



Man's Flight

Through Life Is

Sustained By The

Power Of His

Knowledge

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### EXPECT GREAT THINGS: THE AFA'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

The Fiftieth Anniversary project, proposed by The Friends in 2001 and briefed by Brig. Gen. Caine to the Superintendent in January 2002, has received funding from the Association of Graduates. It is on schedule for release by the start of the Academy's fiftieth anniversary year, 2004. (President Eisenhower signed the bill creating the Academy on April 1, 1954.)

In this project The Friends, in cooperation with Word One Associates, Inc., are creating a video history of the Academy on DVD. The DVD will feature artifacts and documents from Special Collections along with historical video clips from the National Archives and video interviews covering key events in the history of the Academy.

After only 10 months, a number of interviews are already on tape. Some trace the origins of the Academy through firsthand observation. Walter Netsch tells how he created the original architectural design for the Academy. Kendrick Harmon and Eula Harmon Hoff (son and daughter of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon) describe the vision and values of the Academy's first Superintendent. Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott (Dean of Faculty, 1956 – 1968) explains his efforts to enrich the original academic curriculum.

Other interviews cover defining moments in the history of the Academy. Coach Ben Martin describes the remarkable year when his "Cardiac Kids" made football history. Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark (Superintendent, 1970 – 1974) tells how he dealt with special challenges related to the conflict in Vietnam. Maj. Gen.

Stanley C. Beck (Commandant, 1975 – 1978) tells how he prepared, as commandant, for the admission of the first women cadets.

Still other interviews show what the Academy has meant to its graduates. General Ron Fogleman, USAFA 1963, (first graduate to serve as Air Force Chief of Staff), The Honorable Heather Wilson, USAFA 1982, (first graduate to serve as a Member of Congress), and Alonzo Babers, USAFA 1983, (first graduate to earn an Olympic gold medal), assess the influence of cadet experiences on their

lives.

The title of the program, *Expect Great Things*, comes from a speech delivered in 1955 by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Nathan Twining. Speaking at the Academy's dedication, General Twining warned the first class of cadets that the public would look over their shoulders and watch them closely because the nation had a right to "expect great things." The Friends' DVD will show how the Academy's staff and graduates have built a heritage of achievement to fulfill those early expectations.

### NEW DIRECTORS

#### Colonel Elliott V. Converse, III, Ph.D., USAF (Ret)

During twenty-five years in the Air Force, Colonel Converse's assignments included the faculties of the Air Force Academy and the Air War College. He also served tours in Southeast Asia as an air intelligence officer, with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a strategic planner, and finally as the commander of the Air Force Historical Research Agency.

Since retiring in 1992, he has been involved in research and writing. He is the principal author of *The Exclusion of Black Soldiers from the Medal of Honor in World War II* and was the primary editor of *The Genesis of Flight*. He is currently working on a history of acquisition in the Department of Defense since World War II. He and his wife, Rosemary, live in Evergreen, Colorado.

#### Lt. Col. James R. W. Titus, Ph.D., USAF (Ret)

Lt. Col. James R. W. Titus is Associate Professor of Military Strategic Studies and Director of Research in the 34th Education Group, Air Force Academy. Colonel Titus' Air Force assignments included intelligence officer at Myrtle Beach AFB, in Vietnam, and the Pentagon. A foreign area specialist on Latin America, he earned his Ph.D. at Rutgers University. He served in senior positions on the faculty of the History Department and on the Commandant's staff at the Air Force Academy.

After retiring, he was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Georgia Military College, and Dean of Research at Air University. He returned to the Air Force Academy in 2002. Col. Titus is the author of *The Old Dominion at War*, published by the University of South Carolina Press. He and his wife Suzanne live in Monument, Colorado.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This Fall Newsletter is being produced for distribution at an unusually busy time for The Friends. Rae Hellen, our faithful administrative assistant for the past 15 years, is retiring. Her loss will be keenly felt. We have been very fortunate in engaging Christie Schwank as her replacement. She is computer savvy and willing to work out of her home. Rae Hellen has also had to operate under this handicap since the Academy security has effectively closed our nice office in the Library. Getting our office equipment out of Rae's home and set up in Christie's and getting Christie familiar with the job requirements has made this a busy time for us.

I feel that it is timely to mention the tremendous support that The Friends continues to receive from the Association of Graduates through its President and CEO, Colonel Jim Shaw. The Friends are deeply involved in preparing projects to honor the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Academy. These projects include professional CD-ROM and DVD visual presentations of the panels, artifacts, manuscripts, and records that constitute the existing historical records of the Academy. In addition, Colonel Jim Gaston's Word One, Inc. has undertaken and is nearing completion of a collection of oral history interviews of many of the individuals who were important in the early years of the Academy. The collection will include some 25 individuals and will constitute a significant historical record for all time.

None of these projects could have been undertaken without the generous support of the Association of Graduates. I would urge you all to seriously consider becoming associate members of this fine association by calling the AOG at (719) 472-0300.

In addition to all this, The Friends has just signed a contract with Fulcrum Books of Golden, Colorado to co-publish a book entitled *Falconry at the Air Force Academy*.

Never in my wildest dreams, 15 years ago when The Friends was organized, did I ever believe that our small group of volunteers would ever undertake so many important projects.

May I close by pointing out that never has The Friends been in greater need of your financial support to assure the successful completion of these worthy projects to enhance the stature and prestige of the Air Force Academy and its fine library.

## THE COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Friends offers a special opportunity for those who wish to honor individuals, organizations or groups of individuals. For a minimum donation of \$50.00 a handsome certificate will be placed in The Friends' Honor Book. The Honor Book is displayed in a prominent location in the Special Collections Branch of the Air Force Academy Library where it is readily accessible to cadets and visitors.

This is an ideal way to give special, perpetual recognition to a classmate, fellow crew members, a friend, a team, or an organization of special importance to you. The honoree(s) need not be military or deceased to be commemorated with an Honor Book Certificate. To date, more than 1000 individuals, units and organizations have been commemorated with an Honor Book Certificate. Honorees include participants in virtually every American conflict of the 20th Century as well as a wide variety of other individuals to include Academy faculty/staff, spouses, USAFA cadets and graduates.

Specific details on this unique Academy program can be obtained by writing The Friends or by contacting them by email at: [friends@usafalibrary.com](mailto:friends@usafalibrary.com). The Friends encourages you to give serious consideration to recognizing a special person or group through participation in our Commemorative Program.

## UNIQUE RESEARCH COLLECTION ACQUIRED

A significant research collection related to the internment of Americans of German ancestry in the United States during the Second World War has been donated to the Library by Major Arthur Jacobs, USAF, Retired. The material was gathered by Major Jacobs in conjunction with the publication of his book, *The Prison Called Hohenasperg*. Unknown to most Americans, more than 10,000 Germans and German Americans were interned in the United States during the War. Art Jacobs and his immediate family were among those interned. The collection is one the most significant collections of documents in existence regarding the wartime treatment of American citizens of German ancestry. The collection is housed within the Library's Special Collections Branch where it is presently being used by cadets enrolled in courses offered by the Academy's Departments of History and Law.



Mr. Duane Reed, Mr. David Jacobs, Ms. Ute Szilard, Maj. Arthur Jacobs, Mrs. Vi Jacobs, Brig. Gen. Phil Caine

## FRIENDS 2002 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING



The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its annual meeting on May 9, 2002. The following items of business were accomplished. The present slate of officers was unanimously approved for another year. Those members of the Board whose term of office expires in 2002 were unanimously reelected to another three-year term. The Executive Committee was also unanimously reelected. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors, retired Air Force Col. Elliott V. Converse, III, and retired Air Force Lt. Col. James R. W. Titus. Following the financial report by Brig. Gen. George Fagan, Col. Jim Gaston, President of Word One Inc., presented a report on The Friends 50th Air Force Academy Anniversary DVD. His report featured excerpts from several of the video history interviews he has conducted with significant figures in the Academy's history as well as footage from the Academy Library Archives. Judging from the report, the final product, due at the beginning of 2004, will be impressive and a superb addition to the history of the Academy. Dr. Ed Scott, Director of Academy Libraries, then gave a short report.

Brig. Gen. Phil Caine summarized the items of new business and the meeting was adjourned. This was the first Board meeting to be held in the Spring and in conjunction with the annual luncheon. The change from December for the meeting proved to be well accepted. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in May, 2003.



*Brig. Gen. Jesse C. Gatlin and Mrs. Gatlin present a check for \$950 to Lt. Gen. Clark on behalf of the Air Force members of the West Point Class of 1945. Upon graduation 280 of the 852 members of this class were commissioned in the United States Army Air Forces. In addition to the normal cadet academic, athletic and military requirements, this unique group of men was required to complete all phases of pilot training while they were cadets. They were each presented their wings prior to their graduation from West Point — the only group to ever graduate from the Military Academy as rated pilots.*

## UPDATE ON THE BOOK *FALCONRY AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY*

The Friends are very pleased to announce that our book, *Falconry at the Air Force Academy*, is going to be published by Fulcrum Books of Golden, Colorado. We have signed an agreement to co-publish and expect the book to come off the press by the summer of 2003. There is a possibility that the book will be accompanied by a DVD that will enrich it with a personalized story of a cadet falconer and his bird through four interesting years of working and performing together.

Since the falcon seem to typify the mission of the Air Force, the cadets in the Academy's first entering class chose it as their mascot. When the cadets in 1955 decided to train their falcons to perform in free-flight at sports events, they introduced to the age-old sport of falconry a new and challenging concept—to train the birds to fly to the lure instead of to hunt. The cadet falcon has thus become the only performing mascot in the NCAA.



*Colonel Jim Shaw, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of the Academy Association of Graduates (AOG), emphasizes a major point during his speech to those attending The Friends' annual luncheon on May 9. Colonel Shaw explained the Academy Comprehensive Fund Raising Campaign that will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Academy. The Academy Superintendent will lead the campaign with the AOG acting as the major fund raising arm. This campaign is projected to be a major benefit to The Friends which will receive financial support for its projects that focus on the heritage of the Academy and the Air Force. The Friends fully support this fund raising effort that will bring financial benefits to a full spectrum of Academy agencies.*



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\*Former Superintendent  
of the Academy

## APPEAL TO OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS

As has been true of many non-profit organizations since September 11, donations to The Friends have dropped off dramatically. In order to accomplish the goals and projects as specified in our mission statement, we need continuous donations from our membership. Please help us during this critical period by increasing your financial support. We need your help to continue to enhance the Air Force Academy as the premier educational institution that it has become over the nearly fifty years of its existence. Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance.

Please send checks payable to The Friends of AFA Library and mail to:

Friends of AFA Library  
P.O. Box 188  
US Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

## CALLING THE FRIENDS

For over a year The Friends have not been able to occupy their offices in the Academy Library. It is unlikely that this situation will change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, the preferred means of communicating with The Friends is by mail or by e-mail (friends@usafalibrary.com). If you need to speak with a Friends representative directly, call 719-333-4674 during normal duty hours 7:30 - 4:30, MT. This is the telephone number for the Special Collections Branch at the Academy Library. Ask to speak with Mr. Duane Reed. He is the Academy Archivist and is the Library's special liaison to The Friends. If Duane is unable to answer your inquiry, he will direct it to the appropriate member of The Friends Board.



*Steve Fossett holds the Australian and United States flags in celebration of his completion of the first solo balloon flight around the world. He completed the fifteen-day flight on July 4, 2002. Mr. Fossett subsequently autographed and inscribed a copy of The Genesis of Flight with the following words: "Congratulations on completing the catalogue of this important aeronautical library collection. This will be a reference for me in my library." Mr. Fossett was given a complimentary copy of The Genesis for his private collection and the inscribed copy is now on display in the Gimbel Room of the Academy Library.*

Copies of *The Genesis of Flight* may be purchased by sending your request to the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates, 3116 Academy Dr., USAF Academy, CO 80840-4475, along with your check for \$60.00 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling. To purchase the CD-Rom separately, send your check to the same address for \$24.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.