



## USMA Class of 1965

*Strength and Drive*

Clair F. Gill, President, (703) 748-2171, [clairgill@verizon.net](mailto:clairgill@verizon.net)  
Robert F. Radcliffe, Vice President, (910)-579-5105, [bobradcliffe@mindspring.com](mailto:bobradcliffe@mindspring.com)  
Henry M. Dermody, Jr., Vice President, (410) 758-4816, [dermody2@verizon.net](mailto:dermody2@verizon.net)  
Charles F. O'Donnell III, Treasurer, (702) 254-9418, [skipod3@cox.net](mailto:skipod3@cox.net)  
Rick D. Bunn, Secretary & Scribe, (623) 262-4009, [rickbunn@bunn-family.com](mailto:rickbunn@bunn-family.com)  
Robert T. Frank, Historian, (410) 745-3387, [bobfrank@atlanticbb.net](mailto:bobfrank@atlanticbb.net)

### To All Members of the Class of 1965

30 August 2011

- 1. 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion.** I find it hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since our fabulous 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion. The Address Book that was handed out then and the Photo Album mailed later have become essential components of my memory, as well as very useful tools to assist in communicating. We are all indebted to Ken Yoshitani, Tom Kovach and the 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion team for their leadership, planning and hard work in assuring the best possible time for all of the 525 classmates, spouses and others who attended.
- 2. Your Class Leadership Team.** The team you elected at the Class Meeting is honored to serve you and we have our contact information emblazoned above. We welcome your feedback, good ideas and offers of support to the betterment of the Class and our Alma Mater. With our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion nearing, we will have many needs, even beyond caring for each other, and we welcome volunteers.
- 3. Affiliation with the Class of 2015.** “Our” class has already begun academics and is now integrated into the 36 companies (“I” companies were just reinstated) that comprise the Corps. Many thanks to all who participated in R-Day, the March Back from summer training, and the Acceptance Parade. Due largely to Pat Kenny’s efforts, they were all well coordinated, and those who participated had a chance to rekindle their spirits and gain an appreciation for these leaders-to-be of the new generation. Many of you have capitalized on the opportunity to mentor members of the class (including their parents)—it is a wonderful way to get connected. We have many additional opportunities to connect with the Class of 2015 over the next four years, and I hope you will consider becoming a volunteer for one or more of these gratifying experiences.
- 4. Army vs. Navy 12 December.** In case you haven’t been following Army football closely, this year’s game will be in the Washington, DC area at FedEx (Redskins) Field, located several miles east of the Nation’s Capitol in Maryland. John Howell has again agreed to coordinate our annual pre- and post-game gathering at a local Springfield, VA hotel for which he has secured a very “good deal” for their recently renovated rooms and amenities. Price for Friday and Saturday nights (taxes and breakfast included) will be \$97.01 per night, and the hotel has agreed to extend that rate (less comp. breakfast) for Thursday and Sunday nights for those interested in touring/visiting in the area. We will also have a modest fee for drinks and snacks in our hospitality room. Further details will be forthcoming very soon in an email, but we need

for you to set your calendars now, figure out how to get tickets, and plan on coming (even if you live in the area). Having spoken with Coach Ellerson (who did the March Back with the new cadets) and a number of his players, I am more encouraged than ever that we will finally BEAT NAVY this year.

## 5. TAPS.

- a. Fallen Comrades. Since the 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion last fall, we have lost 6 classmates, and discovered one who passed away and with whom we had lost touch. This brings us to 513 left standing of the 596 who graduated in June 1965.

Denny Chudoba (2 Nov 10)

Ed Maness (6 Nov 10)

Jim Scheiner (2 Feb 11)

Nate Kantor (23 Feb 11)

Jim Hall (3 Jun 11)

Frank O'Brien (4 Jun 11)

Mike Shulick (21 Jul 07)

- b. Memorial Articles. Chuck McCloskey, working with Rick Bunn, will be working toward our goal to have all currently outstanding memorial articles published in TAPS by May 2013. Please give them your cooperation and efforts when contacted if you can become a primary author or a contributor. This is truly a labor of love.

6. **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Chair.** At the recent AOG leadership conference at West Point, I used the opportunity to speak with many Academy, AOG and other class officials to gain an appreciation of what can be expected at a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Most important was the timing, and from all I learned, we are pretty well committed to be holding our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion during the Alumni portion of Graduation Week which occurs on the weekend and early week preceding the Class of 2015's graduation on a late May Saturday. It includes the Alumni March to the Thayer Monument that they tell me is a poignant moment. A complicating factor is our priority and the use of Academy facilities and the Hotel Thayer if we were to choose to use it. Most I spoke with conducted their lodging and informal class activities at hotel/conference centers within an hour's bus commute to West Point. More to come with this as we get closer, but for now, we are in search of a courageous volunteer to lead the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion planning and execution. Any takers?

7. **Financial Health.** The Class is in pretty good shape financially, given the generosity of many of you in the past and considering the nominal expenditures anticipated in the next several years. I am attaching two summary financial reports to this letter for your perusal, and would ask that you direct any specific questions to the authors who can dig out the details if you wish.

- a. Gift Fund Account. Harry Dermody has been mothering this fairly complex account for nearly two decades. It is complicated in that the AOG has made several changes along the way regarding overhead charges; in addition, the funds are invested long term, meaning that the value rises and falls with the markets. Nevertheless, the Class has made a number of very valuable contributions as delineated, and we are currently funding Affiliation expenses from it. Residuals will go toward the Class Gift for the 50<sup>th</sup>, described later.
- b. Admin Account. Skip O'Donnell has availed himself of the AOG's recently upgraded capabilities to account for and make rapid payments and reimbursements to vendors and individuals—moving away from the “checkbook” processes of the past. All Flower expenses and Charity contributions were coordinated through the AOG and paid from our Class Admin account. Additionally, the AOG is offering more admin/finance services than in the past, such as doing reunion transactions/accounting, but for a fee.

**8. Communications.** For obvious reasons, this is one of THE most important things we do among the Class and with the Academy. Times are a-changin' though and hopefully for the better. We have been deliberating when to cut the umbilical cord to USPS/paper mail, and upon the advice of our webmaster (Chuck Nichols) and scribe (Rick Bunn) who do a good job maintaining class addresses/email listings, this will be the final class letter you receive in an envelope!! If you have not been receiving Class emails, please take a moment to send your email address to Chuck Nichols at [cnichols6@verizon.net](mailto:cnichols6@verizon.net). He will add you to the distribution.

- a. Class Web Page ([www.West-Point.org](http://www.West-Point.org)). Chuck maintains this and has done some amazing work getting all of our Class Memorial Articles (TAPS) posted, as well as all of the Class Notes ever written—many having to be re-created using scans and OCR. He has also created the most updated class database that includes much additional and sometimes sensitive information on widows, NOK, etc. If you change your contact information, you should inform Chuck—and also update the AOG's data that seems to require your personal intervention.
- b. Assembly/Class Notes. If you have been browsing AOG sites and publications, you should know that the paper Assembly has become a dinosaur—you can still get class notes in paper, but for a fee. The good news is that Rick has much more space and capability to publish updates/events/classmate sightings/etc. more robustly and frequently than in the past. We all love reading about each other, especially in happy times!

**9. Giving Back—at our 50th.** Our Class Gift Committee, capably led by Fred Laughlin, met for over a half year to survey the landscape of potential

contributions to the Academy, necked the opportunities down and contacted many of you in straw polls, then finally recommended as our primary gift two specific projects within the Center for Oral History. The committee presented an additional gift option to support the Long Gray Line Endowment. Descriptions of these recommendations, along with the logic/rationale for their selection are posted on the Class website. I am excited that we have a solid consensus and several very meaningful Academy needs that we can support. Next step will begin near the end of September when our fund raising group, led by Bob Harter and Harry Dermody, will be contacting you to secure your pledges. Please be generous.

#### **10. Class Legacy.**

- a. Personal history questionnaire. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to capture the lives of the Class of 1965 in a permanent way that will provide us with reading enjoyment and our successors with the legacy of our service to the Nation, our communities and our families. What Bob Doughty needs is for you to spend the few hours necessary to REMEMBER and complete the questionnaire he provided. Please do it now when he can use it to shape the book he is compiling and writing. Too late is to be forgotten.
  
- b. Personal papers and mementos, artifacts, and other materials. Recently, Bob Jones donated materials from his stay at the "Hanoi Hilton" to the West Point Museum. As we are getting older (and looking to down-size or clear our basements/attics), we should consider depositing personal papers, materials and the like to an appropriate repository. The USMA Library Special Collections maintains files on the Class of 1965, as well as on individual members. Items that pertain to the Class as a whole are eligible for the "Class files." Items that pertain primarily to you will be accepted and put in a file that bears your Cullum number. Other military repositories, such as the US Army Military History Research Collection (at Carlisle, PA), also might be considered. For further details, contact the Class Historian, Bob Frank, at the numbers listed in the letterhead.

**11. Closing.** These are exciting times as we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our graduation from West Point. We are indeed fortunate to have been educated and molded into leaders by this marvelous institution. It is an honor for those of us on the Class Leadership Team to serve you, but we could not possibly do it without the significant efforts of many of you who volunteer your time, talents and efforts to address our needs and those of the Academy. I encourage you to get involved wherever you can—caring for each other and our Alma Mater, and engaging with “our” Class of 2015. Till next time....Clair

**USMA 1965 Admin/Flower and Charity Report**  
CY 2010

Class Admin Account	1/1/2010	12/31/2010
	\$18, 598.45	\$28,163.27
	[Difference--\$9,564.82]	

Admin Account Activity During CY 2010

	Reimbursements	Expenses
Class Mailings	\$857.00	\$4,982.27
Reunion/1	\$121,488.43	\$123,189.36
Teleconferences	0	\$204.26
WPAOG Fund/2	\$1,089.09	\$291.46
Flower & Charity/3	\$15,000.00	\$202.35
	[Difference--\$9,564.82]	

- /1 Final reunion payment will be made to the Class Admin account after all reunion photo book orders are complete. Expect over \$20,000 to be transferred to the Class Admin account at that time.
- /2 All West Point Class Admin accounts managed by the WPAOG are part of a short term investment pool called PIMCO Low Duration Fund, which is very conservative. Reimbursements cover such things as dividends, interest, etc. Expenses include fund management costs, losses, etc.
- /3 Funds from the Class Flower and Charity checking account (including surplus Ranger paver and reunion widow/family donations) were transferred to the Class Admin account last year. Starting late last year, all expenses for funeral flowers and/or charity donations are being paid or reimbursed by the AOG from the Class Admin account. The Class F&C checking account current balance is \$4,713.52. When the final reunion payment to the Class Admin account has been made, all of the F&C money will be transferred to the Class Admin account for better security and oversight. The checking account will be closed out then.

**GIFT FUND ACCOUNT CLASS OF '65 – STATUS 7/15/11**

**CONTRIBUTIONS** (CLASS AND CORPORATE RECEIVED)

75,000	INITIAL FUNDS
1,315,157	THAYER
999,585	ARVIN
<u>126,773</u>	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1/1/08 – 6/27/11
2,516,515	TOTAL

NOTES:

1. Gift account started with an initial amount of 75,000.
2. Amounts shown for Thayer and Arvin projects are the total amounts received through 31 Dec 07. Account were combined into one Gift Account as of 1 Jan 08. Value at this time was 420,525.
3. All contributions are managed by the AOG Financial Planners in a long term diversified investment program.

**EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS PROFFERED** (EXPENSES INCLUDE APPLICABLE AOG FEES)

**THAYER**

750,000 (BASIC - WALK)  
 30,180 (ENGINEERING FEE)  
250,000 (FORUM)  
 1,030,180 TOTAL

**OTHER**

35,000 (PREP SCHOOL ENDOW)  
 16,667 ('65 SHELL)  
 29,412 (D/HISTORY—COH SEED)  
 8,522 (FIRST CLASS RECEPTION)  
 4,200 (CLASS VIDEO)

**ARVIN**

896,744 (BASIC –FLOORING, RAILINGS, ETC)  
 15,522 (KIOSK)  
 7,242 (DISPLAY CASES)  
 3,189 (DESK)  
 2,982 (LIMESTONE REPAIR)  
 6,667 (MURAL)  
 34,169 (CRESTS, LETTERING, ETC)  
 69 (PHOTOS)  
4,836 (ARVIN PAINTING/FRAME)

5,000 (SE ASIA MEMORIAL)  
5,000 (PAVER – HERBERT CTR)  
 103,801 TOTAL

**AFFILIATION (AS OF 7/7/11)**

7,660

**TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE**

2,163,225

971,420 + 50,164 (ARVIN PROFFERS – ALCOVE/PAINTING - WORKING) = 1,021,584

CONTRIBUTIONS 2, 516,515

LESS EXPENSES - 2,163,225

353,290 SURPLUS FUNDS IN GIFT ACCOUNT

**GIFT ACCOUNT VALUATION 548,130 (6/30/11)** (INCLUDES SURPLUS FUNDS IN GIFT ACCOUNT AND INVESTMENT RETURNS)

NOTES:

Major gifts are approved by the Class. No funds are released without Class Officer approval.

Possible future expenditures (final costs not determined)

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| A. FORUM (maintenance endowment)   | 25,000         |
| B. ARVIN ALCOVE PROFFER  | 50,000         |
| C. ENGLISH DEPT (contribution from the Class in memory of Bill Hecker's son who died in Iraq.) | 5,000 – 10,000 |
| D. AFFILIATION 2011-2015 (maximum anticipated).  | 50,000         |