

A Brief History
of
The Friends of
The Air Force Academy
Library

Brief History of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

(Updated Jan 2022)

The Friends was established on 6 February 1987 for the purpose of enhancing the quality of the USAFA McDermott Library as an educational, research, scientific, and cultural institution. The Friends support enables the Library to acquire materials, pursue projects, and broaden its scope and activities beyond those made possible by Air Force allocated funds. The Friends initially rented office space in Colorado Springs and later moved into an office on the sixth floor of the Academy Library.

Founders:

Lt. General A. P. Clark, USAF (Ret) – 6th USAFA Superintendent (1970-1974)

Lt. General Thomas S. Moorman, USAF (Ret) – 5th USAFA Superintendent (1965-1970)

Brig. General George V. Fagan, USAF (Ret) – 11th USAFA Permanent Professor and Director of Academy Library (1962-1969)

Brig. General Jessie C. Gatlin Jr., USAF (Ret) – 17th USAFA Permanent Professor and Head, Department of English (1966-1977)

Officers Through the Years:

President:

1987 – 1997 – Lt. General Thomas S. Moorman

1997 – 2010 – Lt. General A. P. Clark

2010 – 2020 – Brig. General Philip Caine

2020 – – Brig. General Erlind Royer

Vice President:

1987 – 1989 – General T. R. Milton and Lt. Col. Gordon P. Culver

1989 – 1997 1st VP – T. R. Milton

 2nd VP - Lt. Col. Gordon P. Culver

1997 – 2009 1st VP – Henry Kortemeyer

1997 – 2009 2nd VP – Willis Ketterson

2009 – 2010 – Willis Ketterson

2010 – 2011 – Lt. Colonel Jim Titus

2011 – 2014 – Brig. General James Head

2014 – 2020 – Brig. General Erlind Royer

2020 – – Brig. General John Andrew

Secretary:

1987 – 1997 -- Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark

1997 – 2010 – Brig. General Philip Caine

2010 – 2011 – Lt. Colonel Dona Hildebrand

2011 – 2020 – Colonel Andi Biancur

2020 – – Brig. General Jim Head

Treasurer:

1987 – 2003 – Brig. General George Fagan

2003 – 2016 – Colonel Jock Schwank

2016 – 2020 – Colonel Marty Daack

2020 – – Ms. Kathy Wilson

The following lists by year the significant events in The Friends history. The annual lists are followed by the same events listed for easier reference by subject: Collection Acquisition and Maintenance, Publications, Lectures and Displays, Academy History, Cadet-Related Projects, National and International Fellowships, Financial, and Current Projects.

1987

- April 18: Memorandum of Understanding with USAFA Superintendent, Lt. General Winfield Scott, Jr., stating the Academy will:
 - Make available suitable office space, equipment, and labor of such volunteer workers as may be available to aid the startup activities of The Friends.
 - Make one Permanent Professor, appointed by the Dean of the Faculty and the Director of the Libraries available to serve as ex-officio members on the Board of Directors of The Friends and its executive committees.
 - Consider acceptance of any gifts proposed through the intermediary of The Friends, subject to then-current statutory and regulatory limits.
 - Provide computer products to aid in initial compilation of mailing lists of persons who may be sympathetic to the charitable goals of The Friends.
- June 2: The Friends was approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 corporation.

1988

- October: The goals of The Friends were codified:
 - Publish an annotated bibliography to the Gimbel Collection, donated to the Library in 1970.
 - Fund archival conservation of the Gimbel Collection.
 - Expand the scope of the prisoner of war collection.
 - Obtain collections of personal papers of Air Force leaders.
- Fall: The Friends acquired microfilm of the papers of General Claire L. Chennault.

1989

- May 19: The Friends acquired the collection of Colonel Yvonne C. Pateman and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).
- Fall: Established The Friends of the Library Memorial Fund.
- September: Library designated as official repository of the records of the RAF Eagle Squadrons of World War II.
- November 20: The El Pomar Foundation approved grant of \$25,000 for archival conservation of materials within the Gimbel Collection.

1990

- October 23: The Boettcher Foundation approved a grant of \$23,000 for archival conservation of materials within the Gimbel Collection.
- Establishment of the Colonel John M. Bennett Memorial.
- The Friends acquired a donation of a 1,000-volume collection of publications related to the life and times of Franklin Roosevelt.

1991

- Major conservation project was undertaken. Funding from the Boettcher and El Pomar Foundations was used to conserve over 2,000 books, prints, and non-book items in the Gimbel Collection.

1992

- March: The Friends contracted for the reframing of a series of prints for the historical exhibit with the Gimbel Library.
- The Friends Memorial Book Program (Honor Book) was established.

1993

- March: The Friends acquire custom-made furniture handcrafted by Colonel Thomas Personett for use in the Gimble Library.
- May 19: Annual funding to The Friends approved by the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation.
- October: The Friends negotiated agreements as the future repository for the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society. Materials for this collection have continued to be acquired.
- October: Doolittle Raiders Association Chairman, Brig. General Richard A. Knobloch, designated the Library as the future repository for Raiders records and personal papers.

1994

- April: The Friends completed the prospectus for the publication of a catalogue of the holdings within the Gimbel Collection.
- October 5: The Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Shelia Widnall, visited The Friends.

1995

- March 17: First annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The Eagle Squadrons of World War II.”
- April: The Friends acquired segments of the papers of General Emmitt “Rosie” O’Donnell.
- October: Krause Publications donated photography of ancient seals and over two hundred medals and coins to be included within the Gimbel Collection.
- October: The Friends selected bibliographers to produce an annotated bibliography of holdings within the Gimbel Library for a book to be published, The Genesis of Flight.

1996

- March 15: Second annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The Benjamin C. Steele Prisoner of War Art Exhibit.”
- September 9: Donation from the Former Prisoners of Stalag Luft III Association for the maintenance and preservation of the Stalag Luft III Collection.
- The Friends acquired the research collection of air power historian, Dewitt S. Copp.
- The Friends received a two-volume set of *L’Album De La Guerre* donated by Major General R. A. Yudkin.
- December Annual meeting revised the bylaws to increase number of directors to maximum of 20 serving three-year terms.

1997

- April 25: Third annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The History of Stalag Luft III.”
- The Friends acquired the private collection of Charles H. Dolan, the last surviving member of the Lafayette Escadrille.
- The Friends acquired the papers of Major General Leigh Wade, a member of the crew of the “Round the World Flight.”
- The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of General Bryce Poe.

1998

- Fourth annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The History of the Air Force Academy.” Lecture by Lt. General Bradley Hosmer, first graduate of the Academy.
- The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of General Ronald R. Fogleman.

1999

- Vietnam Prisoner of War research collection was donated by Colonel Fred Kiley.
- Segments of the “History of the Academy” exhibit were placed on exhibit at Doolittle Hall (no annual exhibit and lecture due to production of the Gimble Catalogue).
- “The Jeanne Holm Collection on Women in the Armed Forces” was donated by Major General Jeanne Holm, USAF (Ret).

- Acquired a rare print (# 27 of 70) of a painting of World War I French ace, Captain George Guynancr by Henry Farre'. The Academy's collections of original Farre' art is one of the largest in the world.

2000

- October 26: Using existing and specifically donated funds, The Friends published The Genesis of Flight with the University of Washington Press. This coffee table book contains an annotated bibliography to about 350 of the many thousand items in the Gimbel Collection. The foremost scholars in their fields in the country did the item selection and narrative.
- The Friends acquired selected publications of the art of falconry from Mr. Tony Huston.
- The Friends acquired the wartime records of the 39th Fighter Group donated by Colonel Frank Royal.
- Segments of the Stalag Luft III collection, the "Clark scrapbook" were digitized.
- The "History of Stalag Luft III" exhibit became available on the internet.
- The Friends contracted with Word One Associates to produce a CD to accompany the Gimbel Catalogue.
- The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of Lt. General George Stratemeyer.

2001

- November: The Friends sponsored a POW display for the reunion of POWs from the war in Southeast Asia. Among the honored guests were Brig. General Robinson Risner and Mr. H. Ross Perot.
- The Friends began an annual project of providing copies of the CD-ROM, The Genesis of Flight, to the History Department for distribution to all fourth-class cadets. This project continued until 2006.

2002

- Acquired significant research collection related to the internment in the United States of more than 10,000 Germans and German Americans during the World War II.
- The Superintendent approved The Friends' project to produce a DVD for the 50th Anniversary of the Academy. The AOG agreed to finance the project.
- Rae Hellen The Friends Administrative Assistant for 15 years retire and her duties were assumed by Christie Schwank

2003

- April 10: The Special Collections Branch of the Air Force Academy Library was renamed the Lt. General A. P. Clark Special Collections Branch.
- May 1: The Academy Library was renamed the Robert F. McDermott Library.
- May 13: Falconry at the US Air Force Academy, authored by A. P. Clark and sponsored by The Friends of the Library, was released. Also released was The Friends-contracted DVD on Falconry at the Air Force Academy produced by Word One.

- May: The Friends provided partial funding for the purchase of a quarter-scale model of the Wright Flyer that now hangs in the Library stairwell.
- July: The Friends website activated.

2004

- April 1: The Friends sponsored a gala in Doolittle Hall to celebrate the release of the Friends-sponsored DVD on the first 50 years of the Air Force Academy, Expect Great Things. On hand for this momentous event were over 200 guests. Lt. General Brad Hosmer, the first USAFA graduate, introduced the showing of the DVD.
- May 11: A bound copy of the compendium of nearly 50 oral history interviews of individuals significant in the first 50 years of the Academy, completed by The Friends to commemorate the Academy's 50th anniversary, was presented to the Association of Graduates.
- Fall: The Friends and The Escape and Evasion Society-sponsored DVD, Evade!, was completed.
- October: The Friends-sponsored DVD on the Southeast Asia POW collection, housed in the McDermott Library, was completed.

2005

- May 19: The Friends sponsored 50th Anniversary Interview Compendium was presented to the McDermott Library.
- Fall: The Friends acquired General Hubert Harmon's papers for deposit in the McDermott Library.
- September 21: The Friends received approximately \$1,400,000 from the estate of the late Maj. General Richard Yudkin.
- December: The War Memorial Wall database project is started to gather available information on all Academy graduates memorialized on the Academy's Memorial Wall, insert into a database, and make the database contents available on The Friends website.

2006

- May 17: Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years, by Brig. General George V. Fagan, was released after being republished by The Friends.
- Using the Yudkin bequest, The Friends established a quasi-endowment with the Association of Graduates (AOG) for \$1,000,000 and reserved \$400,000 for current and future projects. The quasi-endowment with the AOG was transferred to a similar instrument with the USAFA Endowment (now AFA Foundation) in 2013.

2007

- Spring: The Friends agreed to host the English Department cadet writing project, *Icarus*, on their website.

- Fall: The Friends published a comprehensive brochure on the Clark Firearms Collection, displayed on the Library's spiral staircase, for use by visitors to the Library or those interested in the collection.
- The Friends funded the digitization of over 500 pages from the Doolittle Collection.

2008

- July 1: The Friends comprehensive Memorial Wall project was opened on The Friends' website. This database includes over 40,000 pages of information on all graduates whose names appear on the Memorial Wall.
- Fall: The Friends began an ongoing program of placing independent contractors in the Clark Special Collections Branch to organize, catalog, and preserve the continuing additions to the Library facilitated by The Friends.
- September: Brig. General Philip Caine agrees to donate his extensive Eagle Squadron collection to the Library.

2009

- January 1: The Friends acquired the RAF Eagle Squadron Collection. When completed in 2011, it made the Academy Library collection on these historic World War II squadrons among the most comprehensive in the world.
- April 16: The biography of the first Academy Superintendent, Lt. General Hubert R. Harmon, Harmon: Airman, Officer, Father of the Air Force Academy, by Phillip Meilinger, sponsored by The Friends, and published by Fulcrum Publishing was released.
- August: The Friends completed the transcription of the oral history interviews of Academy Prep School Commanders.

2010

- March 8: Lt. General A.P. Clark, President of The Friends, died. Brig. General Philip Caine became the new President at the annual Board meeting in May.
- Fall: The Friends terminated their nearly 10 year-long oral history interview project because of the formation of the Academy Center for Oral History. During those years, The Friends project was responsible for interviewing eight Superintendents, five Deans of the Faculty, five Commandants, and nearly 50 other key individuals in the history of the Air Force Academy.

2011

- May 10: The Friends established the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship to support scholars interested in advanced research in the McDermott Library.
- September: Transcription and binding of the over 50 oral interviews with the members of the World War II RAF Eagle Squadrons was completed.

2012

- May: The Board changed the fiscal year to 1 July through 30 June to better align with the annual Board of Directors meeting held in May.

- June: The first three Clark-Yudkin Fellows conducted research at the McDermott Library.
- Fall: The Friends-sponsored project to establish a database on The Friends' website including all Academy graduates who were prisoners of war was completed.

2013

- Fall: The Friends-sponsored project to include comprehensive data on all Jabara Award winners in a database on The Friends' website was completed.

2014

- February 5: The Friends-sponsored project to produce an online version of The Genesis of Flight was completed and launched on The Friends' website.
- March: Work started to compile the Distinguished Graduates database to be available on the web site.
- The Friends initiated extensive support of the Library project to collect and catalog all materials pertaining to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles research and operations at the Academy.
- Fall: The Friends-sponsored project to include comprehensive data on all AOG Distinguished Academy Graduates in a database on the Friends' website was completed.

2015

- A much more attractive and comprehensive Friend's website was inaugurated.
- With the aid of several original faculty members of the Political Science Department, The Friends acquired the papers of Lt. Colonel Bradbury. These included priceless files on World War II underground and clandestine operations.
- The extensive project to digitize the monumental collection (over 50 volumes) of the papers for General and Mrs. Lawrence Kuter was completed.
- The fifth group of Clark-Yudkin Fellows completed their research in the Academy Library archives. This project is proving to contribute to both the North Central admonition that the Academy seek greater interaction with civilian colleges and universities as well as to continue to promote the awareness of the significant archival collections housed in the Clark Special Collections Branch. This is an ongoing project.
- Acquisition of records of the Douglas World Cruisers 1924 Around-the-World Flyers.
- The Friends was a key player in the Library's effort to continue to collect materials on Remotely Piloted Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles .

2016

- The Friends launched a new initiative to encourage the donation to the Library of personal papers and collections pertaining to both the Air Force and the Academy.
- The Friends provided a contract employee to catalog the Library's acquisitions of the Hanscom AFB Library's holdings when it was closed.
- The Friends began an ongoing commitment to include "This Day in Academy History" on their website.

- The Friends continued to fund the acquisition of additional historically valuable materials for inclusion in the Gimbel Collection.

2017

- June 30: Retirement of Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the McDermott Library.
- September: The Friends undertook the extensive process of locating, transcribing, rejuvenating, and cataloging hundreds of oral histories related to Academy key personnel and Air Force and world history. This is an ongoing project of vital importance.
- December: Additional items for the General Hap Arnold collection were donated by his grandson.

2018

- Transferring files and finding aids The Friends have digitized or produced to the Library's new IT contractor's system has proved to be difficult. The Friends' contractors provided significant assistance.
- June: A project to upgrade the databases to a modern platform and host them in the cloud was initiated.
- August: Digitized segments of the Stalag Luft III collection on the website.
- December 4: A History of the Permanent Professors of the United States Air Force Academy by Brig. Generals James H. Head and Erlind G. Royer, whose publication was funded by The Friends, was released at a reception and book signing.
- The Friends acquired additional personal papers of General Ronald R. Fogleman and General Hap Arnold.

2019

- January: Ms. Diane Klare becomes Director of the McDermott Library.
- Acquisition and preservation of the World War II 365th Fighter Group "Hell Hawks" collection.
- February: Obtained a collection of Flight Lieutenant James Gray, a pilot who stayed in the RAF and didn't transfer to the Army Air Corps. This collection of documents, pictures, correspondence, and other items on the World War II RAF Eagle Squadrons further cements this collection's reputation as one of the finest in the world.
- February: Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years, by George Fagan, and republished by The Friends was released by Fulcrum Group for upload to the website, available for free download.
- Acquired Ploesti Raid collection, which included several oral histories.
- April: Completed upgrading and rehosting of the graduate databases.
- June: Initiated development of a Graduate Astronauts database to join the existing four databases.

2020

- February: Completed the Oral Histories Project started in 2017.
- March: The last in-person meeting of the Executive Committee was held. All subsequent meetings in 2020 were virtual due to the COVID-19 virus.
- April: After 10 years of stellar service, Brig. General Phil Caine stepped down as President and Brig. General Erlind Royer replaced him.
- September: Revised Friends' policies approved by the Board.
- December: The Walter Steck collection of items from his time as a POW in Stalag Luft III was acquired.
- December: Additional Gen. Hap Arnold letters (14) dating from 1911 to 1945 were donated by his grandson.

2021

- April: Major General Curry, first commander of the Civil Air Patrol (Dec 1941), collection donated by Mr. Ed O'Brien.
- September: The first Executive Committee in-person meeting since March 2020 due to the Covid virus.
- September: After canceling the 2020 luncheon, a delayed 2021 luncheon was held as the Covid restrictions were eased.
- Dec: The Wyatt collection of papers from over 465 Vietnam POWs donated by Barbara Wyatt, author of the book We Came Home.
- Dec: Additional Gen. Hap Arnold letters (16) dating from 1906 to 1946 were donated by his grandson.

Unknown

- Acquisition of World War II Prisoner of War materials.

COLLECTION ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE

- Fall 1988: The Friends acquired microfilm of the papers of General Claire L. Chennault.
- May 19, 1989: The Friends acquired the collection of Colonel Yvonne C. Pateman and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).
- September 1989: Library designated as official repository of the records of the RAF Eagle Squadrons of World War II.
- 1990: The Friends acquired a donation of 1,000-volume collection of publications related to the life and times of Franklin Roosevelt.
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- March 1993: The Friends acquire custom-made furniture handcrafted by Col Thomas Personett for use in the Gimble Library.
- October 1993: The Friends acquired agreements as the future repository for the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society. Material for this collection have continued to be acquired.
- October 1993: Doolittle Raiders Chairman, Brigadier General Richard A. Knobloch, designated the Library as the future repository for Raiders records and personal papers.
- April 1994: The Friends completed the prospectus for the publication of a catalogue of the holdings within the Gimbel Collection.
- April 1995: The Friends acquired segments of the papers of General Emmitt “Rosie” O’Donnell.
- October 1995: The Friends selected bibliographers to produce an annotated bibliography of holdings within the Gimbel Library for The Genesis of Flight.
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- 1997: The Friends acquired the papers of Major General Leigh Wade.
- 1997: The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of General Bryce Poe.
- 1998: The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of General Ronald R. Fogleman.
- 1999: Vietnam Prisoner of War research collection was donated by Colonel Fred Kiley.

- 2000: The Friends acquired selected publications of the art of falconry from Mr. Tony Huston.
- 2000: The Friends acquired the wartime records of the 39th Fighter Group donated by Colonel Frank Royal.
- 2000: Segments of the Stalag Luft III collection “Clark scrapbook” were digitized.
- 2000: The Friends acquired a segment of the papers of General George Stratemeyer.
- Fall 2005: The Friends acquired General Hubert Harmon’s papers for deposit in the Academy Library.
- January 1, 2009: The Friends acquired the RAF Eagle Squadron Collection. When completed in 2011, it made the Academy Library collection on these historic World War II squadrons among the most comprehensive in the world.
- September 2011: Transcription and binding of the over 50 oral interviews with the members of the World War II RAF Eagle Squadrons was completed.
- 2015: With the aid of several original faculty members of the Political Science Department, The Friends acquired the papers of Lt. Colonel Bradbury. These included priceless files on World War II underground and clandestine operations.
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- 2016: The Friends provided a contract employee to catalog the Library’s acquisition of the Hanscom AFB Library’s holdings when it was closed.
- 2016: The Friends continued to fund the acquisition of additional historically valuable materials for inclusion in the Gimbel Collection.
- 2017: The Friends undertook the extensive process of locating, transcribing, rejuvenating and cataloging hundreds of oral histories related to Academy key personnel and Air Force and world history. This project was completed in February of 2020.
- 2018: The Friends acquired additional personal papers of General Ronald R. Fogleman and General Hap Arnold.
- 2019: Acquisition and preservation of the World War II 365th Fighter Group “Hell Hawks” collection.
- Unknown: Acquisition of World War II Prisoner of War materials.

PUBLICATIONS

- October 26, 2000: Using existing and specifically donated funds, The Friends published The Genesis of Flight by the University of Washington Press under the auspices of the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library. This coffee table book contains an annotated

bibliography to about 350 of the many thousand items in the Gimbel Collection. The foremost scholars in their fields in the country did the item selection and narrative.

- 2000: The “History of Stalag Luft III” exhibit was placed on the internet.
- 2000: The Friends contracted with Word One Associates to produce a CD to accompany the Gimbel Catalogue.
- 2002: The Superintendent approved The Friends’ project to produce a DVD for the 50th Anniversary of the Academy. The AOG agreed to finance the project.
- May 13, 2003: Falconry at the US Air Force Academy, authored by A. P. Clark and sponsored by The Friends of the Library, was released. Also released was The Friends-contracted DVD on Falconry at the Air Force Academy produced by Word One.
- April 1, 2004: The Friends sponsored a gala in Doolittle Hall to celebrate the release of the Friends-sponsored DVD on the first 50 years of the Air Force Academy, Expect Great Things. On hand for this momentous event were over 200 guests. Lt. General Brad Hosmer introduced the showing of the DVD.
- Fall 2004: The Friends and The Escape and Evasion Society-sponsored DVD, Evade, was completed.
- October 2004: The Friends-sponsored DVD on the Southeast Asia collection, housed in the Academy Library, was completed.
- May 19, 2005: The Friends sponsored 50th Anniversary Interview Compendium was presented to the Academy Library.
- May 17, 2006: Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years, by George Fagan, was released after being republished by The Friends.
- Fall 2007: The Friends published a comprehensive brochure on the Clark Firearms Collection for use by visitors to the Library or those interested in the collection.
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- February 2019: Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years, by George Fagan, and republished by The Friends was released by Fulcrum Group for upload to the website, available for free download.

DISPLAYS AND LECTURES

- March 17, 1995: First annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The Eagle Squadrons of World War II.”

- March 15, 1996: Second annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The Benjamin C. Steele Prisoner of War Art Exhibit.”
- April 25, 1997: Third annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The History of Stalag Luft III.”
- 1998: Fourth annual exhibit and lecture sponsored by The Friends: “The History of the Air Force Academy.”
- 1999: Segments of the “History of the Academy” exhibit were placed on exhibit at Doolittle Hall (no annual exhibit due to production of the Gimble Catalogue).
- November 2001: The Friends sponsored a POW display for the reunion of POWs from the war in Southeast Asia. Among the honored guests were Brig. General Robinson Risner and Mr. H. Ross Perot.
- April 1, 2004: The Friends sponsored a gala in Doolittle Hall to celebrate the release of the Friends-sponsored DVD on the first 50 years of the Air Force Academy, Expect Great Things. On hand for this momentous event were over 200 guests. Lt. General Brad Hosmer introduced the showing of the DVD.

ACADEMY HISTORY

- May 11, 2004: A bound copy of the compendium of nearly 50 oral history interviews of individuals significant in the first 50 years of the Academy, completed by The Friends to commemorate the Academy’s 50th anniversary, was presented to the Association of Graduates.
- July 1, 2008: The Friends comprehensive Memorial Wall project was opened on The Friends’ website. This project includes over 40,000 pages of information on all graduates whose names appears on the Memorial Wall.
- August 2009: The Friends completed the transcription of the oral history interviews of Academy Prep School Commanders.
- Fall 2010: The Friends terminated their nearly 10 year-long oral history interview project because of the formation of the Academy Center for Oral History. During those years, The Friends project was responsible for interviewing eight Superintendents, five Deans of the Faculty, five Commandants, and nearly 50 other key individuals in the history of the Air Force Academy.
- Fall 2012: The Friends-sponsored project of including all Academy graduates who have won the Jabara Award, on the Friends’ website was completed.
- Fall 2013: The Friends-sponsored project to include comprehensive data on all Distinguished Academy Graduates on the Friends’ website was completed.
- 2016: The Friends began an ongoing commitment to include “This Day in Academy History” on their website.
- Ongoing: Digitization of the USAFA Memorial Wall, Prisoner of War, Distinguished Graduates, Jabara Award Winners, and Astronauts data bases.

CADET-RELATED PROJECTS

- 2002: The Friends began an annual project of providing copies of the CD-ROM, The Genesis of Flight, to the History Department for distribution to all fourth class cadets. This project continued until 2006.
- May 2003: The Friends provided partial funding for the purchase of a quarter-scale model of the Wright Flyer that now hangs in the Library stairwell.
- Spring 2007: The Friends agreed to host the English Department cadet writing project, *Icarus*, on their website.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- May 10, 2011: The Friends established the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship to support scholars interested in advanced research in the McDermott Library.
- June 2012: The first three Clark-Yudkin Fellows conducted research at the McDermott Library.
- 2015: The fifth group of Clark-Yudkin Fellows completed their research in the Academy Library archives. This project is proving to contribute to both the North Central admonition that the Academy seek greater interaction with civilian colleges and universities as well as to continue to promote the awareness of the significant archival collections housed in the Clark Special Collections Branch. This is an ongoing project.

FINANCIAL

- June 2, 1987: The Friends was approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 corporation.
- Fall 1989: Establishment of The Friends of the Library Memorial Fund.
- November 20, 1989: The El Pomar Foundation approved grant of \$25,000 for archival conservation of materials within the Gimbel Collection.
- 1990: Establishment of the Colonel John M. Bennett Memorial.
- October 23, 1990: The Boettcher Foundation approved a grant of \$23,000 for archival conservation of materials within the Gimbel Collection.
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- 2007: The Friends funded the digitization of over 500 pages from the Doolittle Collection.

- May 2012: The Board changed The Friends' fiscal year to 1 July through 30 June to better align with the annual Board of Directors meeting held in May.
- Ongoing: The Friends provide funds for purchase of specific USAFA Library requests.
- Ongoing: Fund shipping of Library acquisitions.
- Ongoing: The Friends annually solicit applicants and budget for the Clark-Yudkin Research fellowships.
- 2018: Funded publication of A History of the Permanent Professors of the United States Air Force Academy book.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Fall 2008: The Friends began an ongoing program of placing independent contractors in the Special Collections division to organize, catalog, and preserve the continuing additions to the Library facilitated by The Friends.
- 2014: The Friends initiated extensive support of the Library project to catalog all materials pertaining to UAV operations housed at the Academy.
- 2015: A much more attractive and comprehensive Friends website was inaugurated and is being updated periodically.
- 2015: The Friends was a key player in the Library's effort to continue to collect materials on RPVs and UASs.
- 2015: The fifth group of Clark-Yudkin Fellows completed their research in the Academy Library archives. This project is proving to contribute to both the North Central admonition that the Academy seek greater interaction with civilian colleges and universities as well as to continue to promote the awareness of the significant archival collections housed in the Special Collections division. This is an ongoing project.
- 2016: The Friends launched a new initiative to encourage the donation to the Library of personal papers and collections pertaining to both the Air Force and the Academy.
- July 1, 2008: The Friends comprehensive Memorial Wall project was opened on The Friends' website. This project includes over 40,000 pages of information on all graduates whose names appear on the Memorial Wall.
- Ongoing: Digitization of the USAFA Prisoner of War data base.
- Ongoing: Acquisition and preservation of rare books and photographs.
- Ongoing: Maintenance of the Gimbel collection.
- Ongoing: Continuing acquisition of selected papers on General H. H. Hap Arnold.
- Ongoing: The Friends provide funds for purchase of specific USAFA Library requests.
- Ongoing: Fund shipping of Library acquisitions.