President's Holiday Message

The 87th Corps of Cadets was proud to host this year’s Holiday Concert. As in the past, this year’s concert was celebrating the spirit of giving and community that is the essence of the holiday season. Our Regimental Band, Field Music, and Regimental Choir played and sang a number of traditional songs to commemorate this special time of year.

This fall the Corps of Cadets has excelled in the classroom and on the playing fields. We are very proud of the enthusiasm, esprit d’corps, and efforts they have demonstrated over the past few months. After a well-deserved break, the Corps will resume its schedule in January.

On behalf of the entire Valley Forge Family, I wish you a Happy Holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

Stacey R. Sauchuk, Ph.D.
President VFMA&C
Winter Holiday Concert

The Regimental Band
under the direction of Warrant Officer 2nd Class Phil Evans RM (Ret’d), Director of Music, VFMA&C, and under the command of Cadet Captain Joseph Henry, Company Commander.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathew Aumen, Cymbals</th>
<th>Jeffery Banhdith, Trombone</th>
<th>Samantha Barnes, Flute</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bilardo, Trumpet</td>
<td>Amanda Botelho, Trombone</td>
<td>Trevor Buggs, Trombone</td>
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<td>Natalie Burke, Baritone Sax</td>
<td>Christopher Byrd, Alto Sax</td>
<td>John Cary, Drum</td>
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<td>Zongdo Che, Clarinet</td>
<td>Cassius Christie, Euphonium</td>
<td>Emily Claire, Alto Sax</td>
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<td>Carlos Dolby, Drum</td>
<td>Naiil Gallagher, Trumpet</td>
<td>Donte Govine, Bass Drum</td>
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<td>Gabriel Henderson, Cymbals</td>
<td>Joseph Henry, Drum</td>
<td>Minwoo Kang, Clarinet</td>
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<td>Geon Ju Kim, Alto Sax</td>
<td>Arianna Lozano, Clarinet</td>
<td>Omoyemi Mebude, Tuba</td>
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<td>Conor Mooney, Tenor Sax</td>
<td>Seamus Mooney, Baritone Sax</td>
<td>Alec Moore, Tenor Sax</td>
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<td>Max Murog, Trumpet</td>
<td>Nicolas Nulla, Drum</td>
<td>Jose O’Con-Solorazano, Trumpet</td>
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<td>Edward Dedrys, Tuba</td>
<td>Constantine Prolos, Alto Sax</td>
<td>Miguel Ramirez, Alto Sax</td>
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<td>Rakshan Rao, Drum</td>
<td>Rulpert Remy, Tenor Sax</td>
<td>Matthew Richart, Trumpet</td>
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<td>Fransheska Rosa, Flute/Picolo</td>
<td>David Shalat, Trumpet</td>
<td>Xian Bin Shen, Trumpet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Sheng, Alto Sax</td>
<td>Tristan Smith, Trumpet</td>
<td>Thomas Stovall, Trombone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ty Thomas, Drum</td>
<td>Harim Yoo, Drum</td>
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Field Music
Under the direction of **Cadet Captain Ryan Niessner**, Company Commander

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<tr>
<th>Kaimosi Amen-Ra</th>
<th>Jerome Hay</th>
<th>Jonathan Monar Romero</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zhongjie Chen</td>
<td>Anthony Howard</td>
<td>Eddie Montgomery</td>
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<td>Patrick Davies</td>
<td>Abdulai Jalloh</td>
<td>Sandy Saddler</td>
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<td>Bethuel Eliacin</td>
<td>Steve Kak</td>
<td>Daniel Watkins</td>
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<td>Kyle Francois</td>
<td>Salvatore Longo</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Griffith</td>
<td>Johnathon McKenzie</td>
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The Regimental Choir,
Under the direction of **Mr. Harry Sokol** with Choir Accompanist **Mr. Tedd Didden**.

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<tr>
<th>Samantha Barnes</th>
<th>Amanda Botellio</th>
<th>Brandon Burgess</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zongda Che</td>
<td>Thomas Cagnon</td>
<td>Alex Hammond</td>
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<td>Minwoo Kang</td>
<td>Liam Knight</td>
<td>Arianna Lozano</td>
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<td>Omooyemi Mebude</td>
<td>Prometheus Moloney</td>
<td>Alex Moore</td>
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<td>Hannibal Olmeda</td>
<td>Edward Pedrys</td>
<td>Miguel Ramirez</td>
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<td>Xiao Bin Shen</td>
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<td>Zaccary Stauffenberg</td>
<td>Maxwell Thomas</td>
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</tbody>
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With Special Guest Star

Santa

Alumni News

COL Ray Boz Bossert, Jr. ’85

COL Ray Boz Bossert ’85 and his wife Kristi recently welcomed their new baby girl Ava Elaine Bossert. COL Ray has just completed his assignment as a Brigade Commander and will be moving on to his next assignment as the Chief of Staff for the KFOR mission in Kosovo. We all thank you and your family for your service to the Country and for the pride you give us all here at the Forge. God Bless you all.

Parker O’Donnell ’14

We want to wish Parker O’Donnell ’14 the best of luck on his new business Parker O.D’s Photography. Parker has been into photography for a long time and his work is absolutely magnificent. You can check him out on his new website at parker-odonnell@artistwebsites.com.

Christopher Story ’43
Story is music director and permanent conductor of the West Coast Symphony since 1966, the West Coast Chamber Orchestra since 1982 and the Goleta Valley Chamber Orchestra since 1987. Story made his conducting debut with the West Coast Symphony in 1966 at the world famous Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Gardens. The Fiesta Concert has brought Santa Barbara’s Fiesta Celebration to a beautiful close for many years. He has made musical visits to Europe where he conducted in Budapest, Hungary and has recently returned from a trip to Russia where he conducted and recorded the Moscow Philharmonic in Tchaikovsky Hall. Story received his musical training at the University of Michigan and UCLA as well as VFMA&C. He also studied conducting with the legendary Dr. Richard Lert, “Duke” Feltham and Camilla Kolchinsky. You are one of the great Valley Forge Military Academy & College success stories, keep up the great work making beautiful music.

B. Robert Gasparetti ’55JC

After leaving VFMA and graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1957, Robert spent his entire time in the insurance business. Retirement time has come - 12/31/2014 – after 62 years with American Mutual Insurance Co and AIM Insurance Co, holding the title of Credit Manager during most of that time. We wish Robert the best in his new endeavor “Retirement.” Please catch lots of fish and make sure to come back for Homecoming.

Samuel M. Laird ’62

Recently Samuel M. Laird ’62 had the great opportunity to visit the World War II battlefields in France. As a Past President and Past Chairman of the Alumni Association and a Former Trustee of the School, Sam wanted to visit the resting place of our Eric Fisher Wood, Jr. ’37. Thank you Sam for bringing regards from all of us at Valley Forge and for your devotion. God Bless Eric and may his soul rest in peace with the Lord.

Eric Fisher Wood, Jr. ’37 was one of the most decorated U.S. Army officers in World War II and he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation’s 2nd highest award for bravery as well as the Silver and Bronze Stars. He gave his life saving others and deterring the enemy from over running his unit during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 Belgium.

Chase Nathaniel Kochkodin ’07C

Minersville native Sgt. 1st Class Mark Kochkodin, operations non-commissioned officer in charge of Special Troops Battalion, Army Forces Command-Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was sworn in for six more years of service on September 26, by his son CAPT Chase N. Kochkodin ’07C, Brigade Ammunitons Officer, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C. Congratulations to father and son. Well Done from the Forge!!!!!

Edward J. Kehoe, Jr. ’42
We received a picture of one alumnus from his duty in WWII. Please meet **LT Kehoe ’42** taken in Normandy in late June 1944. The following letter was written to H. Cheshire from E. James Kehoe, PhD, Professor of Psychology, School of Psychology, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia. E. James Kehoe, Ph.D. is the son of Edward J. Kehoe, Jr. ’42, Tulsa, OK. “My Dad’s physical health remains good… When we look at photos, he remembers his visit to the Academy and especially his old friend, **Bill Barker ’42, DSC.**”

For what may be of interest to the Academy's history/archives section, I have attached a photo of my father taken in Normandy in late June 1944, two years after his graduation from the Academy. He served as the leader of a mortar section in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th US Infantry Division. His unit landed around D+5 (11 June 1944) on Omaha Beach. His division was involved in clearing the Germans from areas to the north and west of St. Lo. In late July, his division spearheaded the breakout from Normandy. He was wounded in a firearm accident following a German barrage a few days later, just before his 20th birthday. He recovered fully from his injuries and ended the war as a demolition instructor at Camp Maxy, near Paris, Texas. At a party on VJ Day, he had a dance with a young lady who was visiting her father, the camp chaplain. “That woman became Dad's wife and my mother.”

**66th annual OCF Army/Navy Banquet**

Eight Academy cadets traveled to Baltimore on Saturday to participate in the 66th annual OCF Army/Navy Banquet. **#VFMA** cadets joined a group of 200 cadets, midshipmen, staff, and families from the 2 service academies for dinner and fellowship after the **#armynavy** football game. Our cadets enjoyed the interaction with the older service academy students and heard a challenging message on life and faith from COL. (R) Art Athens, USMC (VFMC 2014 graduation speaker).
Congratulations to our December College Graduates:

On Friday, December 12, 2014 the following cadets completed their Associates Degrees in the College and received all the honor and accolades due for this marvelous occasion. Dean of the College, COL William Gallagher, USA (Ret.) officiated the commencement ceremony, which included an inspiring address by our President Dr. Stacey R. Sauchuk. Family, Friends, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni were present to witness this wonderful accomplishment. The following received their Associate Degree:

- Robert Arensmeyer
- Kenneth Bae
- Connor Ferst
- Andres Lara-Urìbe
- John Marra
- Kareem Ragheb
- Heyel Saeed
- Colin Smith

LTC William "Bill" Reese Coon, USA (Ret.) ’38, ‘40C

William (Bill) Reese Coon passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on December 7, 2014.

Bill was born in 1919, and raised in Buffalo, NY. He was the second child of the late William Michael Coon and the late Grace Mahoney Coon. Bill left Buffalo to attend the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA for his high school and Junior College years, where he had a distinguished career. VFMA held a special place in his heart, and he remained an active and supportive alumnus his whole lifetime. Bill joined the DuPont Company for a short time before he was called to active duty, training men for the infantry for WWII. He also served with the Allied Airborne Special Parachute Forces, being dropped behind enemy lines in Germany. Bill continued to serve his country after the war in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Col. in 1975. Bill's business career was spent as a regional salesman for two different advertising companies, never retiring officially until his 80's.

Will, as he was known to us in the Alumni Association was a fixture at VFMA&C and was our most senior past Regimental Commander. Will would come every year for Leadership Training Detail and impart his wisdom and knowledge to the incoming class of cadet officers and non-commissioned officers. Will was much beloved and deeply respected and he will be missed by the cadets, faculty, staff and members of the Alumni Association. Will was so admired and loved, he is the only Regimental Commander that his Corps composed a song about him called “My Major” to the tune of God Bless America. Farewell Will.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Madeleine K. Coon, his parents, William M. Coon and Grace M. Coon, and his brother, Pvt. James Coon. He is survived by his sister Katharine C. Moyer, and his eight

We want to thank the members of the VFMA&C Color Guard, Color Sergeant Elias Jesus, Nathan Welsh, Tyler Umphred, Julian Boldner, and Bugler Master Sergeant Bin Shen. They performed their duties efficiently and with deep respect for our departed classmate.

Donations in Bill's memory may be made to VFMA Foundation (in memory of William R. Coon), 1001 Eagle Road, Wayne, PA, 19087.
- See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delawareonline/obituary.aspx?pid=173418744#sthash.ciqQIyJI.dpuf

Alumni Gift Items

2015 Alumni Pin - $15.00
2015 Alumni Shield Cufflinks - $40.00
Alumni Tie (Battery Red Tie) - $35.00
Alumni Crest - $30.00
**Alumni Challenge Coin** - $25.00

Total Price of Package (1 of each) - $145.00
Special Price for Homecoming Pre-orders - $115.00

To Order please call Tom Goldblum ’69 Director of Alumni Relations, with your credit card at 610-989-1329 or email to: tgoldblum@vfac.edu

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**2015 ALUMNI HOMECOMING**

Friday April 24th and Saturday April 25th 2015
The 87th Corps of Cadets welcome back our Alumni for a Great and Festive Weekend.
Please come and join us, bring back the good ole days and let us show you the new and modern.

Valley Forge Military Academy and College

Note to Alumni and Friends:

If you have an item that is unique and unusual and are willing to donate it to help support our annual Alumni Weekend Silent Action it would be most appreciated. Your donation will help support the activities of the Alumni Association and all that we do for our beloved Forge. Events we sponsor, for example the Academic Stars Dinners, Graduating Classes Dinner, The Cadet Officer’s Dining In, The TAC Officers’ Appreciation Dinner, Homecoming Weekend and much, much more. So if you can see it in your heart to help it would be a wonderful gesture.

We are also seeking alumni who can donate their time to help make Homecoming and even bigger success than in previous years. We don’t ask for a lot of time but any that you can spare is a definite
help. If you wish to donate of your time please contact Tom Goldblum @ 610-989-1329 or tgoldblum@vfmac.edu.

Sincerely,

David Esqueda ’98, ’00C
Chairman of the
AABOD

Joseph Bartasius ’81, ’83C
President of the
Alumni Association

Paul Lea IV ’87, ’89C
Homecoming
Chairman

WHAT’S NEW IN YOUR LIFE…SHARE WITH US

Excited about your new job, house, or degree?
Travel somewhere amazing recently? Or do you have something else to share?
Getting married, having a baby or a grandchild?

Fill us in!

Alumni News notes are a great way to stay in touch and up to date with your classmates and friends. We send your great news out to over 8,000 Alumni throughout the world and your classmates are anxious to hear about all the great things happening.
Contact by email with your pictures (if any) attached: TGoldblum@vfmac.edu and we will let everyone know the happy news.