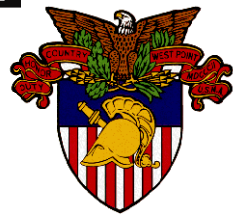




WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS

April 2004



Dear Parents,

It is so hard for me to realize that yet another Graduation Week (which will forever be called June Week in my mind) is practically upon us. The Class of 2004 is a special class to Andy and me as it is the first class that we sent to West Point when we moved to Midland and began our work in Admissions here. The four years has certainly flown by to us, but I'm guessing that our cadets would disagree.

My apologies for completely forgetting to do a March WPPC newsletter. It is amazing how stress messes with one's gray matter. Andy and I extend our most sincere thanks to all of you for helping us through what has been a very difficult time in our lives. We would not have made it without all of you!

Please remember to send me your cadet and family news! This is YOUR newsletter but I need your help.

You may reach me by email at ashaffer@swbell.net or by telephone (432) 697-0813. We may not be at the April meeting as we will be gone that weekend to celebrate our anniversary. If we aren't there, we'll certainly see you in May. Until then,

GO ARMY!

Betty Shaffer Admissions Representative USMA

DON'T FORGET TO BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE AND TO CHECK IT FREQUENTLY!

<http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-tp/index.html>



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK

At the last club meeting, we voted to explore sending a boodle to active duty troops. A list will be developed that will include all of the things that our soldiers need. Please consider purchasing as many items as possible. We will collect it at a later club meeting.

The date for our next meeting has been changed to April 25. This will allow Wayne and Kristy Kostelich the opportunity to report to the club about their trip to West Point for the President's Conference. They will find, as Carla and I did, that our club is one of the best in the country. I am looking forward to hearing their report.

At our last club meeting, I gave a report on Army football. For those of you that could not be there, the short of it all is that we are looking forward to a better year in Army football. Our own Joel Glover is scheduled to start once again on the offensive line. Bob and Jane were unable to attend the meeting as they were traveling to West Point for the annual football banquet. We hope to have a full report on their trip when they return. Spring training started March 27 and excitement is in the air! Go Black Knights!

Carla and I are excited to be the co-presidents of the best WPPC of them all!!!

GO ARMY!

Joe and Carla Haston

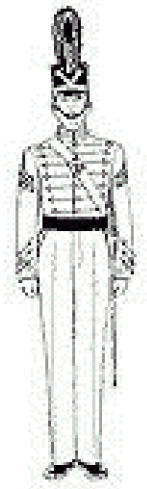
ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

APRIL WPPC MEETING

NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE!!!!

Sunday, April 25 at 1530 hrs (that's 3:30 pm!)

*Clear Springs Cafe
Midland*



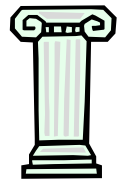
Program

**Report on the WPPC Presidents' Conference
presented by Wayne and Kristy Kostelich
or "Yes, the WPPC of the Texas Plains really IS the best WPPC!"
Information sharing on traveling to West Point for Graduation Week**

*We will also be packing BOODLE to get our cadets through TEE's so bring some
treats!*

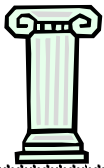


THANK YOU!



Dear West Point Parents' Club,

We just wanted to thank you so much for the use of the columns for the football banquet. We were so impressed by how nice they looked. They were the perfect touch that I wanted and they made the banquet beautiful. I appreciate the use of them so much. We tried to be so careful with them so that they would not be damaged in any way. I had so many people ask me where I got them, so it was good advertising for you!



Thank you,

Chas and Marcey Weatherby

Presidents, Permian High School Football Booster Club



SYMBOLISM OF GRADUATION PARADE

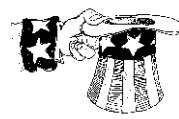
as told by our resident Old Grad, Andy Shaffer



Graduation Parade is the antithesis of the Acceptance Day Parade when New Cadets are accepted into The Corps and become Cadets. At Graduation Parade, however, the Firsties now break ranks and leave The Corps of Cadets. When this occurs, the Cows immediately become the new First Class and take over The Corps on The Plain. The Firsties (soon to be 2LT's) witness the Parade by the new First Class thereby symbolizing their review of the leaders which they trained. Likewise, the new leaders honor the graduating cadets with the Review in their honor. At the conclusion of the Parade, the Firsties traditionally remain on The Plain to receive the congratulations of parents, family and friends. The Plebes are technically now Yearlings and may be addressed by their first names by the upper two classes. The only class that is ever absent from The Corps of Cadets is the Plebe class. and this situation is rectified at the next Acceptance Parade.



CADET BIRTHDAYS



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DAVID GUERRERO

APRIL 15

JOHN BLANCO

APRIL 6

COLE WHITE

APRIL 3

ALETA HACKER

APRIL 3

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! ARMY FOOTBALL
BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 11 AS THE ARMY
TEAM TAKES ON LOUISVILLE!**



WAYNE KOSTELICH

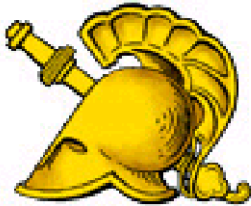
APRIL 29

ALMA GUERRERO

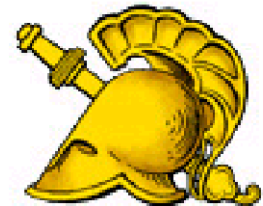
APRIL 2

JEFF WHITE

APRIL 25



CADET NEWS



USMA '04

Cadet CodySam Davis has branched Combat Engineers and will be reporting to Ft. Riley, Kansas. Wedding bells will ring for CodySam and Amanda on June 12.

Cadet James Gibson has branched Infantry (HOOAH!).

Cadet Dustin Navarro spent Spring Leave on a last "class male bonding trip" by taking a cruise with some buddies. Dustin has branched Armor and will be reporting to Germany with the 1st Infantry Division.

Cadet Robert Scheiern has branched Air Defense Artillery and will be stationed at Ft. Bliss, TX. Robert and Sabrina will begin their Army life together on June 5 when they are married in California.

Cadet Scott Thornbury has branched Infantry and will be reporting to Ft. Campbell, KY. Like a typical cadet, Scott was influenced in his choice of posts by which he thought might give him the better chance of having a "life". Of course, work will interfere some with that plan as Scott is scheduled to attend both Airborne and Ranger school. Scott will be serving with the 101st Airborne Division.

USMA '05

Cadet Joel Glover was joined by Bob and Jane at West Point for the recent Football Banquet. Joel is looking forward to an exciting year of Army football under the new direction of Coach Bobby Ross.

Cadet Andrew Hacker was a squad leader in Co. G-4 first semester. This semester he is the Company Athletic SGT and has an additional duty as 4th REG CIC of intramural rugby. Andrew is the only Cow among the REG Rugby CIC's. He supervises eight company intramural rugby captains.



USMA '06



Cadet Blu Kostelich spent Spring Leave at home, which is probably good since he won't be there this summer. Blu has been selected to serve as Cadre at Air Assault School this summer. Blu not only made the Dean's List but was also awarded two Gold Wreath's for his outstanding performance in academics, military and physical requirements. Blu is majoring in international law.

Cadet Alan Willis spent Spring Leave touring Boston with friends. Alan is also facing an extremely busy summer which most likely won't include a trip home. He is scheduled to go to Spain on an AIAD, as well as serving with the Cadre at Camp Buckner and attending Air Assault school.

USMA '06

Cadet Zach Frisbie was home for Spring Leave (thank you, Zach, for spending time with the Old Grad and Ex-LT!!). Zach is busy training for the Sandhurst competition but obviously finds time to study as he made the Dean's List. Zach is a member of West Point's Model United Nations team and recently competed at Mt. Holyoke College (which happens to be a girls school!). Zach was tasked with playing the role of a female Afghanistan cabinet member. We wonder if he wore a cadet gray burqua?

Cadet Zach Oliver also was named on the Dean's List. But don't worry that all he does is study! Zach spent Spring Leave in Spain with the Spanish Club. Apparently a portion of the trip curriculum involved salsa dancing (in which the accompanying professor excelled!) and trying out Spanish on the local beauties. Who says cadets don't have fun???



GRADUATE NEWS



LT Justin Fregia, '00 has returned safely home from his tour in Iraq. Welcome home, Justin!

LT Tye Graham, '03 (Armor) was recently married in January to Stephanie and they will eventually take up residence at Ft. Hood. Tye is currently serving in Iraq and is living in Saddam's former War College building. Stephanie is living and teaching in San Angelo but will move to Killeen in the fall.

Medical student **Brandon Ritz, '03** is at Vanderbilt School of Medicine in Nashville. He reports the curriculum to be extremely challenging and time consuming, but Brandon did manage to work in a trip to the Bahamas for spring break. Brandon will be attending OBC at Ft. Sam Houston this summer.

LT Erik Thorvilson, '03 is currently serving in Baghdad but will be transferring to Germany shortly.



USMAPS



Cadet Candidate Cole White is busy these days playing baseball for the USMAPS team. The coaches are finding that Cole is a very versatile player who can easily handle the duties of first base and pitcher. Jeff traveled recently to Ft. Monmouth to watch the USMAPS team play and then he and Cole traveled to West Point for an Army baseball game. Cole recently had first hand experience at learning that the life of a Cadet Candidate isn't all work when he was selected to serve as an escort for a contestant in a New Jersey beauty contest. Jeff reports that Cole is anxious to begin his journey at West Point as a member of the USMA Class of 2008 and is eagerly (really??) awaiting R Day.

ARMY BLUE

(sung to the tune "Love Me Tender")

We've not much longer here to stay,
 For in a month or two
 We'll bid farewell to Kaydet Gray,
 And don the Army Blue.



Chorus Army Blue, Army Blue
 Hurrah for the Army Blue,
 We'll bid farewell to Kaydet Gray,
 And don the Army Blue.

With pipe and song we'll jog along,
 Till this short time is through,
 And all among our jovial throng
 Have donned the Army Blue.

Chorus

'Twas the song we sang in old plebe camp,
 When first our Gray was new.
 The song we sang on summer nights,
 That song of Army Blue.

Chorus



Now, fellows, we must say good-bye,
 We've stuck our four years through,
 Our future is a cloudless sky,
 We'll don the Army Blue.

Chorus

To the men and women of the Corps
 Who've seen their four years thru
 The work was hard, they did their part
 and all for Army Blue.

Chorus

Old Corps Verses to Army Blue

To the ladies who come up in June,
 We'll bid a fond adieu,
 Here's hoping they'll be married soon,
 And join the Army too.

Chorus

To Ethics, Mineralogy,
 and Engineering, too,
 We'll bid good-bye without a sigh,
 And don the Army Blue.