

West Point Society of Michigan (WPSM)



15 October 2008

From: WPSM
1267 Hartland Drive
Troy, MI 48063

Special points of interest:

- Veterans are authorized by law to salute the flag!
- Heavy rains forced the cancellation of this year's Golf Outing.

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Calling All Grads

Have you been a member in the Society but not as active as you would like? Are your dues up to date? Do you know a grad or former Cadet who wants to get involved? **The time to become active and get involved is now!**

A Distinguished Society, the WPSM is a non-profit organization which supports the goals and ideals

of the United States Military Academy and promotes the common bond shared by all West Point Alumni.

Our members continue to serve their country in all components of the Armed Forces as well as every aspect of the public and private sector; assist in candidate recruiting efforts (interviewing candidates, present-

ing Certificates of Acceptance, identifying potential candidates, and/or participating on Congressional Selection Committees); and serve as career advisory contacts for alumni.

Annual dues are only \$25 and go toward several activities supporting our Society mission. These activities include dona-

See "Time" on pg. 3

Alumni Leaders Conference – Tom Beierschmitt '68

The 2008 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference took place August 20-23, 2008. Very well organized, the conference provided participants with a wealth of information. However, three main points stuck out.

First, attendees received a brief description of the Association of Graduates organization and the many activities they are involved in

such as financial support to the Superintendent's fund which is used to finance



Class of 2012 Awaits Orders to Join the Corps.

many non-DOD funded activities for Cadets, such as sky-

diving, cadet trips abroad for foreign language study, etc. Also highlighted were the many recent donations by graduates such as the Kimsey and Foley center, the new library, etc.

Next, AOG has started an initiative to inform the Cadets on and involve them in AOG activities. They will brief the Cadets on what the AOG can do

See "Branding" on pg. 5



Original Barracks at Fort Wayne.

Fort Wayne and West Point – Jim Suhay '66

On June 4, 2008, the West Point Society of Michigan hosted a quarterly luncheon at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Approximately 25 West Point graduates and guests attended.

Dave Jamroz, USMA '73 and WPSM member, served as the guest speaker. A historian and author, Dave spoke on "Detroit's Historic

Fort Wayne—The West Point Connection".

Dave gave a very entertaining and enlightening PowerPoint presentation on the history of Detroit's Ft. Wayne - from its building in 1840 to the present. Of particular interest to the luncheon guests was the emphasis on the Fort's "West Point Connection". Although the fort has never seen

combat, it has been a major contributor to our national defense and civil needs up to the present time, with West Pointers making significant contributions. West Pointers who have passed through its gates included Capt. Meigs, its designer; Col. Clitz, who mysteriously disappeared shortly after he retired as Commanding

See "Luncheon" on pg. 5

Fund Raising for West Point



KC Baran (USMA '92), WPSM President, accepts our 5yr Distinguished Society Streamer.

On October 6, 2008, Mike P. White (USMA '82), Major Gift Officer - Association of Graduates (AOG), spoke to WPSM members and guests in attendance at our quarterly luncheon at the Birmingham Athletic Club.

Mike brought us up to date on AOG activities

and the AOG Development team to include a short presentation on "What Fund Raising Has Done for West Point."

He will then gave us an update on the "Center for Oral History" and wrapped up with the "Poop" on the latest news at West Point.

A special thanks went

to Tom Beierschmitt ('68) for organizing this luncheon and Jim Suhay ('66) for coordinating the June luncheon.

Members Honor MG (Ret) McVey – Joanne Cavanaugh '83



Attendees at the MG (Ret) McVey Luncheon.

Five members of the Society joined with several retirees of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) on May 15, 2008 at a Hail and Farewell Luncheon for MG (Ret) Pete McVey at the Birmingham Country Club to celebrate his

retirement from GDLS.

COL (Ret) Carmen Milia (USMA '50), shared a book of letters from colleagues and friends who served with Pete McVey in his military career and from associates and friends in Industry.

George Psihas (USMA '51), former GDLS Presi-

dent and luncheon host, and closed with a short review of the many challenges the attendees experienced and shared as a Government-Industry team, calling the attendees "The Dream Team" of Main Battle Tank development and production.

Field Force Has Banner Year

The Southeast Michigan West Point Admissions Field Force had a record year for candidates (32) entering the Academy in 2008, and are now focused on assisting the candidates for 2013. Several candidates for next year attended the Leader Conference at West Point this summer.

The Field Force has committed to 20 Col-

lege fairs in the fall and six (6) in the spring within SE Michigan. Great Lakes Admissions Commander, MAJ Will Freds, attended an Admissions/ ROTC Scholarship information session at Michigan State on September 25th.

On November 15, 2008, the Field Force will host a By-Invitation Admissions Presentation for high school

juniors and seniors. The event will take place at the Livonia Radisson Hotel from 2-5pm.

To ask questions about the Field Force, attend the By-Invite, and/or volunteer, please contact either LTC Tom and Kate Lynch at tom@etdllc.com or tklynch@comcast.net. BEAT NAVY!

The SE Michigan Admissions Field Force had a banner year in 2007 – placing 32 candidates into the Academy!

Marina Rocks West Point

On September 25, 2008, one day after the dedication of the new library, Marina Arsenijevic performed her much anticipated concert at West Point with the USMA Band and the USMA Cadet Glee Club titled "Unity Through Diversity".

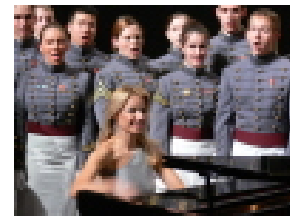
PBS filmed the event at

Eisenhower Hall for national broadcast in March 2009. The public broadcast network will air the concert some 3000 times nationally through PBS stations all across the country.

The performance was described as "A Symphonic Powerhouse of

Patriotism and Passion".

Corporate or foundation sponsorship opportunities for this PBS broadcast are still available. For more information contact Diane Bliss at (248) 305-3787 or dbliss@dptv.org, or Dr. Donald Bronn at dgbronn@gmail.com.



Marina performs with the Cadet Glee Club at West Point.

Time to Get Involved (Continued from pg. 1)

tions to worthy causes like Michigan Flight of Heroes, Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, West-Point.Org, the All-Academy Ball, and the preservation of Fort Wayne. The funds also help defray the costs of our Founders Day dinner, quarterly luncheons, annual golf out-

ing, and Army-Navy Party; pay for the distribution of our quarterly newsletter and member directory; and so much more.

To renew your membership or join for the first time, contact Michael Upton (USMA '94) at cmuption@vsecorp.com.

Join the WPSM today – supporting the goals and ideals of West Point and promoting alumni camaraderie!

WPSM Members Support Iraqi Freedom

Welcome Home Jeff Kopp! Along with your family, the WPSM is glad to have you back safe and sound.



John and Jeff connect in Iraq!

Jeff (USMA '90) served as a JAG officer and crossed paths with John Dickerson (USMA '74 and former WPSM President) in the sand box at Camp Cropper where Jeff was responsible for the care and maintenance

of over 3,000 security detainees, including senior members of the former regime of Saddam, e.g., Chemical Ali.

John sent a note to say, "Iraq [is] a completely unique experience! We are making progress here, and I can say first-hand that the Iraqis are sacrificing much to move their country forward in freedom and are

worthy of our sacrifice and effort. Let's just hope that calm minds prevail, and we have an orderly transition as the new Iraqi government stands-up and assumes full control of the nation."



**"They Served
With Honor, Now
We Honor Them!"**

Detroit Veterans Day March

"In Honor of Those Who Have Borne the Battle; They Served With Honor, Now We Honor Them!"

The Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition is looking for anyone that would like to participate or volunteer as they march in beautiful downtown Detroit from

Grand Circus Park to Cadillac Square on November 8, 2008. Sign-in begins at 10:30am and the march starts at noon.

They need military units, bands, vehicles, floats, veteran organizations and supporters to join in honoring our service men and

women. Corporate and community sponsors are needed as well.

If you would like more information, contact Richard Chatman at (313) 861-6852 or dickc1948@ameritech.net or visit the website at www.cay202detroit.org/content.php?id=72.

Upton '94 Elected AUSA Chapter VP



Upton, second from left, taking the oath.

Although elected to the Board for the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) in July 2008, Michael Upton (USMA '94) officially became the 2nd Vice President of the

Chapter in September during the Annual Corporate Members Luncheon. He will serve a two-year term with expectations of then serving as the Chapter President.

AUSA represents every American Soldier—being the voice for all Army components; fos-

tering public support; and providing professional education. Membership in AUSA is about changing and saving lives!

For more information on or to join AUSA, contact Michael Upton at cmuption@vsecorp.com.

Ploompou '81 Offers Assistance

COL Andres Ploompou (USMA '81) serves as the Director of Military Support to Civil Authorities. In this role, he is responsible for providing the state's National Guard military response and assistance during emergencies, disasters, exercises, and planning efforts — working routinely with all the other 19 state agencies and several federal agen-

cies, most often and consistently with the State Police, Department of Community Health, MDOT, Dept of Information Technology, DNR, DEQ, DEA, TSA, Secret Service, FEMA, and DHS.

COL Ploompou has offered his knowledge and time to alumni wanting more information, contacts, training, or simply exposure to

Homeland Security issues and emergency preparedness.

Contact COL Ploompou via email at andres.ploompou@us.army.mil or telephone at (517) 481-7615.

If you have any employment opportunities or networking suggestions, send a note to the editor.

Branding West Point (Continued from pg. 1)

for them now and how they can assist the Cadets in the future. Employment recruiting was one item that was mentioned as a service to graduates who have recently separated from the Service.

Third, the AOG and West Point have placed significant emphasis

and effort to improve and clarify the West Point Brand to the public. Speakers highlighted the numerous areas where West Point needs to improve in promoting its brand. One immediate area of focus is the separation of the West Point brand from the Army brand.

You can view a very detailed report from Larry Smith ('62 and WP Society of NC) at <http://www.westpointaog.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=1091>.

“One immediate focus...separation of the West Point Brand from the Army Brand.”

Luncheon (Continued from pg. 3)

Officer in 1884; and other notable West Point grads such as Gratiot, Delafield, Grant, Sherman, Ord, and Parrot.

It was a great event—everyone had a great meal and stimulation conversation, and left proud of our local West Point heritage.

The WPSM Board of Governors (BOG) voted to make a donation to repair a gatehouse, where a plaque will then be placed identifying our donation. Additionally, the BOG agreed to hold a future meeting with Dave to assess and vote on assisting with a project to

restore and erect gun placements for Parrot guns.

For more information, visit <http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com>.



Entrance to Historic Fort Wayne.



From: WPSM
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TO:

We're on the web!

[http://www.west-point.org/
society/wps-michigan/index.htm](http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-michigan/index.htm)

Please send me any articles, news, events, networking and/or employment opportunities, etc. that you would like to share with the Society. Also, continue to check the Society website.

Editor: Michael Upton,
USMA 1994, cmup-ton@vsecorp.com.

West Point Job Fair

If you are a West Point grad who is retiring or seeking civilian employment, the next annual West Point Job Fair will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 1000 to 1400 hours at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. If you have any questions, please contact Carl Savino, USMA '78, at WestPointJobFair@aol.com. You can also visit www.wpsdc.org and select "West Point Job Fair".

Army-Navy Game Party

For those not going to the Army-Navy game, the WPSM will host our annual game day party on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 1100 to 1530 hours at the Birmingham Athletic Club. We are finalizing the details and menu. Cost will be about \$25 per person. Look for a sign-up flyer coming out soon.

Founders Day 2009

Mark your calendars for this event you won't want to miss! The WPSM BOG has started planning the Founders Day Dinner for next year. This year's event will take place at the Birmingham Athletic Club! More details to follow soon.