Glee Club. WPAOG SIGs are communities of alumni that actively communicate or gather around a central unifying purpose, share an affinity or bond based on experience, background, identity, academic affiliation, profession, or other West Point-related interest beyond class year

or society affiliation. "I find that I share more in common with a grad from the 1970s who is in venture capital or with one from the 1980s who has done a cyber-security setup than the regular class or geographic bonds that typically define graduates," said Lospinoso. By becoming a SIG, the graduates of the Entrepreneur Summit are hoping to do more in the future.

"There's a lot of passion in this room," said Filippelli, "and with the right planning, the right communication platform, and the right support from WPAOG, this group could do great things for the West Point entrepreneurial community." ★



Guy Filippelli '97, managing partner of Squadra Ventures, provides the opening remarks of the 2019 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit.



Dr. Craig Cummings '93 (left), co-founder and general partner of Moonshots Capital, moderates the Investors Panel, featuring (from L to R) Brad Harrison '94, Joe Beard '96, Pat Wilkison '92, and Phil Clough '83. This was one of three panels (along with the Entrepreneur Panel and the From Battlefield to Board Room-Key Moments & Lessons Learned Panel) at the 2019 WPAOG Entrepreneur Summit.

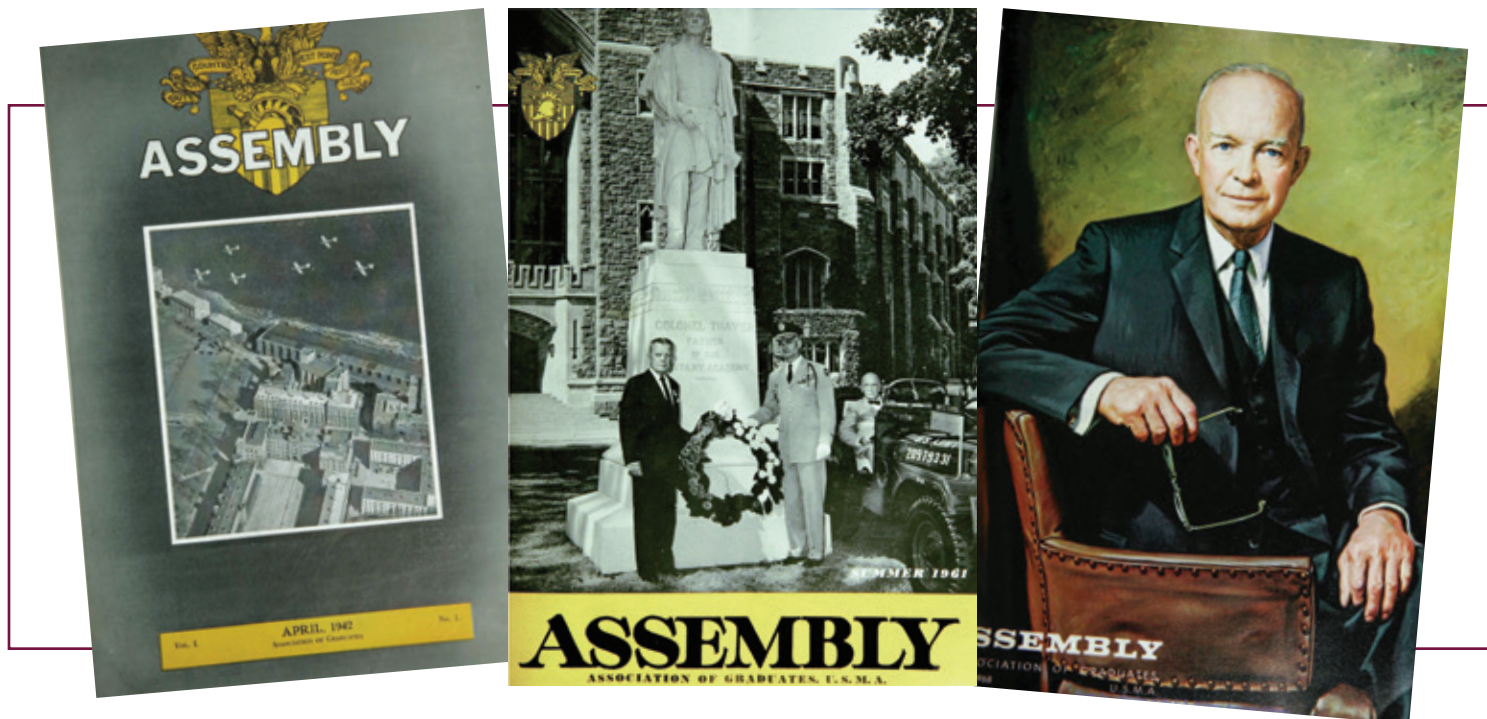


LEADERS ARE SHAPED BY THE VALUES THEY EMBODY

As future academy graduates prepare for their military careers and beyond, support and advocacy is essential for their long-term success. Boeing is proud to partner with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs with the shared goals of leadership development and engineering excellence. Together, we're helping shape leaders of character to better serve our nation and the world.



ASSEMBLY: WPAOG's First Alumni Magazine



By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

Ever since its founding, the West Point Association of Graduates has published a record of its activities for its members. First called the *Annual Reunion* and then, after 1917, the *Annual Report*, this periodical was primarily known for its “Necrology” section, which dominated more than three-quarters of the journal and contained lengthy memorial articles detailing the lives and careers of graduates who had died during the previous year. In 1929, the *Annual Report* began to incorporate accounts concerning the activities of the Corps of Cadets and to include various AOG news items beyond the annual meeting (such as the Association’s campaign to have Sylvanus Thayer elected to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans), but it could not escape the pejorative nickname it had been given by AOG members—the “dead book.”

“We needed a living, up-to-date journal...one that was more newsworthy and interesting,” said then-Lieutenant Colonel Harry Storke ’26, the Association’s Secretary and Treasurer at the time. In the summer of 1941, Storke visited several college alumni offices seeking advice and ideas. “After wading through the resultant minutiae that amassed, the feasibility of a quarterly alumni magazine proved itself, and things began to fall into place,” he said. A competition was conducted among the active duty officers at West Point to name the new publication. While sorting through the entries, Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Wyman ’28, AOG’s Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, began whistling the bugle call “Assembly,” and, according to Storke, “We threw away the notes;

that was it.” After settling on the name for the new magazine, Storke turned to several people to help get it into graduates’ mailboxes: Colonel Roger Alexander, Class of 1907, Professor of Drawing, contributed “several valuable ideas,” as well as the facilities of his department; George Moore, of the Moore Printing Company in Newburgh, New York (which had published the *Annual Report*), “helped weed out impractical ideas, worked doggedly to iron out details, and aided in making a budget”; and Frank McCoy, Class of 1897, AOG President, provided his support and blessing, as well as help from his assistant, Blanche Kingsley, to manage circulation. *ASSEMBLY* magazine, the Association of Graduates’ first alumni magazine, began circulation on April 9, 1942, with Storke as its first editor.

As any magazine would over time, *ASSEMBLY* underwent many changes in its 69 years of publication, but it is also surprising how much stayed the same. The categories below detail the evolution of *ASSEMBLY* while also highlighting the traditions it established, many of which its readers will likely still remember.

Cover

The first cover featured a “framed” aerial photo of the Academy on a black background with the word “*ASSEMBLY*” written in an outlined font at the top and in front of a yellow USMA Crest. The issue’s volume, number, publication date, and the words “Association of Graduates” were included in a gold bar centered

Above: The first issue of *ASSEMBLY*; the “gold bar” cover design; Spring 1968 was the first full color cover, and featured Eisenhower.

under the picture. Two issues later, *ASSEMBLY* changed to its full “gold bar” cover design, which continued for two decades. This cover type featured a full-frame black and white photo (or sometimes an illustration) with the magazine’s title and the words “Association of Graduates” in black within a two-and-half-inch yellow field along the bottom (or sometimes top) of the cover. In the mid-1960s, the cover changed again, although subtly at first. The spring 1964 issue removed the iconic “gold bar” (which appeared one more time for the spring 1965 cover) but retained the design motif of yellow text over a gray image. For its spring 1968 issue, *ASSEMBLY* had its first color cover, a reproduction of Anthony Wills’ official portrait of President Eisenhower, Class of 1915, (as the entire issue paid tribute to USMA’s “most distinguished living graduate”), but it returned to a two-color cover for the summer 1968 issue. Nearly 10 years later, *ASSEMBLY* featured its first color photo on its cover, an aerial shot of Michie Stadium during a game, and by December 1983 color photos on the cover became the norm. Although more polished and glossier, *ASSEMBLY*’s cover changed little after the mid-1990s. Aside from some framing techniques for its cover photo and a few different positions of its title, the cover design from 1996 to 2011 routinely featured four elements: an engaging photo, the word “*ASSEMBLY*” at the top in large gold font, the words “Association of Graduates” in a smaller gold font, and a gold USMA Crest.



The first color photograph used on a cover of *ASSEMBLY* magazine (December 1977) was an overhead shot of Michie Stadium.

Content

Early on, *ASSEMBLY* magazine was comprised more of “department” content than “feature” articles. The first issue introduced five regular departments—“Plain Talk” (Academy news), “We Salute” (grads who earned medals that quarter), “Down the Field” (USMA athletics), “Report” (class notes), and “In Memory” (obituaries)—but it had only two articles, “The Origin of Alma Mater: Paul Reinecke’s Own Story” and “The Pointer’s New Mission,” both guest written, which was typical for *ASSEMBLY*’s future articles. “Plain Talk” became the Superintendent’s letter in the mid-1950s, “We Salute” disappeared after the July 1948 issue, “Report” eventually became “Class Notes,” and “In Memory” became “Be Thou at Peace” in the spring 1958 issue. “The Superintendent’s Letter,” “Report,” “Be Thou at Peace,” “Down the Field,” and “Bulletin Board” (covering AOG news and introduced in the October 1942 issue) became enduring departments, along with intermittent news concerning



An example of a 10,000 word article with color illustrations appeared in the July 1993 issue of *ASSEMBLY*.

West Point Societies, and they all continued in some form throughout *ASSEMBLY*’s run. After a while, *ASSEMBLY* started publishing more feature articles. Most of the early ones covered Academy departments, the careers of famous graduates, and military history. Over time these articles became lengthier and more in-depth, sometimes reaching 10,000 words. Photos also increasingly became more important to telling an article’s story. An eight-page article in the 1972 winter issue about West Point astronauts was two pages of text and six pages of photos. Most of *ASSEMBLY*’s photos were in black and white, but color photos started appearing with the January 1992 issue. By the mid-1990s, a great number of *ASSEMBLY*’s articles were less journalistic reporting and more reflective pieces, often written by graduates of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. According to a past editor, one such article, “Dancing on My Gravestone” by John Shelby ’60 (May 1995), was one of the “outstanding gems” in *ASSEMBLY*’s history.

Circulation

ASSEMBLY began as a quarterly publication, with issues in January, April, July, and October. In the summer of 1957, issues became known by season instead of by publishing month, a practice that continued until 1973. Stories in *ASSEMBLY* also fell into a generally routine annual pattern: USMA academic-centric stories in the winter issue, special interest stories in the spring issue, AOG meeting notes in the summer issue, and homecoming in the fall issue. In April 1988, *ASSEMBLY* began publishing five times per year (in February, April, July, October, and December), and in January 1992 it became a bi-monthly publication (an issue earlier, November 1991, *ASSEMBLY* started including ads in the magazine for the first time). With declining subscription rates, *ASSEMBLY* transitioned back to a quarterly publication in October 2009. Speaking of subscriptions, *ASSEMBLY* was mailed to all graduates upon its debut in 1942, but thereafter only to members who had paid their \$15 lifetime membership fee to AOG. Facing financial hardship, in March 1947 AOG Trustees voted on a change of policy that placed *ASSEMBLY* on a subscription basis: \$1.50 per year for members, \$2 for non-members. By 1965, with 65 percent of graduates subscribing, the rates had risen to \$3 for members and \$10 for non-members, and by the 2000s they were \$35/\$50. When *ASSEMBLY* ceased publication in 2011, graduate subscriptions had declined to less than 20 percent of the Long Gray Line. With the launch of *West Point* magazine that year, WPAOG moved to a model of sending the magazine to all graduates, free of charge.

ASSEMBLY | MISCELLANY

Twenty-four

The first issue of *ASSEMBLY* was a scant 24 pages, but it grew to 100 pages by the mid-1960s and to 190 pages by the early 1990s. The page increase was primarily due to two factors: more class notes for "Report" and more memorial articles for "Be Thou at Peace." By the 1950s, these two departments represented approximately 70 percent of the magazine's content.

January 2004

In January 2004, memorial articles moved to their own supplement, *TAPS* magazine.



Thirteen

There have been 13 editors of *ASSEMBLY*, the longest tenured being Julian Olejniczak '61 (from November 1991 to July 2011).

ASSEMBLY Editors

Harry E. Storke '26
April 1942— July 1942

William L. Kost '25
October 1942— January 1946

Charles N. Branham '22
April 1946— October 1954

Robert D. Johnston '31
January 1955— June 1957

Norton B. Wilson '31
September 1957—June 1961

Duncan Sinclair '35
Fall 1961 — Fall 1962

Thomas M. Metz '37
Winter 1963 — Spring 1965

John B. Hines '37
Summer 1965—Spring 1966

Horace M. Brown Jr. '41
Summer 1966— Spring 1970

Robert J. Lamb '46
Summer 1970— Winter 1972

Michael J. Krisman '39
Spring 1972—March 1985

Paul W. Child Jr. '52
June 1985—September 1991

Julian M. Olejniczak '61
November 1991 — July 2011

1980s

In its later years, *ASSEMBLY* frequently introduced new content for readers: a "Dean's Report," "COM Report," and "DIA Report" became regular departments by the late 1980s; book reviews became standard fare starting in October 1989 (although they appeared intermittently earlier).

1990s

"More to the Point," a recurring series by George Pappas '44, debuted in 1991; and readers could complete the first *ASSEMBLY* crossword puzzle in the November 1994 issue. Advertisements in *ASSEMBLY* first appeared in the November 1991 issue.



January 1994

In July 1994, *ASSEMBLY* adopted and promoted the tagline "The Voice of the Long Gray Line." Even though *ASSEMBLY* ceased with the publication of Volume LXIX, Number 4 in 2011, the legacy of that voice still echoes strongly among West Point graduates. ★



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Consistency - noun

Conformity in the application of something, typically that which is necessary for the sake of logic, accuracy, or fairness:

Synonyms: steadiness, reliability

Antonym: Fickleness (found often in weather and financial markets)



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150 YEARS

Happy Birthday
WPAOG!



International
Space Station



USMA 1985

Grads Salute with Virtual Toasts from Around the World (and beyond)!

On May 22, 2019, the West Point Association of Graduates officially turned 150 years old!

To celebrate this milestone, we conducted a “virtual birthday toast” online, and grads worldwide responded. From Kazakhstan to Hawaii, from Spain to the International Space Station, alumni and members of the West Point community from around the world submitted videos and photos of themselves toasting and wishing “Happy Birthday” to WPAOG. Graduates from 29 West Point classes, from our oldest living grad COL(R) Kermit Dyke ’40* (pictured fourth row on opposite page) through Class officers from all cadet classes, including the youngest Class of 2022, all sent greetings, and we received toasts from more than 21 West Point Societies as well. Thank you to all who contributed!

View our 150th Virtual Toast video online at vimeo.com/334581531

**Sadly, as this issue went to press, COL (R) Dyke passed away on May 29, 2019. His spirit and infectious smile inspired us all at WPAOG. Be Thou At Peace.*



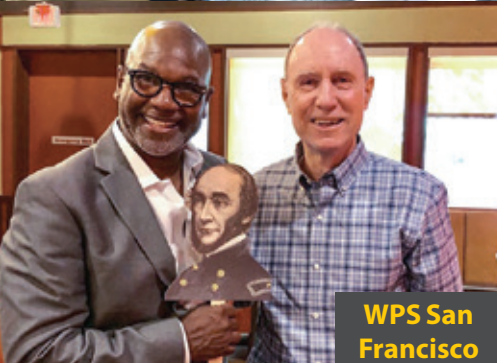
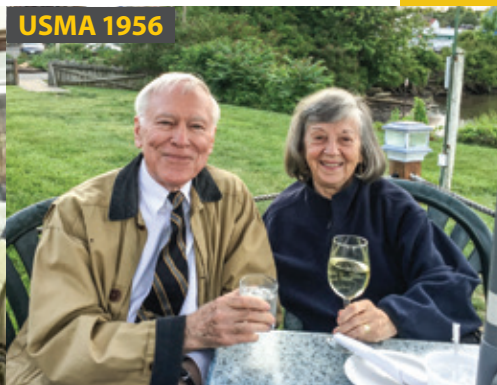
Kazakhstan



WPS Bluegrass
Kentucky



USMA Scuba Team





The USCC Color Guard passes in review during the Graduation Parade.



Top: "Class of 2019 Dismissed!" precedes the iconic graduation hat toss.
Above: Vice President Michael Pence congratulates Cadet Korian Brady of Company F, 3rd Regiment, the USMA 2019 Class "Goat," while USMA Superintendent Darryl Williams '83 looks on.
Right: Congratulations to our newest "Old Grads!"





“So Freedom Will Reign” Graduation Week

May 21-25, 2019

Members of the United States Military Academy Class of 2019 graduated and were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army on May 25, 2019. Those graduating were 76 percent of the cadets who entered West Point nearly four years ago.

GRADUATION SPEAKER:

Michael Pence
48th Vice President of the United States

NUMBER OF GRADUATES: 985

INTERNATIONAL CADETS: 10

(representing Bangladesh, Guyana, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, and Rwanda)

FIRST CAPTAIN:

David T. Bindon,
Canton, Michigan

CLASS PRESIDENT:

Tony Smith,
Katy, Texas

VALEDICTORIAN:

David T. Bindon,
Canton, Michigan



Top left: Vice President Michael Pence addresses the graduating class. **Above:** The oldest living graduate present, COL(R) Doniphan Carter, Class of 1944, places a wreath at the base of Thayer Statue during the Alumni Exercises on May 21, 2019. **Left:** Members of the graduating class sing the “Alma Mater” for the final time as cadets after receiving their diplomas.



“If I have seen further,
it is by standing on the
shoulders of giants.”

– Isaac Newton







“Symbols of Devotion to our Alma Mater”: Class Gifts Through the Years

By **Keith J. Hamel**, WPAOG staff

Approximately 100 years ago, returning alumni and visitors to West Point could view gifts that classes gave to their alma mater in one of two places: among the stained glass windows of the Cadet Chapel nave and on stone markers in front of certain trees that lined the Plain and Trophy Point. Today, by contrast, the impact of class giving to West Point is everywhere. Over the last six decades, the classes of the Long Gray Line have transformed the Academy and supported the leader development of the Corps of Cadets through both tangible and intangible gifts.

The first class gift given significant attention, beyond the class windows of the Cadet Chapel and the various class trees dotting West Point’s landscape, is the Class of 1915 Drinking Fountain. Presented on November 2, 1957, the fountain was located across Jefferson Road near the Clock Tower (close to where Eisenhower Statue stands today). Roughly 10 feet from the fountain, the Class of 1915 erected a 4.5-foot marble cube displaying the seals of the United States, War Department, and the U.S. Military Academy on three sides and the words, “Presented by the Class of 1915,” on the fourth side, a memorial that General Henry Saylor, Class Vice-President, called, “...a symbol of our devotion to our Alma Mater.” Accepting the gift in front of President Dwight Eisenhower and some 30 members of

the Class of 1915, Lieutenant General Garrison Davidson ’27, the 44th Superintendent, said, “Practically every day most of the members of the Corps pass this spot, [and]...this [class gift] will serve as a...reminder to the present-day members of the Corps of the proud and endless heritage that, in their turn, they are dedicated to preserve.”

Following “the Class the Stars Fell On,” every subsequent class has presented at least one class gift to the Academy, totaling more than 400 class gifts to date. While the practice of class gifts became the norm during the 1960s, it was not formalized until the mid-1980s. At that time, the Association of Graduates initiated the Reunion Giving Program, which was designed to

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match a class's ambition to give with one of USMA's unfunded needs. Three decades ago, as part of the program, classes were asked to consider making a progressively valued gift at their 10th, 25th, 40th, and 50th reunions.

Today, the blueprint for class giving is a well-defined and documented process (and it includes reunion gifts at the 20- and 30-year marks as well). WPAOG's Class Giving Office leads the initiative and educates classes on the unfunded priorities of the Academy. After learning of USMA's approved needs, the class works closely with the WPAOG Class Giving team to select a gift to consider giving at its milestone reunion, which is typically five years out at that point. The class then votes on the project and starts raising money for it. The Class Giving Office also works closely with class leaders and campaign volunteers in reaching the financial goal set, and WPAOG's Finance Department pools and manages the class's donations into an allocation fund, which earns interest until ready for use. Finally, at its reunion, the class presents its gift to the Superintendent, who accepts the gift on behalf of West Point or recommends its acceptance to the Secretary of the Army.

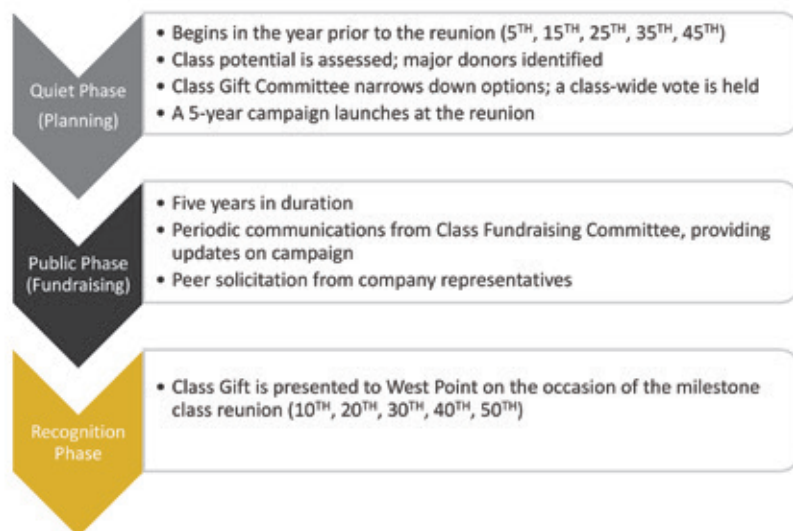
Over the years, this process has resulted in significant support for projects such as the Tronsrue Indoor Marksmanship Center, the Lichtenberg Tennis Center, Reconciliation Plaza, the Cemetery Columbarium Wall, the Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center, and numerous other facilities and memorials—gifts that have transformed the landscape of West Point. Classes have also helped maintain and enhance existing West Point structures

(Thayer Gate, the First Class Club, Herbert Alumni Center, etc.) or added to facilities built with appropriated funds (Jefferson Hall Cadet Library & Learning Center, Arvin Physical Development Center enhancements, Mess Hall ornamentations, etc.). Class gifts are also transforming learning at the Academy with the establishment of key research centers such as the Center for the Rule of Law, the Cyber Research Center, the Combating Terrorism Center, the Modern War Institute, the Center for Oral History, and the Army Cyber Institute. Finally, class giving has improved the knowledge and leader development of cadets with dozens of speaker series, academic and activity endowments, cultural immersion and semester abroad programs, conferences, and scholarship funds.

No matter how big or how small, each class gift is, as Saylor said, "...a symbol of [a class's] devotion to [its] Alma Mater."

Furthermore, paraphrasing Davidson, cadets feel the impact of class giving every day and in a number of ways. Whether it is through a lesson by an endowed Chair in the Professional Military Ethic, studying in a team room for a corps squad sport, or taking a short break on one of the many class benches in Central Area, cadets are constantly reminded of those who came before and established the standard to which they themselves will be held and "dedicated to preserve" upon graduation. Through class giving, the legacy of each class, West Point, and the Long Gray Line grows and shines, much like a class tree along the Plain or like a class window in the Cadet Chapel reflecting the rising sun. ★

THE CLASS REUNION GIFT CAMPAIGN PROCESS



Source: The Class Giving Volunteer Handbook, WPAOG Class Giving Office



Military Retiree Recognition Program

WPAOG’s new Military Retiree Recognition Program honors our military retirees for their service and sacrifice. If you retired on October 1, 2017 or later, you are eligible for a free Grad Insider Tour for you and three guests, as well as a free night at The Hotel Thayer, subject to restrictions. We will also publish your name in *West Point* magazine, with your permission. If you wish to participate, please contact retiree@wpaog.org to learn more.

The following graduates retired from active, reserve, or National Guard duty. We thank them for serving this great nation, and the Association looks forward to serving you. ★

<i>Name</i>	<i>Class</i>
LTC Michael J. Fisher	1985
COL Timothy P. Connors	1988
COL Jeffrey S. Morgan	1988
COL Peter J. Rayna	1988
COL Lynette M.B. Arnhart	1989
COL James P. Ross	1990
COL Jason A. Kirk	1993
COL Dennis W. Kerwood	1994
LTC Dirk P. Barber	1994
LTC Ronald F. Myers	1996
LTC Christopher T. Simpson	1996
LTC William B. Taylor	1996



2019 | PROJECTS DAY

Celebrating Academic Excellence

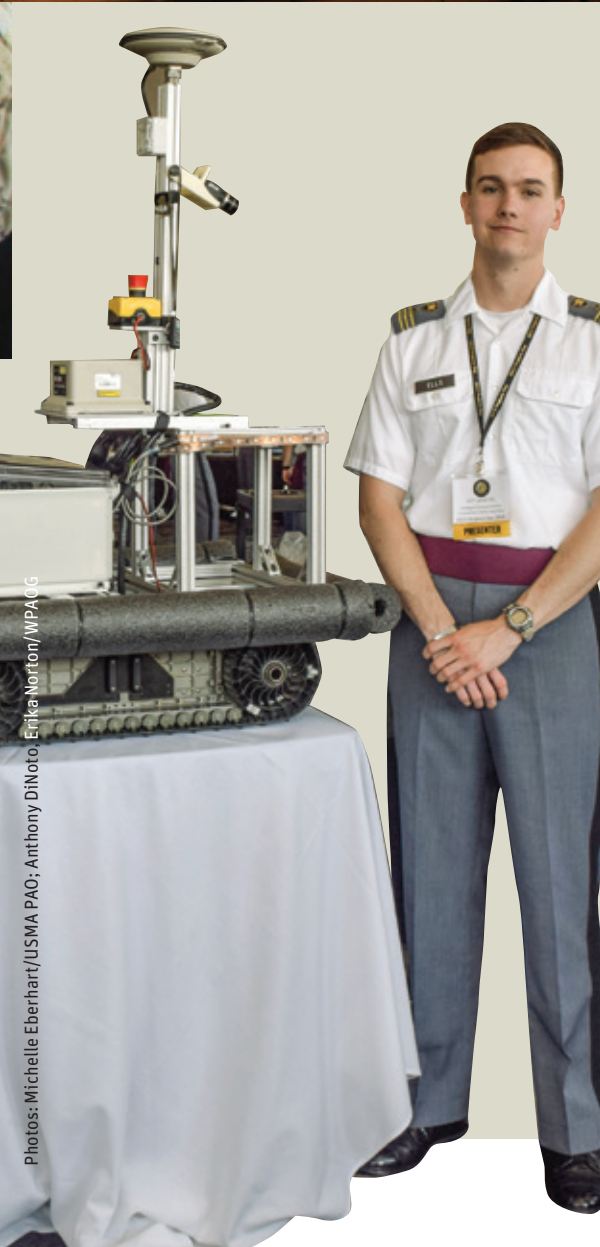


The United States Military Academy at West Point held its annual Projects Day on May 2, 2019. More than 400 posters, presentations, performances and briefings across West Point showcased projects from 13 Academic Departments, the Department of Military Instruction, the Department of Physical Education, and a dozen visiting universities. Cadets presented capstone work developed in Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) opportunities, research projects, and other academic pursuits, many made possible by private *Margin of Excellence* funding.

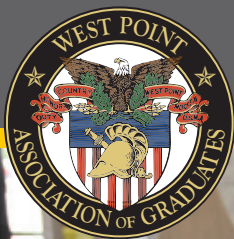
"Projects Day is not just a day to reflect on cadet achievement but also on the teaching and mentorship that helped bring these projects to fruition," said Brigadier General Cindy Jebb '82, USMA's 14th Dean of the Academic Board.

WPAOG's annual Donor Tribute Day, held in conjunction with Projects Day, demonstrated how the generosity of donors to the Margin of Excellence makes a significant difference for the Corps of Cadets. WPAOG was pleased to express our appreciation to donors and give them an opportunity to see firsthand the impact they have on projects representing the best of cadet intellect, creativity, and commitment. ★





Photos: Michelle Eberhart/USMA PAO; Anthony DiNoto, Enika Norton/WPA CG



WPAOG CAREER SERVICES



WPAOG's Enhanced Career Services: *Individualized Service Tailored for Grads' Needs*

In mid-April, Todd Browne '85, President and CEO of the West Point Association of Graduates, officially launched WPAOG's new enhanced Career Services program to the Long Gray Line. The email launch letter highlighted the new Career Services team of three West Point graduates with more than 40 combined years of relevant experience, promoted WPAOG's new enhanced service leveraging graduate networks featuring a program with Korn Ferry, and announced the launch of WPAOGcareers.org, the new Career Services website.

The launch of a new high-caliber career services program was an innovation that WPAOG created in response to a growing number of graduate requests for career assistance at all stages of life, whether transitioning from the military to a civilian career, or moving between jobs within the civilian sector. WPAOG's enhanced program offers a highly personalized level of career services for graduates, with more choices for grads to tailor career services to meet their needs at all ages and phases of career development.

Three West Point graduates form the core of WPAOG's new Career Services team: Director Miguel Gutierrez '80, Assistant Director Scott Leishman '77, and Assistant Director Julia Ruddock '07. Based on their own West Point and Army experiences, they are all deeply aware of USMA job candidates' strengths, and are familiar with the challenges and opportunities candidates are likely to encounter while looking for a job, based on their extensive experience in recruiting and placement.

Complementing the new team of career services experts is a variety of supports that leverage the power of the West Point network across corporations, industries, and in regions worldwide. The WPAOG team is hard at work building relationships with employers seeking to hire our grads. In addition, WPAOG is building an Industry Network—a corps of graduate “industry advisors” who can offer tailored advice to job-seeking grads, as well as leveraging our Geographic Network of regional graduate advisors operating through local West Point Societies. In this way, WPAOG serves as the “hub” of the network, forging connections between job seekers, employers, and grads who serve as industry and geographic advisors willing to help fellow members of the Long Gray Line.

Through a new partnership program with Korn Ferry called “Korn Ferry Advance,” grads have access to top caliber career coaches and tools designed to help navigate towards a new job, a promotion, or a new industry. Korn Ferry Advance offers a portfolio of customized services designed to prepare candidates for every aspect of the job search: self-assessment (psychometric analysis), resume preparation, personal coaching, interview preparation and compensation counseling.

WPAOG Career Services will continue to include the successful Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) job fairs, and the enhanced service programs will be able to deliver even more to our graduates. WPAOG is confident that combining the Korn Ferry Advance process with our multiple networks, new website, and

professional career experts who have an in-depth understanding of alumni candidates and employer needs will result in outstanding job matches and a new level of service for the Long Gray Line.

Successful career placements are paramount to mission success with our enhanced services. Justin Mishler '07 is a recent benefactor of WPAOG Career Services. The team adeptly assembled a plan and followed Mishler all the way through to the end of the process. Mishler summarizes his experience, saying, "It was a pleasure to work with WPAOG Career Services during my transition. They helped me refine my resume, network with companies to explore future career paths, and discover what was important to me. After receiving multiple offers, their expertise gave me the confidence to hold out for an opportunity that was a great fit for me and my family. I ultimately found that position, and the timing worked out beautifully. WPAOG Career Services is a fantastic resource that proved to be invaluable during my transition." Mishler is now in a great industry with ATN International in Denver, Colorado, a location that best fits his family.

David Krall '85 also recently experienced a successful career transition and placement working with the WPAOG Career Services team. Krall notes, "With WPAOG Career Services' support and guidance during my career transition, I was able to build connections through the WPAOG network and land a number of outstanding leadership job offers, ranging from startups to more established organizations. It's been an exciting time for me as I zero-in on a path forward, and I look to the future with excitement in my new role. Having a WPAOG Career Services associate available to discuss options, review resumes, suggest networking opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship interests and review offers has been wonderful!"

Thanks to the new full-time WPAOG Career Services team, our partnership with Korn Ferry, and the new WPAOG Careers website—in addition to our expanding networks of graduate industry advisors and regional advisors operating through local West Point Societies—WPAOG is confident that our Career Services program will result in a new level of service for the Long Gray Line.

We look forward to speaking with you about how our new enhanced WPAOG Career Services program can help you with your next career move or in hiring West Point grads. Please visit our new website at wpaogcareers.org, and get started today!

WPAOG's new enhanced Career Services have been made possible through the generous support of Roland C. Smith '78, Robb E. Turner '84, Ken C. Hicks '74, Darcy G. Anderson '78 and Allan R. Starkie '79. In addition, Korn Ferry, a leading executive search and management consulting firm, has provided its services to West Point graduates at a substantially reduced rate.

WPAOG's new enhanced Career Services program is designed to equip all West Point graduates with the confidence and sustained motivation to successfully navigate each phase of their post-military career transition: self-discovery, career exploration, experiential learning and job searching.

Services include:

- **WPAOGCareers.org**, a website with career resources exclusively for West Point grads
- Service Academy Career Conferences (SACC), quarterly job fairs exclusively for federal service academy alumni
- Industry-leading career counseling and career readiness tools
- Industry advisors offering tailored advice
- Geographic advisors from West Point Societies
- Exclusive access to a portfolio of employers and online job postings
- Employer networking opportunities in-person and online
- Career workshops and professional development resources

Find that next great opportunity or market yourself in an increasingly specialized market. Get the help you need to land your first job after the Army.



WPAOG Career Services Team L to R: Scott Leishman '77, Julia Ruddock '07, and Director Miguel Gutierrez '80.



West Point
ASSOCIATION
OF GRADUATES
CAREER SERVICES

For more information on this program, please contact a member of WPAOG's Career Services team at careers@wpaog.org



USMA Black Wins 2019 Sandhurst Competition

Photos: Brandon O'Connor, CDT Ellington Ward '22/USMA PAO



On April 12 and 13, the U.S. Military Academy hosted the 51st Sandhurst Military Skills Competition to promote excellence among future leaders across the world. The 2019 competition included 49 teams representing 13 international military academies, 16 Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, and four U.S. service academies competing in a rigorous 27-mile course to test individual and squad mastery of military skills. USMA teams claimed four of the top five finishes. The USMA Black team claimed the Reginald E. Johnson Saber Plaque as the top overall team and USMA Company D-2 finished second overall, followed by the University of North Georgia ROTC.

Photos: Brandon O'Connor, Robert Norwood/USMA PAO; USMA PAO



Above right: CDT Adam Josephson, VMI squad leader, was presented with the Tom Surdyke Leadership Award as top squad leader. The award, named in memory of USMA Cadet Thomas Surdyke, who died while saving the life of a drowning stranger, was presented by the Surdyke family.



Army Volleyball Dreams of Going Places: From Italy to the NCAA Tournament

By **Kim McDermott '87**, WPAOG staff

Overseas trips for teams are a growing trend in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and current NCAA rules allow a team to travel once every four years. Over spring break this year, the Army West Point Volleyball Team traveled for the first time to Italy. Head Coach Alma Kovaci Lee says it has been a long-time dream to bring the team abroad. A native of Albania, she spent many pre-seasons training in Italy and knew a trip there would provide team-building and accelerated development opportunities for the players.

Kovaci Lee knew that the team would never have a chance to do something like this during the summers, when West Point cadets must participate in unit and individualized military training, so she planned for years to put together a trip over spring break. Offering a special thanks to families and alumni who support the program, she earmarked donations to the program over time to fund the trip, and credits team supporters for making it all possible. In fact, the entire trip became a reality due to Margin of Excellence gifts—donations from alumni, parents, and other friends of the Volleyball Team.

Some of the biggest supporters of the team are Susie and Henry Jordan, the mother and stepfather of team alumna Maureen

Bannon '10. Still supporting the program almost a decade after Bannon graduated, they say, “Maureen experienced a wonderful career at West Point largely due to her volleyball experiences. [Volleyball] provided her with leadership and perseverance skills and development crucial to her growth as an officer in the U.S. Army. We believe that international travel experiences

provide unique growth and leadership opportunities for these young women athletes, in the tradition of the Long Gray Line.”

This past season, the team had no seniors, and Kovaci Lee wanted to ensure that she got the most team-building out of the trip as possible. She wanted the players to get to know each other well off the court, as well as on. She believes the cultural immersion aspect of the trip, learning and navigating unfamiliar territory, “allowed the players to really get to know each other at a deeper level.”

The week was “very busy, with lots of buses and trains.” The tour took them from Venice to Milan, Lucca and Pisa, and Rome. Between Venice and Milan, the team visited the Army base in Vicenza. Hosted by the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the players spent several hours meeting with members of the unit and learning about the unit and its mission.



Top left: CDT Ana Ogilvie '21 returns a serve versus San Francisco at the Army Invitational Tournament in August 2018. **Top right:** AWP Volleyball poses for a group shot in Rome, the last stop on their trip to Italy during spring break in 2019.

Photos: Erin Locascio/ODIA; Emma Adams/ODIA



Clockwise from top left: CDTs Courtney Horace '20 and Emmy Barnhorst '22 go up for a block against Hofstra at the Black Knights Invitational Tournament in September 2018; CDTs Sydney Morris '20, Lauren Janok '22, and Emmy Barnhorst '22 celebrate a point versus San Francisco at the Army Invitational Tournament in August 2018; the team poses for a group shot with a participant in a Unified Sports event at West Point on March 24, 2019.

During the trip, the team got to play semi-pro level opponents. In Italy they personally experienced what they've heard about the higher level players by facing them on the court. Even as they were being defeated, they learned. As international rules differ from U.S. rules, Kovaci Lee says, "It was fun to see the team adjust to a different form of the game." Overall, she says, "The players got smarter, and developed their skills around control and taking advantage of opponent weaknesses." She says, "It is one thing to hear it said, but entirely different to learn as it's happening to you." Cadet Hannah Presley '21 says, "You could see [the opponents'] intensity and passion throughout each play."

The trip also provided a healthy dose of cultural awareness. Kovaci Lee says that the players "need to be exposed to the world," as future officers. While in Italy, they enjoyed food, lifestyle, and history very different from home. And through all this learning, they had an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives. Cadet Sydney Morris '20 says, "Our trip to Italy was the most memorable thing I've gotten to experience here at the Academy. As a player on the West Point Volleyball Team, I felt very privileged to be able to travel a part of the world I've never been to with my amazing coaches and teammates, and not only get to tour with them but play by their sides against foreign teams. One of the most important things I learned on this trip is that we are all a family and to never take for granted the amazing opportunities we are given."

One of Kovaci Lee's favorite things about the trip was just the fun of the team seeing each other in this new environment. She recounts a story of just walking down a street and hearing "Hey, Coach!" She looked in the direction of the voice to see one of her players in a gondola, waving at her. This chance encounter was random and out of context, yet familiar, all at the same time, evoking that "small world" type of feeling.

In the words of Cadet Ana Oglivie '21, the team left Italy having grown "as a team, as volleyball players, as women, and as future officers in the United States Army." She says, "I will be forever be inspired by Italy, and grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime experience." Kovaci Lee looks forward to observing this growth reflected in the upcoming season. She is certain that the bonds between the players are stronger than ever, and that will translate to success on the court. She prizes the skills development aspect of the tour, describing one set as the best volleyball she ever saw the team play.

While it was tough, leadership-wise, not to have seniors on the team last year, Kovaci Lee knows that the spring break trip to Italy will make the team stronger this year. Volleyball is already one of Army's most successful athletic programs, so this should make for an exciting season this fall. With 16 years of experience at West Point (four as an Assistant Coach and 12 as Head Coach), Kovaci Lee is well prepared to lead the way forward.



AWP Volleyball visits the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team headquarters in Vicenza, Italy during their tour in Italy during spring break in 2019.

Kovaci Lee shares the five priorities (inherited from the previous Head Coach, Glen Conley) that guide the team: Faith, Family, Academics, Volleyball, and Military. When Kovaci Lee took over, she kept them—understanding that it “makes sense to have your priorities straight when you lead a team.” While these are listed in order, she is quick to point out that military is listed last for a reason. It is not because it is unimportant. Indeed, it is a given. It is the foundation and the environment, and if players are doing what they should, they will succeed. It is not a competing priority; it is why they are here.

While her culture growing up in Albania did not support practicing religion, she respects that it is a strong priority for many people and will always accommodate it. No practice or game is more important than family—players can always go home in the event of a family emergency. As to Academics, she tells players “This is your future.” Interestingly, these top three priorities come before the actual craft of the sport. But Kovaci Lee realizes that some things are more important than a game—and the players are better off knowing that they have her support if something like a family emergency, or a tough week of academics gets in the way of their finest moments on the court. Only then can they give their best to the program, and to each other.

They also give their best to the West Point community. Kovaci Lee was surprised and proud to discover—via a community Facebook page—that, one week after returning from Italy,

players had volunteered at a Unified Sports event on post. (Unified Sports is a program of Special Olympics, offering young people with disabilities a chance to play team sports.) Volleyball also runs a free volleyball clinic every week while in spring season. Kovaci Lee adds, “The team has also supported Special Olympics for all 16 years that I have been with the program.”

Kovaci Lee says, “There is more than winning that is important when building a team.” Everyone involved needs to be cognizant of the love and care that happens, when players learn who they can rely on and how they can handle tough situations. “We shouldn’t walk on eggshells,” she says. “We need to be frank and comfortable talking to each other about the important things.” From the coaching standpoint, she paraphrases Theodore Roosevelt, “Athletes don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” She stresses, “The players need to know you care about them...then you can go places!”

Speaking of going places: the team’s goal next season is to win the Patriot League Championship and qualify for the NCAA tournament. Kovaci Lee says, “These young women are determined, and we can do it! Everyone says they want to win championships, but to do what it takes requires a clear vision, total commitment and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. I believe our team can achieve it next season.” She believes it because she understands that winning is always about taking care of the process. The trip to Italy is a perfect illustration of the process—doing what it takes to make a dream come true and go places. ★

MAILBOX *West Point*



We regret that because of limited space, we cannot publish all letters received.

Letters may be edited and shortened for space. Submit comments or questions to Editor@wpaog.org, or chat with us on one of our WPAOG social media channels.

FROM: Jim Maye '75

The spring 2019 edition of *West Point* magazine is the best yet. I enjoyed seeing all of the old photos. I thought the Past in Review article concerning the Oldest Living Graduates was particularly excellent. As a point of fact, however, Brigadier General Henry C. Hodges, Class of 1851, served as a quartermaster in Civil War, not Major General Henry C. Hodges Jr., Class of 1881.

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your warm praises of the spring 2019 issue, and thank you for calling to our attention the gaffe we made regarding Hodges Jr. As he was born on April 20, 1860, it is illogical to think he served in the U.S. Civil War (1861-65), but his father did serve as the chief quartermaster of the Army of the Cumberland from 1863 to 1865. While not an "Oldest Living Graduate," Hodges Sr. was the oldest surviving member from the Class of 1851.

FROM: Fred Irving '51

I am writing to bring to your attention an error in the spring 2019 issue of *West Point* magazine. Page 56 contains a list, "Leaders of the Long Gray Line 1802-Present." My father, Major General Frederick A. Irving, Class of April 1917 and the 42nd Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, is not included. He held the title of Oldest Living Graduate when he died on September 12, 1995.

RESPONSE:

We sincerely apologize for this oversight. When we prepared this article, we used the "Oldest Living Graduate" listing published annually in the Register of Graduates. For reasons we cannot explain, Major General Irving's name did not appear on this list in 1994, after being fifth in succession on the 1993 list.

He should have been included between William George Patterson, Class of 1916, and Hughes Steele, Class of 1919. Had we seen his name, we would have verified that he, and not Arthur Pulsifer, Class of November 1918, whose name appears atop the 1995 list, took up the mantle of "Oldest Living Graduate" from Edmund DeTreville Ellis, Class of 1915. Major General Irving held the title of "Oldest Living Graduate" for a total of seven months and 22 days. His proper place on the "Oldest Living Graduate" list means that the number of general officers to hold the title increases to 28 and that the number of Superintendents appearing on the list moves up to four (Swift, Thayer, Tillman and Irving). Thank you for letting us know of this omission. ★

OFFICIAL CLASS RING SUPPLIER OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955
1956 1958 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1968 1969 1970
1971 1975 1976 1977 1979 1981 1982 1984 1985 1986 1988 1999
2003 2004 2005 2006 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2020

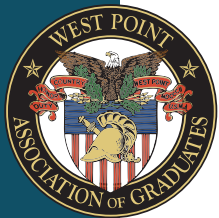


Balfour can replace Class Rings, Miniatures and Wedding Bands for the above listed back dated classes.

Contact Jayne Roland at
(201) 262-8800 or
balfourna@optonline.net

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balfour



WPAOG Staff and Services: Class and Annual Giving, Data Services

Throughout 2019, *West Point* magazine is featuring members of the WPAOG Staff who work behind the scenes to help each and every member of the Long Gray Line. This issue highlights members of the Development Team who assist with Annual Giving, Class Giving and Data Services. The 49-member Development team supports graduates and WPAOG in raising funds to support the Academy, Cadets and the Long Gray Line.



Allison Barry

Director of Annual Giving

Manages operations of WPAOG's Annual Giving fundraising efforts, which solicit unrestricted gifts on a yearly basis.

How long have you been at WPAOG?

I have been at the AOG for 10 years.

How has your role changed / developed over the years?

I was initially hired as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, then transitioned to Major Giving, which gave me the opportunity to connect with graduates on a personal level and demonstrate how their philanthropy can elevate the Academy in a meaningful way. Since August 2018, I've led the Annual Giving team, which is my dream job—that is to inspire all graduates, parents, and friends to support the Academy's Margin of Excellence programs.

How has the advancement of technology helped you in your role?

Since Annual Giving's goal is to reach a wide range of people "where they are," we use various technological channels to expand our reach and make our communication as personal as possible. Whether it is through email, text, phone, social media or direct mail, we tailor our outreach to best fit how people respond to our multi-channel solicitations; data drives every part of our decision-making.

What are some of the challenges of your position?

The Annual Giving team's biggest challenge is to innovate our approach based on the constant change in the ways people connect and give philanthropically. Our established direct mail and telefund programs continue to be successful, but social media and texting are becoming our go-to connection points for younger graduates. Methods of giving are also evolving, from cash and checks to online methods, which are now evolving to include Venmo and Apple Pay, and we are working to keep up.

What are some memorable moments of your work at WPAOG?

When I think of my 10 years at WPAOG, the relationships are what I treasure the most. Colonel John Calabro '68, our late Chief Operating Officer, welcomed me when I first started and was a valued mentor. Attending many graduations and memorials as a WPAOG representative personally resonates

with me, and witnessing the full span of the Long Gray Line has been made a deep impact on me.

What are your favorite things about working at WPAOG?

My favorite part of my job is listening to donors' stories and experiences. When it comes to West Point, graduates have a passionate relationship with their alma mater, which makes for great conversations. Parents are proud and enjoy sharing their child's journey to West Point. I never get tired of listening to them share their stories.



Elena Ivanova '99

Director of Class Giving

Oversees fundraising for all class reunion gift campaigns in support of the Margin of Excellence for West Point and WPAOG. Class Giving solicits restricted gifts as part of multi-year class reunion gift campaigns. Based on knowledge of

USMA and WPAOG approved needs that require private funding, helps match class giving interests with these needs, assists each class in selecting an appropriate gift project, coordinates between the Class and USMA to define and gain approval of the gift, and assists the Class in designing and implementing a fundraising strategy.

How long have you been at WPAOG?

This summer I will celebrate 10 years with the Association.

How has your role changed / developed over the years?

I joined in 2009 as a member of the combined Class and Annual Giving department. A few years later, two separate departments were formed, each with a clear focus—Annual Giving soliciting unrestricted gifts on an annual basis, and Class Giving soliciting restricted gifts as part of multi-year class reunion gift campaigns. I've led the Class Giving department since 2011. As our staff and resources have increasingly grown, so too has the amount of revenue in new cash and pledges—today Class Giving is bringing in more than double compared to a decade ago.

How has the advancement of technology helped you in your role?

Technological advancements have been critical for us, allowing the ability to provide robust and comprehensive campaign support to our class giving volunteers. Over the

last few years, we have been able to develop customized online gift survey and voting sites, dedicated campaign donation pages, donor capacity research for campaign giving support, advanced giving reports, etc.

How are you working on celebrating WPAOG's 150th birthday?

This is a special year for WPAOG, and we will be celebrating this anniversary at various events including Founders Day dinners and the annual Leaders Conference at West Point. I would like to give a special shout out to the Class of 1969, who not only exceeded their 50th reunion gift campaign goal of \$2,000,000, but also voted to make an additional gift—a birthday present—to the Long Gray Line Endowment on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of our Alumni Association!

What are some memorable moments of your work at WPAOG?

There are so many! What I really enjoy about my work, and what keeps it always interesting, is that no two class campaigns are alike. Each class brings its unique identity and energy to the campaign process. Over the past decade, I have been fortunate to be a part of many transformational class fundraising campaigns that have literally changed the landscape of West Point. Just to name a few—the West Point Cemetery Expansion (fully funded by USMA classes), the Malek West Point Visitors Center, Reconciliation Plaza, Thayer Walk, and the Jefferson Hall Library.

What are your favorite things about working at WPAOG?

The partnerships and friendships that I share with our Class Giving volunteers. During my time in Class Giving, I have been fortunate enough to cross paths with many passionate, dedicated and committed graduates, from all ages and walks of life, who genuinely love West Point and want to give back! Their wisdom, insights, and shared experiences have provided a tremendous learning opportunity for me—both professionally and personally.



Lois Walsh

Data Services Manager

Oversees data integrity in WPAOG's constituent database and manages Data Services Team. Also responsible for compiling data supporting communications with graduates, such as mailing West Point Magazine, and

the annual solicitations for the Superintendent's Fund and Long Gray Line Endowment.

How long have you been at WPAOG?

I've worked at WPAOG for 28 years. During my tenure, I've held positions in various departments, with most of my time in Development, where I've learned many aspects of fundraising and how to better support the organization in reaching our goals to support the Academy and the Margin of Excellence.

How has your role changed / developed over the years?

I started at WPAOG as part of the Publications team (now Communications and Marketing). I input subscriptions for *ASSEMBLY* alumni magazine and acquired advertising for its support. As I learned more about WPAOG and the needs of the Academy grew, I was able to move into other positions. I've gone from data entry to managing reports, global updates and ensuring the integrity of our database is maintained. I have had the privilege of working alongside a great team who understands the importance of good data and how it relates to better serving our graduates and friends. This includes answering questions on the phone or via email, forwarding messages to long lost classmates, and taking biographical updates to ensure WPAOG's contact detail is as up-to-date as it can be—all of which ensures that grads won't miss out on communications from their Class on reunions or other important news.

How has the advancement of technology helped you in your role?

Where would we be without computers? In my time here, we've gone from having our own mailing equipment in the basement of Cullum Hall to outsourcing mail. I've seen two database conversions, and each time, the new systems have enabled us to communicate better with graduates and provide what's important to them. Technology makes it easier and faster to communicate with our graduates and get important detail in and out.

What are some of the challenges of your position?

The volume of changes and report requests that the Data Services team receives is one of our challenges. The team is responsible for all changes to constituent records and supports just about every WPAOG department in providing the detail for communications that are sent. Ensuring deadlines are met and that our graduates' sensitive data and information is correct and protected is the most important thing we do. WPAOG's database is our life source to the Academy.

What are some memorable moments of your work at WPAOG?

My favorite moments are attending cadet parades and witnessing some of the more distinguished members of the Long Gray Line return for their class reunions and walk across the Plain. I also enjoy the new cadet March Back after Beast Barracks. Both are very moving events. The "changing of the guard" you might say, that puts a lump in your throat and a tear in your eye. I feel fortunate that what we do here at WPAOG has a direct impact on the leaders of our great nation.

What are your favorite things about working at WPAOG?

I enjoy the family-like atmosphere and relationships that we have at WPAOG. The staff genuinely cares about one another and works together as a team to accomplish goals. Professionally, there is always a drive to improve and provide the best level of support to the Academy and the Long Gray Line, which is at the heart of what we do and who we are. ★



West Point Authors Bookshelf

A West Point magazine supplement featuring books by West Point graduates and faculty.

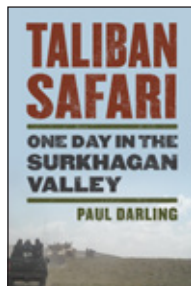


The Continuing Quest for Missile Defense: When Lofty Goals Confront Reality

Prof. Peter J. Pella '70

The U.S. has spent billions of dollars and countless person-hours in the pursuit of a national missile defense system. This book will provide an historical description of past efforts, describe the current systems (including theatre defense systems), and explain how national security concerns, the evolving international environment, and the complexities of U.S. politics have all affected the story. It will describe plans for future efforts and provide some suggestions for alternative paths.

Available at Amazon.com

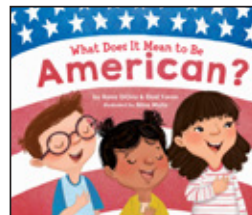


Taliban Safari One Day in the Surkhagan Valley

LTC (R) Paul Darling '93

In crisp prose Darling offers a moment-by-moment account of a one-day mission to track down and kill Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. Darling's moments of humor and reflection put the chaos and uncertainties of combat into a larger perspective. The story is about the ethical choices and compromises he has to make as a leader; a man who has promises to keep; to family, to country, to his soldiers, and, ultimately, to himself.

Available at
kansaspress.ku.edu



What Does It Mean to Be American?

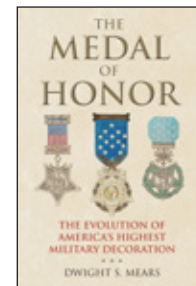
Rana DiOrio and Elad Yoran '91

Illustrated by Nina Mata

West Point Grad Shares His Love of Country with Children

Vivid illustrations and purposeful prose on pages dedicated to introducing America to children and inspiring big dreams, hard work, helping hands and love of country. Perfect for any and all Americans who are proud of who they are and where they come from.

Visit www.beamerican.io for a list of retailers.



The Medal of Honor The Evolution of America's Highest Military Decoration

Major (R) Dwight S. Mears, PhD '01

This book is the first comprehensive look at the medal's history. Dwight S. Mears tells the story of how several distinct decorations and a number of competing policies that rewarded different types of heroism evolved into the highest military decoration.

Available at
kansaspress.ku.edu



Ubiquitous Relativity: My Truth Is Not the Truth

Ian Winer '96

How can I gain a greater sense of purpose through an improved connection to other people? In *Ubiquitous Relativity*, Ian Winer answers this question. His eponymous philosophy is a roadmap for anyone searching for a more meaningful life. By examining the senses and emotions unique to each of us, *Ubiquitous Relativity* asks the reader to pause on their judgments for deeper, more meaningful relationships with the people in our lives.

Available at Amazon and
barnesandnoble.com



Battlefield Systems Integration

MG (Ret.) Ira A. Hunt Jr. '45

In 1975, the US Army focused its attention from the Vietnam Counter-Insurgency to a potential all out major conflict in Europe involving the Soviets. The Office of Battlefield Systems Integration (BSI) was established to determine the Army's most effective battlefield systems. BSI adopted an architecture synchronizing the development of doctrine, forces, material and technology. By thoroughly analyzing Soviet military capabilities it determined by dynamic modeling the relative value of combat systems so that meaningful trade-offs could be made and a balanced U.S. force designed.

Available at Amazon.com



Invest in Your Life, Not Just Your Portfolio

David L. Blain, CFA '89

David Blain shares his revolutionary approach he developed to combat the out-of-control fees, conflicts of interest, and generally poor advice that plagues successful individuals and families across the country. If you see money as a vehicle to reach your goal (as opposed to the goal itself), aren't looking to "beat the market," and are ready to listen to a trusted professional, then this book is just for you.

It's time to invest in more than just your portfolio. It's time to invest in your life.

Available at Amazon.com and
BarnesandNoble.com



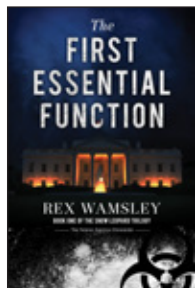
Sheep to Shepherd

Tom McDonald '57

Our nation's in moral free-fall. Why? Not enough men of integrity in leadership at all levels of government and business. Why is that? Not enough dads raise sons to be strong leaders of integrity and character. This book discusses twelve Behaviors a man must make his own. Among them are being responsible, respectful, honorable, disciplined, forgiving, encouraging and tough-minded. All twelve together will turn a Sheep into a Shepherd, a leader of Integrity and Godly character.

Books/eBooks:
Available at Amazon or
WordsAlongTheWay.com

Inclusion of these books in West Point magazine is a paid advertisement and is not an endorsement of the contents or values expressed in the books. Descriptions have been provided by authors or publishers and should not be considered a review of the book.



The First Essential Function

Rex Wamsley '73

As Deep State operatives continue to drain hundreds of millions of government dollars from Washington DC, radical Islamic terrorists are on the way to pay back satanic America by attacking the nation's transportation systems, threatening to kill hundreds of thousands of Americans. In a deadly serious game of hide-and-seek, Gene Holmes and his Snow Leopard team are working desperately to identify the threat and stop the attack.

Available at Amazon.com
or rexwamsley.com



The Second Essential Function

Rex Wamsley '73

The spellbinding second book of the Snow Leopard trilogy continues with thousands of Americans dying from radical Islamic terrorists' biological attacks against America's largest cities. In a deadly game of hide and seek, as Gene Holmes and his Snow Leopard team, working for America's National Security Advisor, try to find the terrorists and stop the killing, a second group is preparing new biological attacks directed against the nation's agricultural heartland.

Available at Amazon.com
or rexwamsley.com

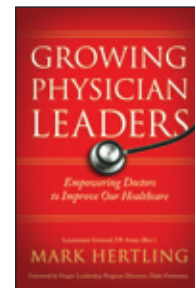


The Traitors

Rex Wamsley '73

The exciting and final book of the Snow Leopard trilogy continues with the nation continuing to struggle to recover from previous terrorist attacks on the nation's transportation system and its agricultural heartland. As Gene Holmes and his Snow Leopard team, working for the National Security Advisor, continue their search for the terrorists to stop the killing, additional jihadist attacks are being planned, targeting the nation's oil refineries and pipeline terminals.

Available at Amazon.com
or rexwamsley.com



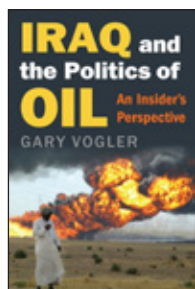
Growing Physician Leaders: Empowering Doctors to Improve Our Healthcare

Mark Hertling '75

While doctors enjoy exceptional training in the science of medicine, most receive little education in the art of leading.

After Mark Hertling joined a healthcare organization, the Chief Medical Officer asked him to design a physician leadership program. In *Growing Physician Leaders*, Hertling applies leadership lessons from the Army to the medical profession, and the results are profoundly instructive and a practical approach to building healthcare teams.

Available at Amazon,
BarnesandNoble.com,
AdventHealthPress.com



Iraq and the Politics of Oil: An Insider's Perspective

Gary Vogler '73

Gary spent 5 months in prewar oil planning at the Pentagon followed by 75 months in Iraq executing oil reconstruction under DOD between 2003 and 2011. During all of this time and through 2014, he denied that our government had a hidden oil agenda in Iraq. While researching his book, Gary discovered something of significance. It was an oil plan that will surprise most Americans. The book is his attempt to correct history and set the record straight.

Available at Amazon.com

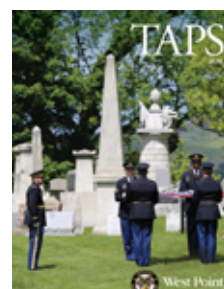


Pursuing the Honorable

by Kenneth McDonald '85 and
Justin Anderson

Pursuing the Honorable argues that modern understanding of honor is deficient. The book returns to an understanding of the honorable good as seen in a life of human virtues. Because honor needs to be applicable to the 21st Century occidental world, the study includes those conditions under which honor can become a live option. While focused on military training, what the study discovers extends to many forms of human life.

Available at rowman.com use
coupon code LEX30AUTH19
for 30% off



TAPS magazine

West Point Association of Graduates

TAPS is the official memorial magazine of the Long Gray Line, and contains the fascinating and inspiring life stories of West Point graduates. Every graduate's memorial article is personally written by family members, classmates or class presidents. Memorial articles are also posted online under "Be Thou At Peace" on the WPAOG website. A commemorative parchment copy of each memorial article is given to the next of kin in a keepsake folder. Families and friends may purchase additional parchment copies for a nominal fee.

To order TAPS or learn more, call
845.446.1645



West Point magazine

West Point Association
of Graduates

West Point magazine is the official alumni magazine of the U.S. Military Academy. It is published quarterly and mailed free of charge to more than 55,000 readers, including all West Point graduates, cadet parents, widowed spouses of graduates, USMA faculty and friends of West Point.

If you enjoy receiving *West Point*, please consider making a donation to support the magazine fund or you may order a subscription on our website at

**WestPointAOG.org/
WestPointmagazine**

Grads in Congress Honor WPAOG's 150th Anniversary

On March 11, the five members of the Long Gray Line currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, along with the Representative from New York's 18th Congressional District serving West Point, came to the House floor to commemorate the 150th anniversary of WPAOG with a Special Order. Congressmen John Shimkus '80 (IL-15), Mark Green '86 (TN-7), Brett Guthrie '87 (KY-2), Warren Davidson '95 (OH-8), and Steven Watkins Jr. '99 (KS-2) each took turns discussing West Point history and the common experiences they had at the Academy as cadets, while Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) congratulated WPAOG on its milestone, saying, "For 150 years, the West Point Association of Graduates has fostered [the connections of the Long Gray Line] by allowing generations of graduates to grip hands with one another." Congressman Shimkus also had WPAOG's 150th Anniversary cover story from the Winter 2019 issue of *West Point* magazine included in the Congressional Record to mark WPAOG's sesquicentennial.



GEN(R) Ann Dunwoody to Receive 2019 Thayer Award

WPAOG is pleased to announce that General Ann Dunwoody (USA, Retired), the first woman in U.S. history to achieve the rank of four-star general, will receive the 2019 Sylvanus Thayer Award. In her last assignment, Dunwoody led and ran Army Materiel Command, the largest global logistics command in the Army, comprised of 69,000 soldiers and civilians located in all 50 states and more than 140 countries. The award will be presented on October 10 during ceremonies hosted by Lieutenant General Darryl A. Williams '83, 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



WPAOG Wins Two Stevie Awards

WPAOG won both Gold and Silver Stevie Awards in the 17th Annual American Business Awards. WPAOG won a Gold award in the Mobile Web & App (Social) Category for our Grad Link App and a Silver award for Organization of the Year – Non Profit or Government (Small) category. "We are thrilled to win these prestigious awards which recognize WPAOG's desire to increase the connection among our alumni body," said Todd Browne '85, WPAOG President and CEO. "Winning two awards is well-deserved recognition for our employees and alumni who work so hard to support West Point and the Long Gray Line."





WPAOG Achieves Top Ratings from Leading Charity Watchdogs

Once again in 2019, WPAOG has received the highest level ratings from two leading charity watchdog organizations: Charity Navigator (4-star) and Guidestar (Platinum). Charity Navigator is the largest and most-used charity evaluator in America, analyzing the financial health, accountability and transparency of over 9,000 charities. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about nonprofit organizations, and a leader in advancing transparency in the nonprofit sector. Maintaining our top level ratings demonstrates WPAOG's commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.



Thank You '69 Graduates for Your Commitment

On May 21, COL(R) Wayne Murphy, Fundraising Chairman, and Mr. Mike McGovern, Class President, presented two checks to WPAOG on behalf of the Class of 1969 for a total of \$2,275,000 in support of the Simon Center for Professional Military Ethic, the Cyber Research Center, and the Long Gray Line Endowment. Not only did 436 Class of 1969 graduates come to West Point to celebrate their 50th Reunion, but the class allocated \$50,000 of their gift to the Long Gray Line Endowment to commemorate WPAOG's 150th Anniversary. Thank you to the Class of 1969 for their tremendous support!



WPAOG Receives CASE Excellence Awards

WPAOG has received two Educational Fundraising Awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for both Overall Performance (one of 54 recipients and the only one in the public liberal arts category) and Sustained Excellence (one of only 16). These annual awards recognize exemplary development programs based on a blind review of data submitted to the CASE Voluntary Support of Education (VSE) survey, considered the definitive source of information on fundraising outcomes in U.S. higher education institutions. CASE member institutions include more than 3,700 colleges and universities, primary and secondary independent schools, and nonprofit organizations in 82 countries.

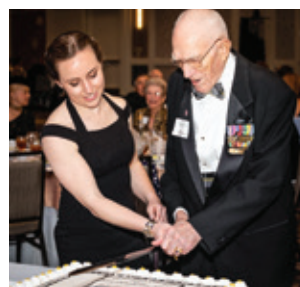


COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT
AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION®

Founders Day Celebrated by Old Grads Around the World

From Singapore and Paris to Hawaii, Indianapolis, and Nashville, and everywhere in between, West Point graduates around the world gathered together from February to June to celebrate Founders Day. In keeping with tradition, at many of the events, the oldest and youngest grads present spoke, cakes were cut, and the “Alma Mater” was sung. WPAOG

staff attended 75 of the 122 Founders Day events held by West Point Societies, West Point, active duty stations and USMAPS. West Point speakers were present at 73 of these events, with 25 attended by a member of the USMA Leader Team: the Superintendent, Commandant or the Dean.



Share Flat Cullum's Adventures

It looks like some of you have already started including Flat Cullum in your adventures after receiving your Spring issue of *West Point*. (He's located on page 13). He got to see Army Baseball beat Navy in Annapolis on April 21! Be sure to share your photos on social media using #FlatCullum and #WPAOG150. If you don't use social media, please email us your photo with a caption to 150@WPAOG.org and we'll post in our online photo album.



Update Your *Register of Graduates Biography*

Our 150th celebration year is a good time to update your career biography in the *Register of Graduates*. All graduates are now able to review their biographies and submit updates online! We thank you for your patience as we rebuilt this feature during our recent system upgrades, and we hope that all graduates will help us continue the project initiated by General George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, to chronicle the careers and service to the nation of all West Point graduates.





150

YEARS

West Point | ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

*Congratulates the 2019
Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients:*

David A. Bramlett '64

Robert L. VanAntwerp '72

Victor F. Garcia '68

Walter L. Sharp '74

Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75



GEN David A. Bramlett: A Lifetime of Service



The Pasha Hawaii team is honored to salute Advisory Board Member GEN (R) David A. Bramlett, 2019 West Point Distinguished Graduate recipient.

Mahalo nui loa for a lifetime of service to our country and the people of Hawaii. We are grateful for your leadership, humanitarianism, and commitment to excellence.

PASHA HAWAII®

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Congratulations from your Classmates



Victor F. Garcia '68
**2019 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE
AWARD RECIPIENT**



“No Task Too Great for '68”

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



Robert L. VanAntwerp '72

2019 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT

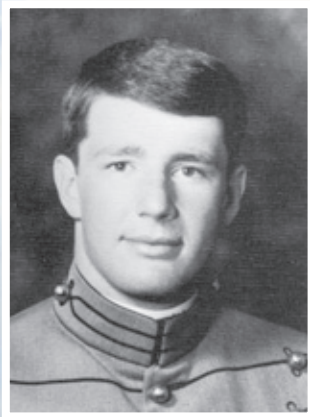


Congratulations from your classmates.
Thank you for a lifetime of Servant Leadership to our Nation.

"Proud and True, '72"



Bringing Out the Best in People



CDT Robert L. VanAntwerp
USMA Class of 1972



LTG (R) Robert L. VanAntwerp '72
Vice Chairman, Flippen Group

The Flippen Group congratulates LTG (R) Robert L. VanAntwerp '72 and each of the 2019 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award.

Throughout his long and varied career serving in the military and working with civilians, Van has epitomized the values taught at West Point: "Duty, Honor, Country."

As Vice Chairman at the Flippen Group, he continues to set this high standard as he helps lead our work of accelerating growth in leaders and teams across various sectors and industries.

Congratulations, LTG Van, on this well-deserved honor from your alma mater. We are honored to serve alongside you!



CONGRATULATIONS

WALTER L. SHARP '74

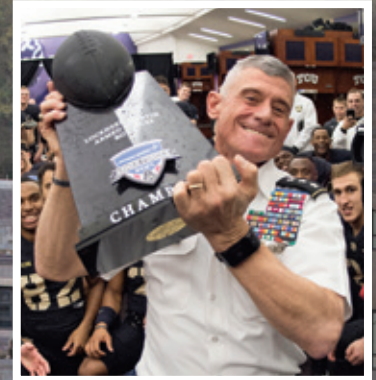


“Pride of the Corps ’74”



from your Classmates

Congratulations from your Classmates



LTG (R) Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75
2019 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE
AWARD RECIPIENT



"Courage and Drive"



The Military Officers Association of America

proudly recognizes its incoming
Chairman of the Board

General Walter "Skip" Sharp USA (Ret) '74

as a 2019 recipient of the
West Point Distinguished Graduate Award.

His accomplishments, contributions and distinguished
service greatly exemplify MOAA's ongoing
commitment to Never Stop Serving.



Learn more at www.moaa.org/join.

SACC Service Academy Career Conference



Planning a career transition? Start here.

- The only military career fair exclusively for Federal Service Academy Graduates.
- Meet one-on-one with corporate recruiters looking for the unique skills and experience of Academy graduates.
- Get peer advice on managing the challenges of career transitions.
- Learn how to get your foot in the door for your desired civilian career.
- Explore graduate school options.



San Diego, CA Aug 8-9, 2019
San Antonio, TX Nov 14-15, 2019
Jacksonville, FL Mar 26-27, 2020
Washington, DC Jun 11-12, 2020

To register for any SACC as an attendee or exhibitor, go to sacc-jobfair.com.



WPAOG Career Services
WPAOGcareers.org | 845.446.1618
 Email: careers@wpaog.org

WPAOG Career Services can help!
 If you would like more information about WPAOG
 Career Services visit WestPointAOG.org/Careers

Gripping Hands

“Grip hands—though it be from the shadows—while we swear as you did of yore, or living or dying, to honor the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps.” —Bishop Shipman, 1902

1961

Nicholson Elected Vice Chair of USMA Board of Visitors

Jim Nicholson has been elected Vice-Chair of the USMA Board of Visitors, which advises the President of the United States on the morale, discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods and other matters related to USMA and the Corps of Cadets. Nicholson was initially appointed to the Board of Visitors by President Donald Trump in June 2018. Nicholson was named a Distinguished Graduate in 2005.



1973

Abizaid Named U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

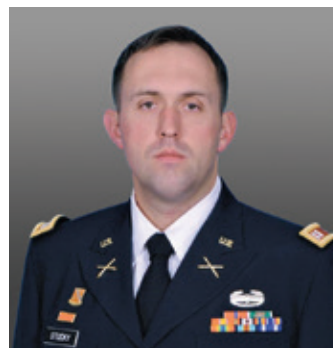


The U.S. Senate voted 92-7 on April 10, 2019 to confirm GEN (R) John Abizaid as the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

2011

Stucky, Whitler and Wolf Named as 2020 Olmsted Scholars

Three members of the Class of 2011 have been named as 2020 Olmsted Scholars. CPT Richard Stucky will study in Lyon, France; CPT James Whitler will study in Munich, Germany; and CPT Frederick Wolf will study in Mexico City, Mexico.



1981

McConville Confirmed as Chief of Staff of the Army

GEN James McConville was confirmed as Chief of Staff of the Army by the Senate on May 23. Previously as the Vice Chief, he worked to stand up Army Futures Command and overhaul how the service modernizes its equipment. “He has played an instrumental role



in almost every major decision the Army has made since becoming the Vice Chief of Staff, and is the perfect leader to carry on our mission of preparing the Army for the future,” Secretary of the Army Mark Esper ’86 said.



2007

Distinguished Service Cross presented to Eslinger

The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to MAJ Nicholas M. Eslinger '07 on May 3 by GEN Stephen J. Townsend, Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Eslinger was previously awarded the Silver Star as a 2LT for his actions in Samarra Iraq, in October 2008. The Silver Star was recently elevated to the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor. Eslinger is the 2009 recipient of WPAOG's Alexander R. Nininger Award.



★ ★ General Officer Announcements ★ ★

The Chief of Staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:

Major General Steven W. Gilland '90 to Commanding General, 2d Infantry Division (Combined), Eighth Army, Republic of Korea

Major General Brian J. Mennes '88 to Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division (Light) and Fort Drum, Fort Drum, NY

Brigadier General Peter B. Andrysiak Jr. '90 to Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska; and Deputy Commander, U.S. Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK

Brigadier General Joseph B. Berger III '92 to Commanding General/Commandant, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, VA

Brigadier General Gregory J. Brady '91 to Commanding General, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Germany

Brigadier General Christopher T. Donahue '92 to Commander, Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan/Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan, Resolute Support Mission, OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, Afghanistan

Brigadier General Omar J. Jones IV '92 to Commanding General, U.S. Army Military District of Washington; and commander, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region

Brigadier General Kenneth T. Royar '88 to Commanding General, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL

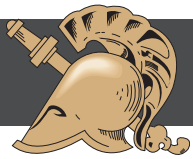
The following officers were confirmed by the Senate:

General James C. McConville '81 for reappointment to the rank of general and assignment as Chief of Staff of the Army, Washington, DC

Lieutenant General Joseph M. Martin '86 for appointment to the rank of general and assignment as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Washington, DC

Major General Leopoldo A. Quintas Jr. '86 , for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general

Brigadier General Telita Crosland '89 , for promotion to the rank of major general



Welcome Parents of the West Point Class of 2023!

West Point Association of Graduates offers a range of services for cadet parents. *West Point*, the Academy's quarterly official alumni magazine, is mailed to all cadet parents free of charge. We also send out the *Parent Review* monthly enewsletter with cadet and Academy news. On social media, you can follow West Point, West Point Association of Graduates and West Point Parents on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

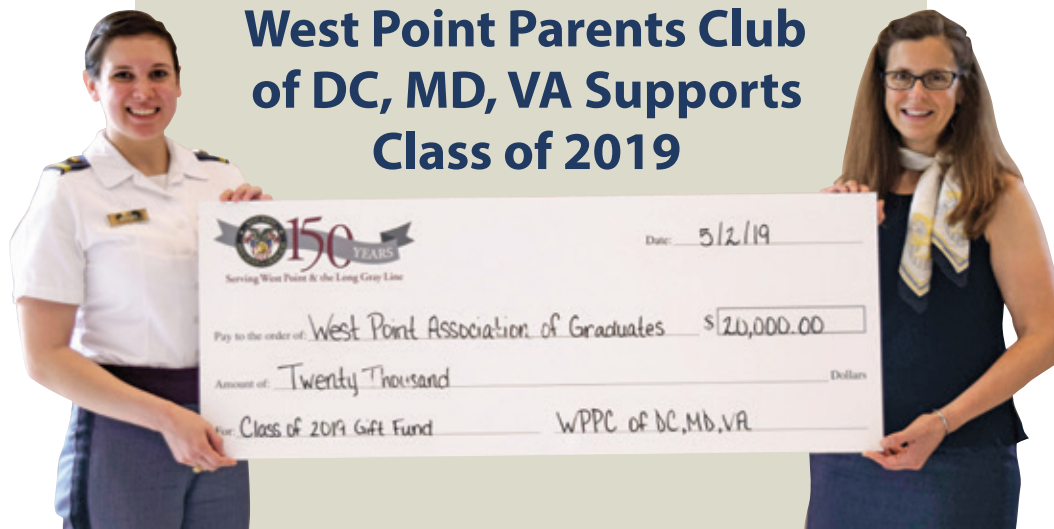
You can also receive our daily RSS newsfeeds of USMA and Cadet news by subscribing on the WPAOG website at WestPointAOG.org/usmacadetnews. Additional information on regional Parents Clubs and other resources may be found at on our website at WestPointAOG.org/ParentResources.

Parents Clubs and DCA Provide TEE Snacks for Hungry Cadets

On May 13 and 14, more than 2,000 cadets enjoyed hearty chicken sandwiches during Term End Exams (TEEs). Thank you to the 40-plus Parents Clubs from all over the United States and the Directorate of Cadet Activities (DCA) who supported the effort to make these snacks possible!

As part of Donor Tribute Day, the West Point Parents Club of DC, MD, VA presented a gift of \$20,000 to the Class of 2019 Class Gift Fund, from proceeds of the Class Afghan sales. Cadet Isabella Vargas '19, Class Historian, received the gift from Jacqueline Grose, Parent Club Representative from the West Point Parents Club of DC, MD, VA. The check ceremony was part of a special luncheon in conjunction with Projects Day 2019, where BG Cindy Jebb '82, Dean of the Academic Board, and cadets shared how the more than 24,500 donors in 2018 provided them with opportunities to further develop academically beyond the Academy's core education through Margin of Excellence programs. Many of the honors and national rankings earned by the Academy and our cadets are a direct result of development and research programs and activities provided by donor support.

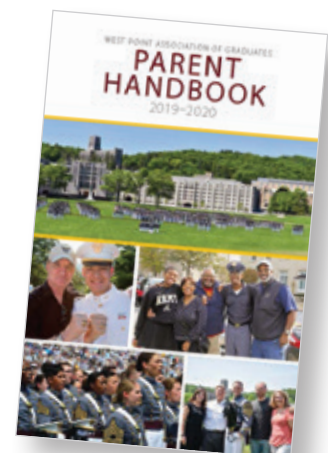
West Point Parents Club of DC, MD, VA Supports Class of 2019



WPAOG PUBLISHES PARENT HANDBOOK FOR 2019-20

The WPAOG *Parent Handbook* provides everything you need to know about being a member of the West Point community and participating in your cadet's 47-month experience. A tool to help families meet the unique challenges of having a son or daughter attend West Point, the guide includes an academic year calendar, as well as valuable information about visiting West Point, resources available to families, WPAOG support and services, connecting with other families through the WPAOG website's Parent Portal, how to become involved with Parents Clubs, and special events. Thanks to generous donations to funds like the West Point Parents Fund, the *Parent Handbook* is complimentary to all families.

Please contact Shelisa Baskerville, WPAOG's Parent Relations Manager, at Shelisa.Baskerville@wpaog.org to learn more.



START^{the}DAYS!

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
9 August Graduation	16-20 Branch Week	10 Thayer Award
11-12 Class of 2023 March Back	18-20 USMA Diversity & Inclusion Conference	24 Nininger Award
14-16 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference	20 Army Sports Hall of Fame Induction	25-26 Family Weekend
17 Acceptance Day—Class of 2023		Fall 2019 Class Reunions
19 First Day of Classes		1974, 1989 Oct 24-27
23-24 Ring Weekend		1979, 1984 Sep 19-22
		1994 Nov 7-10
		1999, 2004 Oct 3-6 2009, 2014 (Homecoming Weekend)

Upcoming events suggested by West Point staff & faculty.

Events for Nov 2019—Jan 2020 should be sent to editor@wpaog.org by Aug 15, 2019.

For the entire calendar, go to

WestPointAOG.org/calendar

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Be Thou at Peace

Deaths reported from March 15, 2019 — June 3, 2019

COL Sterling R. Johnson USA, Retired	1939	Mr. Benjamin G. Peterson	1956	COL Terry G. Stull USA, Retired	1966
*Col Kermit R. Dyke USAF, Retired	1940	Mr. Bert E. Tucker Jr.	1956	Mr. Mark L. Barnett	1968
Lt Col Selmer Gustaves USAF, Retired	1942	Lt Col Arthur W. Meyer USAF, Retired	1958	LTG Thomas N. Burnette Jr. USA, Retired	1968
COL Algin J. Hughes USA, Retired	1943 JAN	Mr. Juan E. Villanes	1958	Mr. David A. Knecht	1968
Mr. Jacob W. Klerk	1943 JAN	BG Randall W. Bell USA, Retired	1959	COL John P. Walsh Jr. USA, Retired	1968
COL Robert D. Dwan USA, Retired	1943 JUN	Mr. John F. Harkins	1959	Mr. Daniel J. Winter	1968
COL Donald J. Jalbert USA, Retired	1943 JUN	Mr. Frederic V. Malek	1959	Mr. William E. Damon Jr.	1969
LTC John P. Schatz USA, Retired	1943 JUN	Mr. Thomas F. McMorrow	1959	Mr. Rodney E. Mosbacker	1969
COL Lucius F. Wright Jr. USA, Retired	1943 JUN	Mr. John A. O'Brien	1959	LTC Stephen J. Williams USA, Retired	1969
LTG Ernest Graves Jr. USA, Retired	1944	Mr. Gregory D. Page	1959	Dr. William R. Wessels	1970
COL Robert E. Dingeman USA, Retired	1945	COL Lyman C. Duryea USA, Retired	1960	COL William J. Hatch USA, Retired	1972
LTC Alfred H. Jones USA, Retired	1945	Mr. James R. Kane	1960	Mr. Richard J. Joseph	1972
BG James A. Munson USA, Retired	1945	LTC Joseph W. Squire USA, Retired	1960	LTC Gerald S. Doyle USA, Retired	1973
Mr. Felix F. Cowey Jr.	1946	LTC Robert A. Trodella USA, Retired	1960	COL Scott C. Marcy USA, Retired	1973
COL Benjamin L. Landis Jr. USA, Retired	1946	Mr. Richard T. Willson Jr.	1960	Dr. Jeffrey W. Anderson	1974
COL Clarence E. McChristian Jr. USA, Retired	1946	Mr. John B. Shroyer	1961	LTC Gregory A. Moore USA, Retired	1974
Maj Gen Richard C. Bowman USAF, Retired	1949	Col David B. Almy USAF, Retired	1963	Mr. Richard H. Sumption	1976
LTC Stuart F. Martin USA, Retired	1949	Judge Ray J. McQuary	1963	Mr. Shawn S. McMaster	1981
Col Edward B. Wilford III USAF, Retired	1949	Mr. Peter B. Lounsbury	1965	Mr. Michael L. Collins	1985
BG Philip L. Bolte USA, Retired	1950	LTC Camden W. McConnell USA, Retired	1965	LTC Arleigh W. Dean USA, Retired	1997
LTC John M. Cragin USA, Retired	1950	Dr. William L. Helkie	1966	Mr. Glen A. MacIsaac	2001
COL William K. Gearan USA, Retired	1950	LTC John K. Kehres USA, Retired	1966	MAJ Levi D. Hazlett USA	2008
BG Stanley E. Reinhart Jr. USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Donald R. Moore Jr.	1966		
LTC Philip A. Cuny USA, Retired	1951				
Mr. Derrick W. Samuelson	1951				
COL Kermit D. Swanson USA, Retired	1952				
Mr. Thomas C. Davis	1953				
Mr. Melburn E. Laundry	1953				
MAJ James K. Allison USA, Retired	1954				
COL Gordon D. Boose USA, Retired	1954				
Mr. Paul G. Erickson	1954				
Mr. James F. Healy	1954				
COL Thomas J. Brooks USA, Retired	1955				
LTC Martin L. McNamee USA, Retired	1955				
Mr. Verne G. Staffen	1955				
The Reverend Harry W. Crandall	1956				
COL Eugene A. Fox USA, Retired	1956				
BG Ward M. LeHardy USA, Retired	1956				

*Oldest Living Graduate at time of death.



In Memoriam

Cadet Christopher J. Morgan

Class of 2020

B Company, Fourth Regiment

December 4, 1996 – June 6, 2019

Be Thou At Peace

Past in Review

The Arrival of Douglas MacArthur as Superintendent: A Century Later

By LTC (R) Sherman L. Fleek,
USMA Command Historian, Guest Writer

No one could rightly argue against the claim that Sylvanus Thayer was indeed the “Father of the U.S. Military Academy.” His contribution was the greatest, and he had the most profound influence on the school.

But who is next? Who is the second most influential person to make a lasting and significant contribution to the Academy?

That individual would be Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903. In his seminal book *Carved from Granite*, Lance Betros ’77, former USMA History Department head, briefly listed many of MacArthur’s reforms, ideas, and his vision, and ended by saying, “These heady accomplishments, any one of which would have stood out by itself, represented a body of reform unprecedented since Thayer.” The former First Captain served three years as West Point’s Superintendent, 1919-22, but in those three years he resurrected the Academy through and through, as the previous two years during World War I had nearly destroyed it.

West Point in Chaos

“I finally received orders to report to the Chief of Staff for duty,” Brigadier General MacArthur wrote to a friend in May 1919 after returning from the Great War in France. “I was told to prepare myself to go to West Point as its Superintendent—so behold me in June ascending the throne as King of the Hudson.” June 12, 2019 marked the centennial of MacArthur’s arrival at West Point to assume command as the 31st Superintendent of the Academy. The first command decision he made that day was to challenge a long-held tradition of a parade by the Corps of Cadets in his honor as the newly appointed Superintendent. MacArthur cancelled the parade.

MacArthur returned from the war in Europe in May 1919, after a year and a half of combat on the Western Front. His entire perspective on training, leadership and especially West Point’s educational, physical, and military programs had changed as a result of the war. Army Chief of Staff General Peyton March told him that his mission was to reform the Academy because it was “forty years behind times.” MacArthur often referred to the culture and institution as “the monastery on the Hudson.”



In 1917, as America entered the World War I, the Academy fell victim to a vicious cycle of accelerated graduations. The War Department needed officers at the Front, even though the cadets were not completely trained. In roughly 20 months, four classes graduated early. Samuel Tillman, Class of 1869, was 70 years old when the War Department recalled him out of retirement to serve as Superintendent. Tillman did his best, but Congress cut the curriculum to two years and under-funded much of the academic programs and training. Groups of cadets reported between June and November causing more confusion for study schedules and class groupings. When MacArthur arrived, the Academy was in a shambles.

One of the first major tasks that MacArthur faced was to convince the War Department and Congress to restore the four-year curriculum. The chaos and uncertainty of class organizations, course changes or cancellations, and the abbreviated curriculum were huge morale problems for the cadets and the faculty during these years. It required a leader with vision, stamina and political finesse to win the day. By the time the new cadets of the Class of 1924 arrived in the summer of 1920, the four-year program had been restored.

As it turned out, the uncertainty caused by the changes during the war assisted MacArthur in his quest to improve the Academy in all areas—the Four Pillars of today.

The Reforms

In terms of academics, MacArthur met with college leaders external to the Academy and developed ways to modernize West Point’s academic program. First, he sent newly assigned instructor officers to graduate school before their arrival. He also saw the value in the Academy receiving accreditation for the newly re-established

curriculum and to present a formal baccalaureate degree in science and not just a diploma to graduates. In an effort to prepare cadets for their broadened responsibilities in a post-World War I Army, he added new courses to the curriculum in modern history, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology. In fact, seeing the importance of air power in that war, MacArthur established aeronautics classes for specialized training of future aviators.

MacArthur's experiences in the Great War convinced him that many American soldiers were not prepared for the physical challenges of warfare. To combat this, MacArthur established the slogan "Every Cadet an Athlete" at West Point. This meant that every cadet would be involved in some type of athletic program or on an intercollegiate sports team. This birthed the intramural program for most cadets and expanded West Point's intercollegiate competition. Under MacArthur, West Point's physical program had a greater emphasis than ever before.

Summer training or "Beast Barracks" completely changed under MacArthur, with commissioned officers, not cadets, conducting the training on campus.

MacArthur also revamped West Point's military program so that upperclassmen no longer spent their summers at Fort Clinton on Trophy Point, but rather trained at Camp Dix, New Jersey, learning modern warfare and tactics. A primary objective of this change was to encourage interaction between enlisted soldiers and cadets, so that cadets could adjust to the men they would soon lead. MacArthur also moved tactical officers into the barracks for closer supervision over the Corps.

Finally, MacArthur sought to treat cadets as future officers and leaders, and not as objects of abuse and sub-human derision. He liberalized privileges with passes and weekly allowances so that cadets could leave the "monastery" at times, allowing them to learn responsibility and to gain an appreciation of the outside world through contact with civilians. But, MacArthur also demanded strict attention to values that instilled character, namely honor. He established the cadet-run Honor System and nearly ended hazing.

Of course, these reforms met with great resistance, especially from long-serving academic board members (the department

heads) and from graduates who saw MacArthur as a threat to what they regarded as hallowed traditions. Some of MacArthur's reforms were reversed soon after his departure in June 1922. Plebe and summer training returned to the Plain, for example, but most of MacArthur's reforms survived and are still vibrant within today's Academy.

MacArthur's three years as Superintendent set a standard of reform and a vision for others to follow during the next century, eventually making West Point the preeminent leadership development institution in the world. Perhaps William Ganoe, Class of 1907 and MacArthur's chief of staff, said it best, "If Sylvanus Thayer was the Father of the Military Academy, then MacArthur was its savior." ★

Sherman L. Fleek is the U.S. Military Academy's Command Historian. Retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 2002, Fleek served 25 years in the Army as an enlisted tanker, aviator and finally chief historian of the National Guard Bureau. Prior to serving in his present position, he also served as command historian of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 2007-09, and published five history books.

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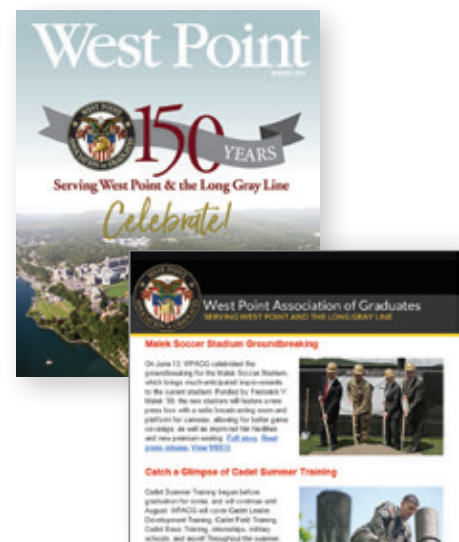
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