

USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive



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To: All Members of the Class of 1965

OCTOBER 2008

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds everyone well. Given all that has gone on, and that is being planned, I thought an update was in order. Let me begin by acknowledging the terrific job that Skip and Marilyn O'Donnell did in organizing and executing a wonderful Mini Reunion in Las Vegas this past June. Nearly 100 classmates and spouses/significant others were treated to some first class entertainment, numerous opportunities to explore that part of the Southwest, and had lots of time to engage with each other. It was great to see a number of you who reside in the West and have not made it to a West Point reunion in some time (some never). Thanks Skip and Marilyn, and the team you put together, for making it easy and fun for the rest of us.

45th Reunion in 2010

Ken Yoshitani has stepped forward and volunteered to lead our efforts to plan and execute what will assuredly be the "best ever" 45th Class Reunion. He has selected Tom Kovach as his second in charge, and is moving quickly to establish the rest of his team while collecting intelligence and advice to assist his planning. A most important first step is to decide on WHEN and WHERE to hold this event and we want your feedback ASAP. WE NEED YOUR INPUT (see attached flyer).

Army vs. Navy in Philadelphia 6 December 2008

Army/Navy weekend is only a few weeks away. For those of you who have not made reservations at the Renaissance Philadelphia Hotel Airport (operated by Marriott) for the weekend of 5/6 December and would like to participate, you need to move out smartly. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 610-521-5900. Tell them you are part of the USMA Class of 1965 group. Additionally, if you are going to join us at the hospitality suite and for dinner on Saturday, please send your check for \$80/person made out to the "USMA Class of 1965" to:

Harry Dermody
117 Quail Run Drive
Centreville, MD 21617
Questions? (call Harry- 410-758-4816)

www.aog.usma.edu
www.aog.usma.edu/class/1965/

www.west-point.org
www.west-point.org/class/usma1965/

Finances

- Class Admin Account

Our Class Treasurer (Joe Sanchez) manages a relatively small Administration Account at the AOG and a Checkbook Account that pay for routine things like mailings and conference calls, but most importantly for small donations, wreaths and/or flowers for funerals and illnesses. The fund's balance declines as we use it, but we have reestablished it to a healthy corpus over time through generous donations from many of you. Present balances are \$20,200 in the Admin Account and about \$1,700 in the Checking Account.

- Class Gift Account

The Class Gift Account, as you are aware, has carryover funds from the Thayer and Arvin campaigns. These funds are now consolidated into one fund at the Association of Graduates that, as of 30 September 2008, exceeds \$430,000. It is intended that these funds will be used for a future gift, probably associated with our 50th Reunion. As we did with previous gifts, a committee will be formed to obtain Class input on the type of gift we would like to support. Additionally, some of these existing funds may be used to complete small memorialization projects in Arvin gym, establish a maintenance endowment for the Class Forum on Thayer Walk and provide a gift to the English Department in the name of Bill and Nancy Hecker's son who died while on active duty in Iraq. Expenditures for these projects should not exceed \$30,000 to \$50,000. We will provide updated information as we get closer to the 45th Reunion.

Class Activities (Past)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Army vs. Navy in Baltimore | December 2007 |
| • Arvin Scholarship Event in Ypsilanti
(Dan Christman spoke this year) | June 2008 |
| • Mini Reunion in Las Vegas | June 2008 |
| • Golf Outings (N. Myrtle Beach and Pinehurst) | April and October 2008 |
| • DC Area Picnic at Diamond Hill Farm (Ryan's) | September 2008 |
| • Class gathering for the Army-AF game last year in Colorado Springs.
A group went to the game and to the Hecker's afterwards | |
| • Local Golf Outings, DC Class Luncheons, etc. | |

These are merely some of the events that I know of, and I would be happy to report more of them. In every case one or more of you have volunteered your time and efforts to make them happen. If you wish to support an event in your local area, your Class Committee would be delighted to support you (contacts, advice, access to address lists, etc.).

Class Executive (Leadership) Committee

- Class Historian

Following many years of serving the Class as our Historian (in addition to numerous other ways such as with the WP Society of New York), Ross Wollen stepped down from the Class Committee and has been replaced by Bob Frank. Our sincere appreciation to you, Ross, for your legion contributions, and welcome to Bob Frank.

- AOG Director Nomination

You may be aware that our Association of Graduates has made a significant governance transformation in the past several years to become a more corporate-like organization. Joe DeFrancisco has been elected (with the most votes of all nominees!) to a key position as a member of the Board of Directors who are “responsible for managing the affairs of the organization.” Joe will be invested as of January 1, 2009 for a three year term. We are thrilled to have one of our own accept this very significant responsibility and apply his intellect and decision-making abilities to AOG affairs.

Fallen Comrades (and Spouses)—May they Rest in Peace

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Don Kurtz | 1 Dec 07 |
| • Phil Cooper | 5 Jan 08 |
| • Mike Deems | 19 Jan 08 |
| • Kendall Lemley | 7 Feb 08 |
| • Jay Stevison | 21 Feb 08 |
| • Ed Klink | 25 Jun 08 |
| • Bryant Bachman | 14 Sep 08 |
| • Kathleen Zaleski | 21 Aug 07 (wife of Andy) |
| • Karen Eichorn | 1 Sep 08 (wife of Fred) |

West Point Activities

- Arvin Wrestling Award Graduation 2007

As in previous years, I was privileged and proud to represent the Class at the Awards Convocation the day before Graduation to recognize the wrestler selected by the coaches to have most exemplified Bob’s qualities of leadership and sacrifice.

- Class Forum Uncovered at Jefferson Library

Now that the Jefferson Library project is completed, the Class Forum that was a part of our contribution to the Thayer (and Jefferson) Road project has been repaired and reopened. Terry Ryan, who was point man on this project, has been interfacing with the Corps of Engineers and the post facilities people to resolve several latent defects (from prior to the Forum being taken out of service), but we are pleased to have this gathering place for cadets and visitors back in use.

- Arvin Gym Final Touches

Chuck Moseley is working with Bob's widow, Lyndsey Brondos, Bob's brother Dave, and others in Michigan to gather and/or reproduce several pieces of memorabilia that we can have properly placed and described in the display case(s) at the entrance to the "CPDC." He has established a formal point of contact in DPE to facilitate coordination on site. We hope to have these and a few other finishing touches put in that will remind all who enter, especially cadets, of a very special and unique member of the long gray line.

- Founders Day in Chicago-14 March 2009

Ric Shinseki will speak at the West Point Society of Chicago's Founders Day next spring at the historic Medinah Country Club. In conjunction, the Class Executive Committee has agreed to meet there and will likely have a private dinner with Ric and Patti that Friday evening. If any of you have an interest in attending either this dinner or Founders Day, please contact your friendly scribe, Denny Coll.

Caring for Others

When talking to members of the class or their families, I am always struck by the appreciation shown for the support given them by the class when there is a family loss. A phone call, a card, an email, or a personal visit really means a lot in times of suffering and need. If you should hear of a classmate who has suffered a loss, please take the time to in some way show that there are people out there who are thinking of them, and care. Awareness is a first step in being able to care for others, so also please take the time to inform your class Executive Committee when you become aware of a situation. This would enable us to do something appropriate, as a class. I think that we have been effective in supporting hurting classmates in the past. We have informal networks that have served us well keeping awareness at a good level. We are continuing to work to strengthen these networks so that no situation goes unnoticed.

Closing

I greatly enjoyed seeing many of you at the Las Vegas Mini Reunion, at the Bob Radcliffe-organized golf outings, and at various other gatherings around DC and West Point. It is apparent that we are all aging, but our spirits seem to prevail despite the creaks and ailments. I enjoin all of you to: look out for those less fortunate and in need, connect with each other by organizing/attending local class events, and by making a commitment to attend our 45th Class Reunion. In the letterhead, we have included a lot of contact information for YOUR Class Executive Committee. Please contact us if you have anything you wish to communicate.

Strength and Drive

Clair Gill

Class of '65 45th Reunion Planning Survey

Class Reunions, with some limited exceptions, have traditionally been held at West Point. This poses some challenges regarding accommodations, local transportation, conflicts with other Academy events/Class Reunions, etc. A location other than West Point, such as Orlando, Chicago or San Antonio, could alleviate some of these challenges but would have other disadvantages – for example, no visit to the cemetery, "It's not West Point," etc. On the other hand, a location other than West Point might offer a different variety of events and might present an opportunity for attendance at the Reunion by some Classmates for whom the travel to West Point is a challenge. We would like your thoughts regarding location and timing for our 45th Reunion in 2010.

1. **Where** shall the Reunion be held?

_____ At West Point
_____ At _____ (Name the city and state)

2. If at West Point, **when** shall the Reunion be held?

_____ Spring 2010
_____ Fall 2010 Football Weekend
_____ Fall 2010 Non-Football Weekend

Note: A Fall Non-Football Weekend probably poses the least challenges regarding accommodations, local transportation, conflicts with other Academy events/Class Reunions, etc.—but then there is no football game to attend....

3. If at a location other than West Point, **when** shall the Reunion be held?

_____ Spring 2010 _____ Fall 2010

4. Comments (what did you like/not like about previous Reunions; what do you want to do at the 45th Reunion; other?):

***** Please send your response back no later than November 15, 2008 *****

Mail back to: Ken Yoshitani or **Email back to:** KenIzumi65@aol.com
1831 Elmore Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Name: _____ **Telephone No.:** _____

Address: _____ **Email address:** _____
