



# WPSA NEWS

**WEST POINT SOCIETY OF ATLANTA \* PO BOX 492511 \* ATLANTA, GA 30349-2511**

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***Circulated quarterly to grads and friends of West Point~***

***SEPTEMBER 2003***

## ***GREETINGS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF YOUR SOCIETY***

My name is **Jesse McCorvey**, Class of 1974, and I am honored and anxious to be in such a position to represent the West Point Society of Atlanta as its president. I have been associated with the society for many years and know from experience that its success stems directly from you, the members, who come forward and take on responsibility with the Board of Governors to get things done. Your board has some big guns on it that can always be depended on for service, and we also have a secret weapon in Jan Heath, our Executive Director, who is the heart and soul of this society.

I entered this fray long ago when **Ken Silberstein** asked me to help him with Founders Day. Had I known the future consequences of that simple opportunity, I would have been more excited than I originally was. What a wonderful journey that started for me and one I cherish tremendously. As a recruiter, I would also add that volunteering to help this society will benefit YOU in the same way – there are still many opportunities for you to get involved. It is a small way to give back to the Long Gray Line and you will meet some incredible people along the way. If you don't feel like volunteering, by all means don't miss out on the many opportunities we have for you to gather with classmates and other grads in celebration, networking and fellowship. Whether you realize it or not, you have West Point in your blood and it needs to be stirred every now and then.

I was recently at West Point for the AOG Leaders Conference and had not been there for many years. Realizing there would be many changes, I was more interested in what was still the same. I arrived after dark and drove past the old gym, and it was open! I decided to take a look around and a CQ was there on duty who promptly asked me what I was looking for, I suspect somewhat distrusting of this stranger invading his 'post'. I asked him if the boxing room was still in the first room on the right and he remarked, "Oh, are you one of the OLD guys? Go ahead, sir, look all you want; by the way, when were you here?" When I said the early 70's he acted surprised I could still move around, and told me where the elevator was. I took my time looking at this massive

*Continued*

## ***The Days...***

September 18, 2003, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Monthly Luncheon at Le Petite Auberge. Speaker: WPSA President Jesse McCorvey. Topic: Society Leaders Conference

September 24, 2003, and the last Wednesday of every month: Benny Havens Monthly Happy Hour at Frankie's Sports Bar (Prado Shopping Center on Roswell Rd), 6:30 pm-until. Details, call Max Hilsman at 404-459-3833.

September 25, 2003, Benny Havens \*Southside\* Happy Hour at the Hartsfield Airport Bar & Grill (1325 Virginia Avenue—west off I85), 6:30 p.m.-until. For more details, call Vernon Thomas at 404-766-1632, ext 23 or Grant Steffan at 404-464-5412.

September 27, 2003, Noon-4:00 pm, Fall Family Picnic at the Bowers' Farm in Commerce, GA. (See website for more details.)

## ***Be Thou at Peace...***

*Gordon T. Rhoades '64  
Nov 26, 1941-Aug 1, 2003  
Acworth, GA – Riverside, CA*

### ***PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued***

building that had so many memories for me and realized it had not really changed very much. As I wandered I overheard a few cadets talking. One mentioned his room smelled horrible because his roommate heated up some Chinese food in the microwave. Two things came to my head – we never had Chinese food in our rooms, and the microwave HAD NOT EVEN BEEN INVENTED! Never argue with the CQ, they usually know what they are talking about.

Well, there were many more old guys on 'campus', for the AOG Leaders Conference, and it was very informative and entertaining. The WPSA was well represented by me and **Dale Hajost**, and the AOG staff was very helpful and open about serving us, the graduates. I came away from the conference convinced that our Alma Mater produces the best graduates in America, and assured that our AOG staff is ready and willing to both listen and support us on our endeavors to promote the Long Gray Line in Atlanta. I look forward to sharing some of the interesting events and topics of this conference at our next luncheon and discussing all the great events we have scheduled for the upcoming year in Atlanta. We have a wonderful family picnic coming up on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Bowers' Farm in Commerce. That will be a wonderful kickoff to an exciting year – come out and join the fun.

**JESSE McCORVEY '74**

### ***PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER:***

Since our last newsletter, we had the Annual Membership Meeting in May, and June Monthly Luncheon, both held at the Commons at Fort McPherson. Many thanks go to **Doug Heckman '81**, and General (Ret.) Livsey, two excellent and informative speakers who brought us first hand information on Afghanistan and Korea.

As your newest society Past President, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the WPSA, the Board of Governors and so many others who make our society a success. What a pleasure it was for me to serve as WPSA President for 2002/2003! What a fabulous support staff we have in our "regulars" **Jan Heath** (Exec Director), **Tom Murphy '67**(email), **Rich St. Denis '70** (Career Transition), and **Warren Hearnnes '89** (web), the Board of Governors, and a host of characters behind the scenes who execute smartly and without fanfare.

Yours is **a society for every grad**--one that works hard to provide you activities and programs you'll attend and enjoy. Your board has an extreme desire to remain vibrant and useful to you, and support the USMA mission. If you'd like to see something new and different, I encourage you to communicate with WPSA President, **Jesse McCorvey**, or others on the board. Your voice will be heard.

One example of how member input impacts the society is reflected in the establishment of our new affiliate group, the West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta, Inc. (WPCEA). WPSA members, under the leadership of **Fred Schremp '67**, helped form this 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization this past winter. This group has already expanded the youth development programs and activities supported by WPSA. With this tax exempt vehicle, and the talent, creativity and desire among our metro Atlanta population, we can accomplish even the most lofty goals.

Speaking of lofty goals, I'd like to thank my classmates **COL Grant Steffan '81** and **Vernon Thomas** for sponsoring the long awaited Southside Happy Hour event. In order to help kick this off, I'll buy a drink for the first grad who can name the location of the West Point monument whose inscription reads "*Life is the greatest of all games...*" (Complete the inscription accurately and I'll make it a double.)

Seriously, I thank you again for entrusting me as president this past year. I look forward to the years ahead as one of the society's active members. As always, let's pray for our nation's leaders, and the men and women serving our great country.

**ALI GELINEAU '81**

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Can you believe summer is almost over and school's about to begin??? WPSA is busy planning fall and winter events—the first of which will be the Fall Family Picnic at the Bowers' Farm in Commerce, GA. Those who attended last year will remember the picnic was held on the only weekend it rained all summer long. But, in spite of the weather, they still had a great time! This is a wonderful event for the entire family—great food, games, and camaraderie—what more could you ask for? See the enclosed for details and mark your calendar.

Luncheons are planned for the third Thursday in September, October, and November at Petite Auberge Restaurant. And December is always busy with GPTV Army/Navy Fundraising event, Army/Navy Game Party, VORCI Christmas Party and the All Academy Ball.

The new WPSA Board is working on some new activities and programs so be sure to check your WPSA email and WPSA website for details for dates, speakers, reservations, locations, etc.

Haven't paid your CY 03 dues yet? There's still time and only those who are current with their dues will receive the 03-04 WPSA Directory! You can pay on-line on our secure website at:

<http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-atlanta/> or send your check, payable to WPSA, to: WPSA, PO Box 492511, Atlanta, GA 30349-2511.

I enjoyed working with last year's Board of Governors and look forward to the year ahead working with old and new friends. I started this "gig" as a temporary, part-time job in May 1980 and I'm still here! Have fun in the remaining hot, lazy days of summer and see you in the fall.

**JAN HEATH**  
*heathjd@forscom.army.mil*

**UPDATE..... MAY & JUNE LUNCHEONS**

At our Annual Membership Meeting in May, **Doug Heckman '81** gave us a great first person rundown on his time in Afghanistan, where he went as a mobilized reservist immediately after the war started. The show included photos of his tour, and they were spectacular. A bunch were edited out, since we were, after all, eating lunch, and memories of Scott Gillogly's first slide of an amputation at his luncheon talk many moons ago are still vivid. Doug spent his time on both sides of the Afghan - "Russian" border (I shant try to recall the newly independent state), at a former USSR airfield noted for having chemical weapon's contamination. His photos included special forces troops on horseback along with their Afghan companions and shots of the terrain and battlefields in the northern provinces.

In June, Gen (Ret.) Livsey had just returned from South Korea after a multi-week stay working on a joint US-ROK exercise. He is a North Georgia College and State University (Dahlongega) graduate, and is a former CINC in Korea. He presented a current update on the North Korean situation as it existed in the spring of this year. All who attended experienced a rare treat. **DON REINHARD '59**

**SOUTHSIDE HAPPY HOUR**

Come join us on Thursday, Sep 25<sup>th</sup> for a **Southside Business Networking/ Happy Hour Event.**

Location: Hartsfield Bar and Grill, 1325 Virginia Avenue, one block west of I85 off exit 73. (It's 5 miles/ 7 minutes from Fort McPherson.)

Time: 6:30 until 8:00 p.m.?

You do not have to be an aviator, businessman, or even happy to attend—just bring yourself and an aviator, businessman or happy person with you!

Questions? Call Grant Steffan at 404-464-5412, or Vernon Thomas at 404-766-1632, ext 23.

### ***BUSINESS NEWS, NOTES & SALUTATIONS***

One of our new WPSA initiatives is an effort to highlight Business Leaders within our society. Within each newsletter we will devote a section to members who have distinguished themselves in business, civic or non-profit organizations. It is our goal to highlight at least three members each quarter. In order to make this a success, we need your help! If you know of anyone who has distinguished themselves through promotion, election, or significant accomplishment, please contact me at 404-459-3833.

***MAX HILSMAN, '96***

### ***DID YOU KNOW ?????***

"After surveying more than 106,000 students at 351 colleges, the Princeton Review is rolling out its annual guide to campus life. We got a sneak peak, and this may surprise you: The hardest school to get in is not in the Ivy League but instead the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. To learn which college's students study the hardest, which are the happiest, which are the most religious and other survey results to be revealed this week in Princeton Review: The Best 351 Colleges, 2004 Edition, visit <http://www.princetonreview.com> ..." HBS

### ***COMING SOON: ACADEMY NETWORKERS***

High on our agenda for the coming year is creating or finding a more vibrant and widespread business networking forum for Academy grads in the metro Atlanta area. One avenue under consideration is to establish an affiliation the AcademyConnect Business Forum, which will resume its quarterly events here in the Atlanta area. If you were fortunate enough to have participated in previous events, then you know that this is the Premier Networking Event for Service Academy Grads in our region. If you were not, then what you need to know is that the program is designed to provide both established and emerging business leaders with a networking forum to grow and expand their business and their career. The events are open to any service academy grad and their escorted guests and will consist of 30 minutes of an informal networking session followed by a keynote address from a well-respected business leader (prior military experience is not required). Watch your newsletters or the WPSA website for more information. If you have questions or would like to actively participate in upcoming events, please contact me at 404-936-8565, email: [chris.carr@sita.aero](mailto:chris.carr@sita.aero). ***CHRIS CARR '92***

### ***MONTHLY ATLANTA HAPPY HOUR***

Come join fellow grads for the Monthly Northside Happy Hour (Benny Havens) on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. Take advantage of an informal environment in which to learn what old and young grads in Atlanta are up to. This event provides an invaluable opportunity to meet with graduates, learn about some of their businesses, and use the greatest network in the country--The Long Gray Line.

We are currently hosting the event at Frankie's Sports Bar, located in the Prado Shopping Mall on Roswell Rd, a half mile south of exit 25 on I-285. We would like to mix up the location in the future to "share" the Atlanta driving experience. Your recommendations are welcome. I will send a monthly reminder a few days prior to the event.

Any questions, please contact me via email at: [cecilks@aol.com](mailto:cecilks@aol.com). ***KERRY CECIL, '93***

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP: GEORGIA TECH SUMMERSCAPE '03 & CAMP MCCRADY, SC**

As reported in the May WPSA Newsletter, proceeds from the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic totaled over \$1000. Again this year, the funds were used to sponsor several deserving students' attendance at **SummerScape**, a science, mathematics and technology enrichment program sponsored by the Georgia Tech Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing. The five students we sponsored this year were again selected through the Atlanta Boys and Girls Club. Typical of the comments we received from them were:

"... in my group we did exciting things. For instance, we made a model of the earth & learned about p & s waves which ended up being a lot of fun. Also, I enjoyed making bracelets that change colors in the sun .... Finally, I liked this program because I learned about West Point...."

As reflected by these comments, we were able to arrange a presentation about West Point thanks to **CPT Aaron Osburn, '95**, from ODIA, who spoke to the SummerScape students about the opportunities presented by a USMA education and presented a brief slideshow. Thanks go to **MAJ Jeff Simpson** from the USMA Admissions Office for his support.

In cooperation with the West Point Society of Columbia (WPSC) , South Carolina, the WPSA and West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta, Inc. (WPCEA) sponsored three rising seniors July 24-27<sup>th</sup> at the **WPSC's Leadership Camp** at the National Guard Training Center at Camp McCrady, South Carolina. Students Preston Davis of Atlanta, GA, Steve Dwyer of Huntsville, AL, and Ryan Wiess of Stockbridge, GA, along with 17 other young men and women participated in three days of outdoor activities and leadership training. Among the activities were the Leadership Reaction Course, Rappelling, ROPES Course, and Squad Competition.

One "camper" gave this feedback on his Leadership Camp experience:

"I'd recommend this camp to anyone who wants to learn about leadership. This camp taught a lot both in the classroom and in the field."

Many thanks go to **Jack Poole '87**, President, WP Society of South Carolina, and **Michael Klein '89**, Past President, as well as the **CPT Gaylord Greene '93**, USMA Admissions Office, who provided a USMA opportunities briefing as part of the program.

Other programs we are exploring for possible involvement by WPCEA include:

- Presidential Classroom – a one-week program in Washington, D.C. for deserving high school juniors and seniors. At Presidential Classroom, participants observe the federal government at work, witness the development of public policy and explore the roles of citizens, lawmakers, experts, associations and businesses in the world's most successful democracy. Presidential Classroom takes students behind the scenes of our Nation's Capitol for seminars and discussions featuring members of Congress, Presidential appointees, journalists and other Washington insiders in the news.
- Boys State/Girls State – a program held at Georgia Southern University during the summer months for deserving high school juniors who have at least a 3.0 GPA and have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship and service to their school and community. At Boys/Girls State, students learn about local and state government by actively participating in the government process.
- West Point Society of Atlanta Book Prize – an award given to a deserving area high school student who has demonstrated the characteristics of scholarship, citizenship and leadership and warrants recognition by the Society and attention from USMA Admissions. **MARC GUNNELS '77**