

Classnotes 55-1966  
For publication in  
*Assembly, May-June 2006*

Jerry Cecil  
504 Boone Ave.  
Winchester, KY 40391  
(859) 744-3939  
[jtcecil@uky.edu](mailto:jtcecil@uky.edu)

**Pete Braun** and Lucille were married in May '05. Classmates **Frank Cosentino, Tom Zurla, Sam Champi, Tom Dusel, Vince Casillo, and John Sacra** attended the festivities.



Vince Casillo, Frank Cosentino, Tom Zurla, Pete & Lucille Braun, Sam Champi, John Sacra, and Tom Dusel at the Braun wedding

**Dan Dodd** is running for the U.S. Congress in north Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> District in Collin and Dallas counties. He met with **Wes Clark** and Max Cleland in Washington in Jan '06 with the Band of Brothers (*a group of veterans running for public office*) . Dan is in a Republican-dominated district, but says "his 8-term incumbent accepted Tom Delay and Abramoff contributions and directed the IRS to investigate the Texans for Public

Justice which found no issues after a year long investigation.” Dan’s website is <[dandoddforcongress.org](http://dandoddforcongress.org)> . Good luck, Dan!



Dan Dodd and Wes Clark

**Frank and Sandy Hock** checked in with a family update. “I thought it was time I should write. Cricket, our older son, now 31, is a senior analyst with Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Ortho-Biotech in Somerville, NJ. He is dating a beautiful and extremely bright girl – Janelle, whom he met when he joined his company last summer. Our younger son Morgan, a CPT, and his beautiful and busy wife Allison, presented us our first grandchildren twin boys Ryan and Mason born in Oct ‘05. Morgan is a physical therapist at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Allison is in her last semester pursuing an MBA at the University of Oklahoma. They live in Norman, OK. Morgan and Allison intend to return to the East Coast at the end of this year.

Sandy and I joined our dear friends **Bob and Lynn Fazen** took a Danube River cruise in Nov ‘05 from Budapest to Bratislava, Vienna, Salzburg, Passau and Prague. We had a great trip – I highly recommend it for anyone interested in European history, culture and scenery. In Dec ‘05 we attended a

wonderful Christmas Party Bob gave for his company's clients in NYC just one block from Rockefeller Plaza. Bob has his own business in commercial real estate management. We also saw **Sam and Russi Champi** (they look great) in Dec for an Army/Navy Party they hosted at their lovely log cabin home in Chester, NJ. If anyone is interested in taking a cruise to Alaska later in '06 or '07, let me know at [fhock@telcordia.com](mailto:fhock@telcordia.com)

Irma Tews's new address is: 81 Greenwood Drive, Turnersville, NJ 08012.

**Bill Gang** was appointed as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) from southern CA in late Jan '06. Bill is the Exec VP and COO for Information Systems Labs in San Diego. You can contact Bill at [wgang@islinc.com](mailto:wgang@islinc.com). Congratulations, Bill on your new appointment.

**Bill Haneke** forwarded the following anecdote about *Mike Silliman* after reading Mike's Memorial article in *TAPS*. "During my "Sabbatical" between my two Plebe Years, I was privileged to meet Mike in late June '62 after watching him play the annual All Star Basketball Game between the Kentucky and Indiana High School All Stars in Indianapolis. My father, who, at the time, was serving as the Commander of the Army Finance Center, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, held a nice reception for all of the young men from the Indiana-Kentucky Area who would be entering West Point with the Class of 1966. Mike had really distinguished himself as a superior player and playmaker during that game, then showed what a gracious and diplomatic young man he was during the reception. After spending the evening with him, it was very apparent that West Point and our Class would be very blessed by his choice to join us. While we were Cadets, Mike and I would occasionally see each other and he would thank me for the time I spent with him that evening answering his questions about "Life at the Academy". He never seemed to forget those who had assisted him along the way. That evening I also met Howdy Wilcox, Ron Steen, David Oliver, and several other present and ex-classmates, but above all, Mike made the most lasting impression on me. We will all miss him."

**Paul Mlakar** was featured in the 14 Feb '06 NYT, page D3, "Engineers Put Together a Model to Take Apart a Storm." I sent the

article to those on the class distribution list. If you did not see it, let me know—*scribe*.

**George Utter** (*a.k.a.* “*George of the jungle*”) left for Balad, Iraq in Feb and plans to be there until May ’06 working with the JSOTF. Judy will be keeping quite busy relocating a Talbot’s store that she manages. George pleaded with his friends not “to bombard” Judy with the usual daily ration of jokes, files, pictures and videos that seem to fill the comms pipes for some time, but George expected to have back-door access to my [jbgutter@cox.net](mailto:jbgutter@cox.net) account through web-mail.



**George Utter**

**Gene and Carol Driscoll** “look forward to seeing everyone at our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion this September. Our family continues to swell – we now have a 3<sup>rd</sup>



grandchild, a boy Hayden Edward, born to our son Gene and wife Becky in Nov '05 in Richmond, VA. Hayden is a placid, happy baby who only gets his dander up when hungry. Things are going well in Richmond. Carol and I traveled to England in Jan '06 to visit our daughter, son-in-law and grandson in Hampshire. Highlights of our visit included a visit to the famous Montequ Estate surrounded by a monorail train where we saw one of the world's largest private car and motorcycle collections, and an impressive James Bond display with cars and other 007 paraphernalia used in the movies. Besides taking some adventurous windswept walks along the coast, we visited several quaint towns where shopping was an imperative. We visited our grandson's pre-school, meeting all his friends and teachers. During the trip, we also celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family dinner. Our youngest son continues to ply his talents in acting and so far is doing well. Besides appearing on the Martha Stewart show, he continues his daytime TV work. He recently appeared in the NBC pilot series, The Book of Daniel, which suffered a lot of viewer criticism for its themes---only 5 episodes were aired. Carol and I joined our local recreational facility and are trying to 'shape up.' ”

**Roger and Inga Marie Thompson** “commute between Charleston, SC and NOVA. Her real estate and property management activities in SC keep her fully engaged which she enjoys. Our son Brendhan is in his second year at Tulane University Law School. He and his fiancée evacuated New Orleans like so many others. They are back now and will marry in May '06. He intends to stay in New Orleans after graduation. Our daughter Colleen lives in VA and works in real estate inspection quality control for a national-level corporation. I still am in AUSA -essentially the operations guy (all levels of membership, support of 128 chapters worldwide and all major AUSA events both here and overseas). This job allows me to see several of our classmates at our events. I also get to see our magnificent Soldiers and their family members. We all can be proud of who they are and how well they do for our country under the most challenging circumstances-requiring them to be and do so much. As we approach our 40th, I appreciate more and more how fortunate we are to be the Class of 66-still dynamic, still relevant and still contributing in so many ways. All the best to everyone!”

**Kerm Morgan** wrote, “ just happened to look at the web site for the first time, and was cool to read about all the folks out there. I have been on the faculty of the area technical college since '95. Carole still teaches 2nd grade. Of the 4 kids, only Brian is involved with the military. He is a senior at UW-

Stout and completes OCS in Aug '06 at the Wisconsin Military Academy. If all goes well my Ranger Buddy, **Roger Thompson**, will be the guest speaker. Brian has a web design biz amongst all his other endeavors. It is [www.frigid-fusions.com](http://www.frigid-fusions.com) . Check it out to see how far he has surpassed his old man! I am one of the 'less than Gray Hogs' that keep in touch with only a handful. I do know **Rick Sonsteli** is in Scottsdale, **Bill Kirtley** is somewhere in FL, and **Jerry Moll** is in DC area I think. I visited WP last summer and had the OC take a picture of me bracing in the Mess Hall. I will send you a copy if it has not been stolen for Mad magazine."

**Rees Barksdale** sent an FD photo of his Godfather, Battle Malone Barksdale, '37 and Rees taken at the MS celebration in early Mar '06. Rees's uncle was captain of the boxing team (nick named "THE BATTLER") and on the tennis team two years. He served 20 years in the FA, WWII and Korean War. Battle was at Schofield Barracks when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He and **Gaines Dyer** have played quite a bit of tennis together. He's our society's Oldest Grad and always begins his OG talk with: *"When I entered West Point, it was a rather severe place; it really was."* Uncle Battle was widowed in '05 when Grace, his wife of almost 67 years died.



**Battle Barksdale '37 & Godson Rees Barksdale**

**Gaines and Betsy Dyer** have happy news about daughter Elizabeth's recent, beautiful, brilliant grandchild and their daughter Dianne's approaching marriage. *(no details at press time-scribe)*

**Tory and Carol Wilson** wrote, "All is well with us in Minnesota and we eagerly anticipate reuniting with classmates at our reunion. Carol teaches Montessori full time, and I am in my 19th year as a urologist at Mayo Clinic. Hard to believe! See you in the fall!"



**Carol and Tory Wilson at a staff party**

**Jim Gardner** marks his second retirement this spring. He retired in '94 as a Colonel, USAR and is now leaving Pfizer Inc after a 29 years. While at Pfizer, he coordinated the company's strategic planning and most recently served as its VP-Investor Relations. He and Linda are relocating from Westchester County in New York to their farm in central Pennsylvania. Linda is a Penn State grad and Jim is an honorary State alum, so they look forward to enjoying the many activities of that university's campus and spending more time with their daughters and grandchildren. Jim and Linda will remain active in The Neuropathy Association (which they helped found ten years ago), while Jim carves out a third career as a technology investor and entrepreneur.

**Bill and Jo Dock** returned from Singapore - this time for good. They enjoyed both assignments there - the first for two years and the second for 15 months. Bill said, "it was time to get back home and spend time with our grandchildren. Didn't want them to grow up without our 'help.' Actually, I think the time we spend with them is more instructive to us than to them."

**Memorial Articles for deceased classmates:** **Mike Brown** wrote, "Some may recall that Pete Lantz and I were roommates in F4 during our Firstie year. We were close friends, and that friendship continued beyond graduation when my wife, Mary, and I continued our friendship with Pete and Dagmar at Hood. Of course, you all know that Pete was killed at Dak To in Nov '67. I plan to write the Memorial article for Pete. Several F4 alumni contributed materials. some time back, and **Doug Sims** has graciously provided them to me. I am asking anyone who would like to share an anecdote or vignette about their memory of Pete jot it down in the most convenient format possible and forward it to me at [runner52@pipeline.com](mailto:runner52@pipeline.com) . I'll attempt to consolidate it with the material that I already have and construct a deserved and fitting article in honor of Pete's life."

Mike continued, "I saw Dagmar in Sep '05. It was my first contact with her since 1967. I left that encounter with profound admiration for the way that she moved on with her life in a way that honors both herself and Pete's memory."

**40<sup>th</sup> Reunion:** **Rusty Correia** wrote, "By now you have all gotten the information on our 40th reunion in September. Congratulations are due to **Jack LeCuyer, Al Nason, Jerry Moll, Don Brown, Mo Faber** and others



who had to deal with incomplete information for an extended period to pull a plan together. 40th reunions are typically the best attended. Fewer people have children at home, many are retired and have the time, and many realize we aren't getting any younger and the next ones are likely to have fewer who can make the trip.

We are encouraging attendance by widows and ex-classmates. Since we do not have good addresses for all of these, I urge you to share the reunion info with those with whom you are in contact.”

**Reunion website:** [www.usma66.org](http://www.usma66.org) . **Ralph Cruikshank** can be contacted at [ralphc@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ralphc@atlanticbb.net).

**Jon Steel** is sculpting our Class Crest with an 18 inch wingspan on the eagle along with an associated plaque with the names of 31 classmates killed in Vietnam and Art Bonifas who was killed in Korea. This plaque is part of the Class Gift that will be displayed in the First Division.

**Class Officer Election:** Rusty continued, “We will also be electing a new board as we do every 5 years. Those of us who have been in office for two terms must step down from our present positions according to our by-laws. When you get your ballot, please stand up and be counted, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in September.”