

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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ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON



General Caine presents Captain McGrath with *The Genesis of Flight*

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its Annual Meeting on May 8, 2012. President Phil Caine opened the meeting and briefly reviewed the activities of The Friends during the past year. He noted the continuing key role played by The Friends in preserving Academy heritage, making it one of the key non-profits dedicated to enhancing the quality of the Academy experience. In this regard, The Friends completed the last oral history transcription and officially closed that highly successful program. The Friends are also continuing to keep the Memorial Wall Project database current as additional information on those graduates memorialized on the wall becomes available (see article elsewhere in the newsletter). He then expressed appreciation for the work of The Friends' contractors, Jennifer Murphy and Travis Pollock, who are updating the catalogue of the Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection so that it can be made

available online, and who are also organizing and cataloging the historical collections acquired by The Friends during the past several years.

Dr. Jim Titus reported on the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship Program. Two fellowships were awarded in 2012, the program's inaugural year, since the total cost of both requests was well within the amount budgeted (see article on the fellowship awardees elsewhere in the newsletter).

The Board of Directors then took up elections. The first order was the reelection of members of the Board whose term expires in 2012: Brig. Gen. Philip Caine, Dr. Richard Lemp, Brig. Gen. Erlind Royer, Col. Jock Schwank, Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, and Dr. Donald White. The election of the organization's officers followed. The slate of Brig. Gen. Philip Caine, President; Brig. Gen. James Head, Vice President; Col.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Twenty-five years is a long time for an organization to exist; in fact, many don't last five years. During the quarter-century since its founding in February 1987, The Friends' accomplishments have been remarkable. These results have been achieved due to support from you, our dedicated patrons; the inspired leadership of the late Lt. Gen. A.P. Clark; and the foresight of the organization's other four founders: Gen. T. R. Milton, Lt. Gen. Tommy Moorman, Brig. Gen. George Fagan, and Brig. Gen. Jesse Gatlin. They had a vision for The Friends and were dedicated to its fulfillment. It was small at first, just helping to fund the preservation of the invaluable Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection and acquiring Col. Tom Personnet's beautiful furniture for the Gimbel Room; adding books to enhance the Falconry Collection; and obtaining other unique collections, such as the Stalag Luft III Prisoners of War materials. But over the years since these beginnings, The Friends has grown and expanded its activities. It has significantly increased the acquisition of world-class collections of historical materials; published four prestigious books, including *The Genesis of Flight* and the award-winning biography of General Hubert R. Harmon; compiled a collection of key oral history interviews; and produced a DVD on the Academy's first fifty years. Additionally, The Friends' galas and exhibits on the Eagle Squadrons, Stalag Luft III, the History of the Academy, and the Gimbel Collection have set a high standard of quality and professionalism. The result of these many achievements has

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ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON *cont. from page 1*

Andrew Biancur, Secretary; and Col. Jock Schwank, Treasurer was unanimously approved. Finally, the Board unanimously elected the following to The Friends' Executive Committee: Phil Caine, James Head, Andrew Biancur, Jock Schwank, Peggy Litwhiler, and Jim Titus.

Treasurer Schwank gave the financial report. A six-month 2012 budget was approved as was a proposal to change The Friends' fiscal year to July 1 through June 30. The 2012-2013 fiscal year budget was subsequently presented and approved.

President Caine summarized the proposed Friends' projects for 2012-2013. One of the most significant will be the expansion of the Memorial Wall Project database to include Jabara Award winners, graduates who were POWs/MIAs, and those graduates receiving the

Distinguished Air Force Academy Alumni Award. Another important project will be the preparation of *The Genesis of Flight* for release on The Friends' website. Former Board member Col. Jim Gaston is doing this work; we expect it to be online by the end of 2013.

Lt. Col. Gary Howe, Vice President of the Association of Graduates, briefed the Board on current activities and challenges that face the AOG. Gen. Steve Lorenz, President/CEO of the USAFA Endowment, updated the board on the status of its activities. Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the McDermott Library, summarized some of the issues facing the Library that impact The Friends. He concluded with very kind remarks on the essential role played by The Friends in the overall success of the McDermott Library. The meeting then adjourned for the Annual Luncheon.

The luncheon began with a tribute to the late Brig. Gen. George Fagan, one of the founders of The Friends, who passed away in April. Our luncheon speaker was retired Navy Capt. Mike McGrath. He held the nearly 80 members of the audience spellbound with stories of his experiences as a POW in Southeast Asia for nearly six years during the Vietnam War. As part of his remarks, Captain McGrath emphasized the continuing importance of books and libraries in the preservation of history, despite information's increasing automation in our age. President Caine presented Captain McGrath a copy of *The Genesis of Flight* as a memento of his presentation.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors and Annual Luncheon will be in May 2013. Watch for the date and program in our next mailing.

MEMORIAL WALL UPDATE

The Memorial Wall, constructed in 1970 and located in the cadet area, lists the names of 178 graduates killed as a result of hostile action during a state of military conflict. The initial phase of The Friends' Memorial Wall Project to create an interactive database of information pertaining to these individuals was recently completed with the addition of the last batch of available data, and by making the database available to the public on The Friends' website.

Currently, work on the database consists of routine maintenance and the addition of new information as it becomes available. It is hoped that the public will become increasingly aware of the resource, and that relatives, classmates, friends, and others will be able to supply new data appropriate for inclusion.

Of course as other names are added to the wall, information about

them will be included in the database. The most recent addition was Lt. Justin J. Wilkens, Class of 2009, who died February 18, 2012 near Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

The Friends has recently decided to apply the methods developed for the Memorial Wall Project to help collect and digitize information maintained in three other collections currently maintained by the Association of Graduates. These are: the Graduate POW/MIAs, the Distinguished Graduate Program, and The Jabara Award Program. These three databases, along with the Memorial Wall database, reflect The Friends' ongoing effort to preserve, maintain, and make accessible the Academy's heritage and history. It is expected that the input phase for the three projects will be completed in 2013 and that each database will be made available to the public through The Friends' website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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been to make The Friends the premier organization dedicated to the preservation of the Air Force Academy's heritage and history.

Our founders had a vision to which they were committed; we have been able to build on that vision for a quarter of a century. The nature and purposes of libraries everywhere are changing. No one can foresee the future, but I am confident that with the continued enthusiastic support of our patrons we will be able to deal with change as it comes and look forward to another quarter century of serving the Academy, the Air Force, and the Nation.

We'd like to hear from you! Contact The Friends at friends@usafalibrary.com

THE FRIENDS' PROGRAMS

During Fiscal Years (FY) 2011 and 2012 The Friends initiated and completed a number of programs that supported its mission of enhancing the quality of the Air Force Academy's 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.

In FYs 2011 and 2012, The Friends enhanced its status as the premier source of information on Academy graduate heritage. We updated the online database pertaining to those individuals listed on the Graduate Memorial Wall, and are compiling databases on graduate POWs/MIAs, graduate Jabara Award winners, and Distinguished Air Force Academy Alumni Award

recipients.

In 2011 The Friends hired a contractor to archive and catalog digitally all of the items in the Gimbel Aeronautic History Collection. An additional multi-year contract has been initiated to digitize and place on The Friends' website *The Genesis of Flight*, the fully illustrated book on the Gimbel Collection. Another contractor spent hundreds of hours bringing up to archival standards the numerous collections of personal papers of historically significant individuals maintained in the Clark Special Collections Branch.

The Friends also supported the Clark Special Collections Branch by funding the shipment of collections donated to the Library. In addition, The Friends provide a line-of-credit for the Library to buy rare or unique items. In 2012 these funds were used to purchase an extremely rare political satire balloon cartoon print.

In 2012 The Friends introduced the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship, and awarded two inaugural stipends. (See article below.)

The Friends continued to communicate through our newsletter and other mail-outs. Additionally, we expanded the informative and interesting material available on our online website (www.friends.usafalibrary.com). Our annual spring luncheon has been another excellent way for supporters to keep current on The Friends' activities. It continues to attract many in the local area and to feature exciting guest speakers.

All of The Friends' Library programs are only possible because of donations from our supporters. We sincerely appreciate your help and depend on your continued financial assistance.

RECIPIENTS OF INAUGURAL CLARK-YUDKIN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

As reported in our June 2011 newsletter, The Friends has established the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship in order to promote increased scholarly awareness and use of the rich materials available in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library. We are pleased to announce the names of two individuals who have been selected as the inaugural Clark-Yudkin Research Fellows for 2012:

Dr. Samuel Zebulon Baker

Assistant Professor of History, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia.

- Ph. D. American Studies, Emory University, 2009
- M.A., American Studies, University of Alabama, 2003
- B.S., English, Georgia Southern University, 2001
- Research interests: American popular culture; the politics of sport

Project title: "Forward Progress: Desegregating College Football, 1945-1975"

Project summary: Drawing on a variety of primary source materials, Dr. Baker's research at the Academy will support his forthcoming book on the desegregation of American college football.

Proposed dates of visit: June 3-8, 2012

Research grant: \$3,377.35



Drs. Zeb Baker and Jim Titus

Ms. Amelia Underwood

Graduate student, Department of History, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

- B.S., Environmental Sciences and Engineering, U.S. Military Academy, 1987

• Research interests: environmental, technological, and gender history

Project title: "Living on the Outside: An Analysis of the Integration Process of Women at the United States Air Force Academy"

Project summary: Ms. Underwood plans to examine the holdings in the Clark Special Collections Branch pertaining to the integration of women during the first decade following their admission to the Air Force Academy in 1976.

Proposed dates of visit: June 11-July 9, 2012

Research grant: \$5,150.

By way of background, grants awarded under the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Recipients are expected to complete their fellowship research within one year from the date of the award. The expected output of a Clark-Yudkin Fellowship is a scholarly book, thesis, or paper worthy of publication.

For more information please visit The Friends' website at www.friends.usafalibrary.com.

George V. Fagan Brigadier General, United States Air Force 1917 - 2012

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Brig. Gen. George Fagan circa 1962

With the passing of Brigadier General George V. Fagan on March 15, 2012, The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library lost a distinguished founding father and the wider Academy community a highly respected authority on the Academy's history. Culminating a distinguished career in the Air Force, which included service with the 8th Air Force during World War II, George reported to the Academy on January 5, 1955 as one of the first members of the faculty and Associate Professor of History. He became very involved in planning the curriculum for the first class of cadets.

In July 1955, the Superintendent, General Hubert R. Harmon, appointed George to

become Director of the Academy Library replacing the retiring Lt. Col. Arthur J. Larson. The top priority of the Air Force, at that time, was to obtain accreditation for the Academy before the graduation of the Class of 1959. The adequacy of the Library's holdings and staff to support the curriculum would be a significant part of that evaluation (accreditation was awarded before June 1959).

During Fagan's fifteen-year administration, the Library's holdings increased from 20,000 to 350,000 volumes. Among his innovations was the creation of the Special Collection Branch, which housed the Academy's archives and curriculum data, as well as photographs and other materials on the progress of the Academy's development and the history of the Air Force and airpower. He also acquired the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection, one of the most comprehensive archives on the history of flight in the world.

Fagan was confirmed as the Permanent Professor of History in 1962 and was promoted to Brigadier General after his retirement. Among his decorations were the Legion of Merit and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He wrote two books, *An Illustrated History of the Air Force Academy* and *The Academy Heritage, the Early Years*.

Following retirement, General Fagan began a second distinguished career as Director of the Tutt Library at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He subsequently established the Tutt Library's Special Collections which housed the archives, photographs, and publications of the college, as well as historical data on Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region.

For thirty-five years, in addition to his professional life, George was deeply involved as a volunteer in civic life, especially activities which helped the elderly throughout Colorado Springs. He served on the Board of the Fine Arts Center and was one of the founders of the Colorado Springs Senior Center, the Marian House, and the Villas San Jose and Santa Maria. He played an important role in establishing the citywide sponsors of the Sunday Seniors Program at the Acacia Apartments.

He will be sorely missed by The Friends, and the Academy and Colorado Springs communities.

The Friends of the Library Annual Board Meeting, 2012



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