

Man's Flight

Through Life Is

Sustained By The

Power Of His

Knowledge

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

P.O. Box 188

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

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### MORE RESPONSES

The Friends have now sent over 100 copies of *The Genesis of Flight* to libraries and museums all over the world. Here are quotes from several of the replies:

"I can't overstate how impressed I am with the thoroughness of the writing, the beauty, and overall quality of this undertaking. My father would be totally delighted at this handsome tribute to his lifelong passion." —Roger Climb.4

"This beautiful book not only does justice to its subject, but is packed with impeccable scholarship. As we begin to plan the Library's exhibit to celebrate the first hundred years of flight, I feel comfortable in the knowledge that in some ways we have been preceded in that attempt by your magnificent book."

—The Library of Congress

"To The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, congratulations for the splendid result of their efforts."

—Vatican Library

"It will become a welcome addition to many collections. Your plan to place the book in libraries and museums is on target. By putting it in such public places you can inspire members of future generations who dream of flying."

—General Michael E. Ryan  
Chief of Staff, USAF

"This is a magnificent publication made all the more valuable by the inclusion of the media disk. We are also working toward making our special Library holdings more accessible to the students and other interested in learning. This presen-

### FRIEND'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON A BIG SUCCESS

More than 60 members and guests attended The Friends annual luncheon on May 11, 2001. Our speaker was the Academy Superintendent, Lt. General John D. Dallager. General Dallager brought us all up-to-date on key issues, changes and challenges facing the Academy. He also praised the vital work being done by The Friends in enhancing the critical role played by the Academy Library in the education experience of the cadet wing. At the completion of his talk, General Clark presented General Dallager with a framed copy of a Montgolfier Balloon print.



General Clark presenting General Dallager with a copy of the Montgolfier print.

tation that you have worked to produce is a model for what can be done to give life and vitality to collections."

—U.S. Military Academy

"As the proud repository of another distinguished Gimbel Collection, the Free Library of Philadelphia is happy to accept the gift of *The Genesis of Flight*. It is a distinguished piece of work. The book will be cataloged and added to the reference collection of our Rare Book Department, which houses Colonel Gimbel's great Edgar Allan Poe collection." —The Free Library of Philadelphia

"This volume provides us with a valuable record of Colonel Gimbel's collection of material covering the early period of aviation and I am sure it will be of great interest both to Museum staff and to visiting researchers."

—Royal Air Force Museum

"This book not only honors the man and his collection, but it also brings great credit to the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library who had the foresight to publish such a fine illustrated catalogue of the collection."

—United States Air Force Museum

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The operation of The Friends Executive Committee has not escaped the impact of the national tragedy of September 11.

Access to our office in the Academy Library remains difficult. With the Academy now on high alert, we have had to find an alternate meeting place. In spite of all, The Friends has developed a blue print and goals for our major projects for the next four or five years. They are the subject of an article elsewhere in this newsletter. While the goals are ambitious, they all represent important contributions to the Library and, indeed, to the Academy.

I am very proud of the perseverance of my Executive Committee to carry on and continue to make substantial progress as our world changes around us. Meanwhile, you may contact us by mail, phone or e-mail. The phone number is (719) 333-4674 and the e-mail address is friends@usafalibrary.com.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Friends Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting on December 7, 2001 at Doolittle Hall. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. In addition to the normal business items, we will have two important presentations. Colonel Jim Shaw, the President/CEO of the Academy Association of Graduates, will talk about the relationship between The Friends and the AOG as well as the status of the several project proposals presented to the AOG. (See article elsewhere in the Newsletter.) Colonel Jim Gaston, the CEO of Word One, will give a demonstration of two CDs that are related to The Friends.

If members have items they believe should be considered by the Board, they may contact the Secretary, Brig. General Phil Caine at (719) 4X1-2510.



Brig. General Jesse C. Gatlin presenting "The Chronicle," the history of the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 1945. The two volumes cover the activities of class members from 1942 to 2001. Many served in the Air Force. Pictured are Brig. General Gatlin; his wife, Audrey; Colonel Kortemeyer and Brig. General Caine.

## FIVE MAJOR PROJECTS PROPOSED

On August 1, 2001, Brig. General Phil Caine, representing The Friends, met with Colonel Jim Shaw, President/CEO of the Academy Association of Graduates, to brief Colonel Shaw on five long-term projects for which The Friends are asking AOG financial support. The Friends are committed to the preservation of the traditions and rich heritage of the Air Force and the Air Force Academy and this commitment is reflected in these projects which are:

1. Production of a catalog that will depict the scope and content of the archival collections of the USAFA Library. This project encompasses the publication of a catalogue of the approximately 1200 individual collections of personal papers and series of groups of official Academy records within the Library's Special Collections Branch. It will also feature an interactive DVD that will complement the catalogue.
2. Publication of the exhibit depicting the history of the first 50 years of the USAF Academy. Prior to the 50th anniversary of the Academy on April 1, 2004, The Friends would like to publish a softback booklet featuring the twenty story boards that were developed by The Friends in 1998 and which have enjoyed unprecedented popularity since that time. It will also include an interactive DVD which will complement the booklet.
3. Publication of an illustrated history of the Air Force Academy Falconry Program. This book is now in the pre-production phase and will contain a narrative history of the falconry program and approximately 50 four-color photographs which illustrate the evolution of falconry at the Academy. It will also include an interactive CD which will complement the book.
4. History of the American prisoner of war experience in Southeast Asia, 1963-1973 on DVD. The Friends were very active in assisting the Library's Special Collections Branch in obtaining artifacts and archival documentation related to the American Southeast Asia prisoner of war experience. This material complements the existing material on the World War II experience to make the Academy holdings on the prisoner of war experience one of the best in the nation. In the spring of 2003, the SEA POWs may hold their reunion at the USAFA. Prior to that reunion, wherever it is held, The Friends would like to publish an interactive DVD depicting that POW experience.
5. Publication of the *DODO* on DVD. The Friends want to produce a DVD containing all of the *DODO*s published from 1957 to present. This cadet publication is very important in the evolution of the Academy and the characteristics of the Cadet Wing. The proposed DVD would subsequently be available to all cadets and graduates through the web.

As you can see, these are very ambitious projects and cost more than The Friends are able to raise through our own membership. The AOG has agreed to put these proposals on their list of projects for future funding. Colonel Jim Shaw will speak more about them at our annual Board meeting on December 7.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Friends received generous financial support from our membership and several significant donors. Our funding was enhanced by the receipt of royalties from the sales of *The Genesis of Night*. These funds allowed The Friends to pursue their mission of enhancing the quality of the Academy Library as an educational, research, scientific and cultural institution.

The Friends acquired several collections of personal papers including series of records, photographs and diaries of special significance to the mission and history of the US Air Force and the Air Force Academy. The Friends also funded the processing of the massive Southeast Asia Prisoner of War Historical Collection. These collections are extensive and extremely valuable for research and study by cadets and air power historians.

The Friends acquired through purchase and donation a number of publications to be included in the holdings of the Academy Library. These publications capture and preserve the rich heritage and tradition of our Air Force and Air Force Academy.

The Friends mailed complementary copies of *The Genesis of Flight* to over 100 military and public libraries and museums worldwide. Funding to provide a CD-ROM of *The Genesis of Flight* to the members of the USAFA Class of 2004 was approved. The CDs were distributed to cadets in conjunction with an academic exercise in the military history core course offered by the Academy's Department of History.

The Friends continued to support, maintain and update the SEA Prisoner of War Exhibit: the continuously displayed History of the Air Force Academy Story Boards; and the Memorial Program, with supporting Honor Book, which is on permanent display in the Academy Library.

The Friends initiated a cooperative effort with the Association of Graduates to acquire private funding to support five

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## THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BRANCH EXPANDED STORAGE CAPABILITY

In October, the renovation of the static shelving area within the Special Collections Branch was completed. A new and revolutionary compact archival and rare book shelving system was installed within the Branch. The system, developed by Spacesaver Concepts Inc., has been placed in leading archival repositories throughout the United States including the National Archives. The installation of the mobile system reclaimed existing storage space and increased the archival storage capacity within the Branch by over 200 percent. Prior to the completion of this crucial project, the Academy Library was in danger of having to decline donations of significant historical collections due to an inadequate storage capability. Installation of the state-of-the-art system now ensures the efficient storage of the Academy's archives and future donations of collections of personal papers.



*Installing compact shelving in the Special Collections area will provide desperately needed capacity.*

## SOUTHEAST ASIA POW COLLECTION

The Friends are very proud of the collection of the Southeast Asia Prisoner of War experience. This collection, which The Friends have been influential in assembling for the Academy Library, is composed of both documents and artifacts.

The documents include not only papers, but also photographs and film which came largely from the files of the historical office of the Secretary of Defense. The artifact portion of the collection has come largely from the generous donation of Mr. Lee Humiston who assembled the POW uniforms and other related material over many years to create a lasting historical record of the sacrifice and heroism of the American prisoners of war.

This fine collection is now the largest and most definitive collection of its kind in the United States. By 2003, the 30th anniversary of "Operation Homecoming", this collection will be enriched by additional material from the Department of Defense and by creating CDs and interactive DVDs that will make available substantial portions of the documentary materials and artifacts for use on personal computers. A substantial portion of the collection is on display on the main floor of the Academy Library.



*A view of the Southeast Asia POW exhibit. The mannequins are wearing the pajama-type uniforms worn by American prisoners.*

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\*Former Superintendent  
of the Academy

## MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library offer an attractive program that has special appeal for those who wish to establish a memorial to specifically recognize individuals, organizations or small groups of individuals (e.g. an aircrew). To date more than 300 such memorials have been established.

For memorial donations totaling \$50 or more, a handsome memorial certificate will be placed in the Friends' Honor Book. The Honor Book is permanently displayed in a prominent location in the Special Collections branch of the Air Force Academy Library.

The donor(s) may request that the memorial donation be used toward the purchase of books for the Academy Library. However, it is preferred that gifts be unrestricted. Unrestricted donations will be used by The Friends, in coordination with the Director of the Academy Libraries, to enhance the quality of the library as an educational, research, scientific and cultural institution.

Detailed information is included in the attached form.

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library rely on the continuing generous support from new and renewing members to achieve their mission of enhancing the quality of the Academy Library as an educational, research, scientific and cultural institution.

The Friends continues to acquire collections of personal papers including series of records, photographs and diaries that are of special significance to the mission and history of the USAF and the Academy.

The Friends continually supports, maintains and updates the unique SEA Prisoner of War Exhibit and historical collection, the Stalag Luft III Exhibit and Historical Collection, the History of the Air Force Academy Story Boards, the Memorial Program and supporting Honor Book; and the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection and the highly acclaimed Friends published catalogue of the collection, *The Genesis of Flight*.

The Friends acquire, through purchase and donation, publications to be included in the Academy Library holdings that capture and preserve the rich heritage and tradition of our Air Force and Air Force Academy.

We need your membership support and the support of your family and friends to continue our quality involvement in 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.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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long-term projects that will directly benefit cadet education and appreciation of their heritage, provide a significant resource for research by scholars, and provide a source of information to the diverse Academy constituency.

The Friends expended funds in excess of \$50,000 in direct support of the Academy Library and in furtherance of the preservation of the rich heritage of the Air Force Academy and the United States Air Force.