Alumni Review Newsletter

August 2015

Alumni Happenings

Tom Balish ’78,’80JC

Tom Balish ’78, ’80C the Head Coach for the Forest Park HS Girls Lacrosse team out of Woodbridge Virginia was recently named Virginia 6A Girls Lacrosse Coach of the Year. His team went 13-4, won the 6A South Region title, made it to the State Semi-Finals, first time in school history, and had two players named to first team honors, and four Academic All-Americans. The pictures are a team picture after the team won the region and the other picture is the coaching staff with the region trophy.

Brian W. Kreider ’68C

VFMC Grad Brian W. Kreider ’68C has written and produced a musical about Milton Hershey that sold out the Hershey Area Playhouse last August. This year, on August 16th, the show opens at the Allen Theatre in Annville, PA, seating twice as many as the playhouse. The musical is called, Here Comes Mister Hershey! It's one show only and tickets are going fast.

Hershey was a wonderful and gracious person, but there was another side of Mister Hershey at the factory… the business side. It has been said down through the years that Milton Hershey used to surprise his workers with a walk through the chocolate factory. And, as the opening song suggests, “You Better Look Busy.”

We wish Brian the best of luck on a successful showing and we are certainly glad we were able to send out a flyer to our Alumni in Central and Western Pennsylvania announcing the play.
MAJ. Jeffrey Toczykowski ’95C Memorial Golf Tournament

On Saturday August 1st 2015 Pamela Toczykowski Patton and Peggy Toczykowski were the hosts and organizers of the Annual Major Jeffrey Toczykowski ’95C Memorial Golf Tournament at Five Ponds Golf Course in Warrington, PA. Besides the great competition of the tournament itself we had a silent auction, raffle baskets, give-away commemorative tee shirts, cigars, magazines, lunch, and dinner. We wish to thank everyone who came out to participate, including a team from Army Special Forces who came in from Colorado to compete in honor of their fallen friend and comrade Jeff. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped everything work and for the leadership of Peggy, Pam, and Tom. God Bless this wonderful tournament named after one of our great heroes, **Major Jeffrey Toczykowski ’95C USA, TAPs, Bronze Star, Purple Heart.** This benefits the Valley Forge Military Academy & College Scholarship Fund.

SoCal Regiment Visitation

It just goes to show you that no matter where you travel you are never alone. Our intrepid traveler AABOD Director **Robin Lahiri ’85** found himself lost in the wilderness of southern California where he came across some old friends to chow with. Here we find **Robin Lahiri ’85, Sean Condron ’97, Howard K. Alperin ’83,** and **Mike Eggers ’96** sharing a meal and some old war stories. No matter where you travel we seem to have interested Alumni who want to meet and reminisce. Take advantage of your Alumni Office and let us know where you are going we can probably find a former classmate or two to share a laugh with you. Robin you need a longer selfie stick.

MG George P. Curtin, USA (Ret.) ’37 TAPS

We have received some very meaningful gifts from the estate of Major General George P. Curtin, USA (Ret.) ’37 TAPS in the form of The Cadet Regulations (Guidon) 1937, The War Department Basic Field Manuel, The Methods of the Mounted Service, The Department of the Army Field Manuel entitled Hand-To-Hand Combat, The Pennsylvania Cavalryman by David Gregg, The Soldier’s Handbook of the Rifle Model of 1917, and The History of the 110th Field Artillery by John P. Cooper, Jr. All of these very interesting articles are being given to the Valley Forge Military Academy & College Museum.

L.S. Hightower ’96, ’98C

Great news for **Lucas S. Hightower ’96, ’98C.** He is on the list of new Lieutenant Colonels for the Army. After much work and dedication he has achieved the next step in his career. We thank him for his service to our country and for is dedication to VFMA&C.
Wenzel Nicolaus Riedel '93, '95C

The Valley Forge Military Academy & College Museum would like to thank Wenzel N. Riedel '93, '95C former Regimental Commander for the loan of his RC full dress uniform, including shako, black plum and red sash with all medals and awards for display in our museum.

Wenzel visited on the last Homecoming weekend and committed to loan his uniform and all the trimmings. He is living in Germany and is an executive with BMW, the ultimate driving machine.

Happening at the Academy

The Veterans Club was founded by cadets Jerry Li '15 and Patrick Horsky '15 in September 2013 and is under the direction of Jill Hardenburg, Science teacher. Jerry and Patrick had a vision to create a club that would support Veterans through monetary donations and a variety of service projects. During its first year, the Veterans Club raised a total of $800. These funds were donated to the Wheelchair Olympics and the Wounded Warrior Project. Club members visited the Veterans’ Hospital in Philadelphia to participate in a Memorial Service and wreath-laying ceremony. This past school year, the Veterans Club doubled the amount of money raised. A portion of these funds were donated to the Snyder House, which is a new facility that helps Veterans with their transition to civilian life. Club members worked diligently to assist with the inaugural Veterans Day Assembly under the direction of History teacher Linda Jara. Service projects included yard clean-up at an American Legion Hall, and a return visit to the Philadelphia Veterans Hospital. If you have an organization that the Veterans Club could serve please email Jill Hardenburg at jhardenburg@vfmac.edu. Pictured Mr. Li and Samuel L. Podolsky (one of the last 2 remaining Flying Tigers, 14th Air Force WWII India/Burma/China and the 2015 Veteran Service Club.
Wrestling Mat Update

Fellow Alumni and Wrestlers,

Valley Forge Wrestling needs your help. The team is in a situation where they need new mats for competition. The current mats no longer meet PIAA certification. Unfortunately there is no money the Athletic budget for this expenditure. So a few wrestlers from the 1980's have decided to step up to the plate and help raise funds so the cadets can have the proper equipment to wrestle. We are fund raising in two ways. One is through a GOFUNDME account and the other is a VFMA house account. We implore you to help out so we can keep this program going strong for the decade.

Since starting the GoFundMe drive, I’ve been in regular communication with the school and am very pleased with their response. It seems the President and the entire administration is supportive and appreciative of our efforts.

The school has agreed to process and hold separately any gifts made to them for the new mats we are trying to buy. While GoFundMe charges fees, they’ll absorb the fees for gifts made directly to the school. Already they have received a $500 gift, and have pledges for another $600 – so, coupled with the $2,766 on GoFundMe, we’re over halfway to our goal of $7,000. While GoFundMe charges service and credit card fees, 100% of the gifts through the Academy will benefit this project.

Here’s the problem! To have the mats in time for the team to practice, we need to order them in about two weeks! So we need to raise the other $3,300 fast! If you’re on the fence, now’s the time to step up – you can give on the GoFundMe site, www.gofundme.com/vfmawrestlingmat if you want (remember they do take out service and credit card fees, so your gift is worth less), or give directly to the special project through the school’s Donate Online https://www.vfmac.edu/donate/donate-online-now/ (in the designate line write VF Wrestling). But please, do it now!

Think Big! I launched this looking for lots of $20 donors, but I know we also need some bigger gifts now so we can order the mats. If you give $1,000 (or give $500 now and pledge $500 more for December or January), you’ll be a member of the school’s “Society of the Golden Sword.” The President hosts a reception for this group in early October, so make that commitment now.

The Long Game: What if we raised too much money for the mats? I’m wondering if we should be looking ahead and trying to do a series of improvements that will benefit wrestling over the next few years. The school is putting new lighting in Price Gym, and the AD wants to move the weight room into the lower gym for more space. Think what we could do if we had a team of athletes willing to commit to a series of projects to benefit wrestling or the larger athletic program.

Josh Wang VFMA 1988

Josh Wang ’88

Manhattan Bagel Westfield
908-400-0817 Cell
908-654-0525 Land
Blast from the Past

Most of you Alumni remember the etiquette classes we attended back in our days at The Forge. They were conducted by either Mrs. May H. Baker, Sarah Crawford, or Colonel C. Kennedy Allen (aka Major Manners and Colonel Courtesy.) This picture will bring back many memories and I hope it gives you all a refresher course in the right way to set a formal table. Look and learn.

When rising up in either the military or private industry it is imperative for the members of the Long Line of Gray to know, not only how to set this arrangement but also how to use it. When we speak about the well rounded VFMAC graduate, we mean it.

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Valley Forge Caribbean, Central American, and South American Visitation and Recruiting Trip

George E. Anderson III, Ph.D. (D.C.S.), Director of International Student Development will be involved in a recruiting and visitation program with our alumni and friends in the fall. We would like to invite you to come out and meet Dr. Anderson with your friends and families to hear about all the great things happening at The Forge and to introduce future cadets to the fantastic opportunities being offered. We are looking for our Alumni who love VFMAC to come out and participate. As you can see we have many spots to fill and we need your help. Let’s bring back the glory of The Forge as it used to be when BG Tomas Puyans ’48C roamed the campus and the world for the love of our Alma mater.

Dr. Anderson will be following this itinerary:

- **San Juan, PR**
  - 13 – 16 Sept.  
  - Pablo L. Marquez ’75C  
  - valeca@prtc.net

- **Santo Domingo, DR**
  - 16 – 20 Sept.  
  - (Rose Mari) Hubert Garcia ’14  
  - garciarosa_angelus@yahoo.com

- **Guatemala City, GTM**
  - 20 – 24 Sept.  
  - Joaquin Glaesel ’85  
  - jglaesel@yahoo.com.mx

- **Belize City, Belize**

- **Tegucigalpa, HND**
  - Henry L. Bahr ’69  
  - bahrhenry@yahoo.com

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The most important part of any business is the people. That is especially true for a school. I have been assigned as the Director of International Student Development for Valley Forge and this fall, I will be traveling throughout Central and South America visiting with our alumni. I want to listen to your stories, get your advice, and bring your referrals back to Valley Forge. Please contact your national coordinator. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Dr. George E. Anderson III, Ph.D. (DCS)
Director of International Student Development

Dr. Andy Landmesser

The College is delighted to announce that Dr. Andy Landmesser has accepted our offer to become the Cybersecurity Program Director starting this month. Dr. Landmesser is an outstanding and highly regarded expert in this field, an admired mentor and teacher, a dedicated civil servant, and military leader, and one who is immersed in the interplay of research and practice. His brilliant mind, his integrity and fairness, and his indefatigable work ethic have created success in a series of roles. We have every confidence that Dr. Landmesser will guide the growth of the cybersecurity program with energy, wisdom, and dedication to the development of cadets and students. Reporting for the Alumni Newsletter is COL William Gallagher, USA (Ret.), Dean of the College and Commandant of Cadets.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Association Board of Directors September Meeting

When: Saturday, September 19, 2015: Mellon Hall, Sarah Crawford Room at 9:30 AM – Conference
Call for the meetings 610-829-9266 or www.uberconference.com/vfaabod

This is a standard monthly meeting of the AABOD and is usually held on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Remember if you have questions please submit them in email by September 17, 23015 to tgoldblum@vfmac.edu
Other upcoming dates:

August 31, 2015 First Day of Classes for All Cadets
September 5, 2015 BEACH BOWL
Valley Forge Military College vs St. John Neumann Goretti
4 PM at Warrior Stadium
Byrne Community Center
Wildwood, NJ 08260

List of hotels can be found at:
www.shoresummerrentals.com

September 10, 2015 Opening Day Ceremony at 5:00 PM in the Chapel
Reception at 6:00 PM in Eisenhower Hall

September 19, 2015 AABOD Monthly Meeting 9:30 AM Sara Crawford Room
Mellon Hall

October 3, 2015 Alumni Athletic Homecoming
West Point Prep vs Valley Forge Military College
2 PM at O’Hara Field

August 15, 2015 Annual Alumni Planning Meeting Agenda

0830 –0845: Roll Call, Cadet Prayer, Words of Wisdom
0845 –0900: Old Business/New Business/Giving and Budget
0900 –0930: Valley Forge Today-VFMAC President and Commandant of Cadets
0930 –0945: Break/Conclude AABOD Monthly Meeting
0945 –1000: VFMA&C, Corps of Cadets, Roles and Responsibilities Update
1000 –1030: Budget review for 2015-2016
1030 –1100: Impact/Involvement of other committees
1100 –1130: Required support from Executive committee and BOT
1130 –1200: Committee Breakouts to discuss initiatives
1200 –1300: Working Lunch
1300 –1430: Committee Presentations
1430 –1440: Major Events 90-120 days into the 2015-2016 school year; How to best communicate to our Alumni Community.
1440 –1530: ACPS Briefing (Governance Committee)
1530 –1600: International Recruitment, Latin America (Dr. George Anderson)
1600 –1615: Closing remarks from Chairman and President
1615 –Closing: Team gathering (TBD)
To purchase your copy of this unique video history of the first 40 years of Valley Forge Military Academy & College, narrated by LTG Milton Medenbach, BG Alfred Sanelli and BG Ralph Jones. The cost is $30.00. (Shipping included)

Call Tom Goldblum ’69, ’71C, Director of Alumni Relations
610-989-1329 or TGoldblum@vfmac.edu

ABOUT “THE PAST IN REVIEW”

On the eve of the 88th Corps of Cadets, revisit the glorious past of Valley Forge under the inspired guidance of its founder, LTG Milton G. Baker. During those years, precision and excellence in every function were the hallmarks of the finest private military academy in the United States. Thousands of alumni will remember these times with honor and gratitude.

First produced in 1987 on videotape but now technologically updated to DVD format, here again is the narrated compilation of all films acquired from the first 40 years of VFMA&C, as submitted by alumni, parents and staff. This 107 minute documentary begins with a stroll through the fire ruins at Devon, and continues at the present site in Wayne, through most of the Baker years into 1968. Narration is by LTG Milton H. Medenbach ’41H, BG Alfred A. Sanelli ’39 and BG Ralph E. Jones.

The entire stereo musical underscore is from the many recorded works of the Valley Forge Military Academy and College Band under the direction of the late COL D. Keith Feltham ’90H, “The Duke” (as his respectful nickname evolved) presided over 27 all-scholarship cadet Bands, the longest tour of any VF bandmaster, one whose alumni would later proclaim, “Together we stood his inspection, played his concerts and parades; together we cherish his influence on our music and our lives.”

Also heard are the choral groups of the late COL Robert V. Woodside, organist and choirmaster for the period 1955 – 1971. During his tenure the cadet chorale reached levels of creative performance never seen or heard in the years preceding. Many of the arrangements were written by Woodside himself, a master musician.

Director – Producer
George Newell ’53C Band

Historian – Research
Ron Tschiegg ’52C Band

DVD Production
Leonard Quam
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

E Battery Ornament - $20.00

Total Price of Package (1 of each) - $145.00

To Order call Tom Goldblum'69, '71C Director of Alumni Relations, with your credit card at 610-989-1329 or email to: tgoldblum@vfac.edu
Robert William Lewis Sr. ’48

Robert William Lewis Sr ’48, 86 of Indianapolis passed away July 28th, 2015. He was admired and loved by many. He was the ideal father and husband. He loved sports, especially football. He was a coach for CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and Lincoln Middle School in Pike Township.

He was born March 28th, 1929 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was raised by his mother, Elizabeth Lewis and father, Leonard Lewis Sr. along with his brother, Leonard Lewis Jr. and sister, Elizabeth Sola. He married the love of his life, Beatrice Margaret Hartranft, in Lancaster on February 12th, 1953.

He graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in 1948. He was commander of his platoon as well as the president of the student council. He then went on to serve 4 years in the United States Navy and eventually graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1955 and earned a bachelor's degree in business. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Football and wrestling were some of his favorite pastimes as a youth, but what he enjoyed most of all was spending time with his family. He was beloved for his wit and sense of humor.

He received an award for outstanding salesmanship for the sales of 6 million dollars of merchandise and received a silver watch upon retirement.

Robert is survived by his wife, Beatrice Lewis; his sons Robert Lewis Jr., Kevin Lewis (deceased), Stephen Lewis and daughter, Melissa Lewis. Grandchildren; Sean Lewis, Vanessa Morrison, Maggie Broyles, Danielle Flynn, Stephen Lewis and Nick Poore, and his great-grandchildren Isabelle Murphy, Audree Lewis and Elina Poore.

Charles “Chuck” Murphy ’49, ’50PG

Florida State League President Charles “Chuck” Murphy ’49, ’50PG, passed away on February 21, 2015. Chuck received a band scholarship to Valley Forge Military Academy, which he attended for four years and was a member of the Band. Mr. Murphy received Regular Army Commission and reported to Fort Benning, GA for Infantry Officers Training. He graduated from Ranger School and advanced in Fort Bragg for the 82nd Airborne Division and jump school. Chuck served in Korea and Vietnam and then returned to Fort Benning to attend Special Forces Officers Training. He retired as a LTC in 1975 following 21s of military service.

Chuck then joined the Evansville Triplets who were a Triple A Club for the Detroit Tigers. He rose to become the General Manager of the Daytona Beach Islanders with the Florida State League. Chuck was instrumental in starting a scholarship fund in partnership with the Florida Marlins and was elected to the Florida State League Hall of Fame in 2011. He won the Warren Giles Award as the outstanding League president in 1991 and 2011. God Rest your soul.
Valley Forge Military Academy & College 2015-2016 Alumni Board of Directors

For listing of all Officers, Directors and Members:

http://www.vfmac.edu/alumni/alumni-association/officers-directors/

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- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Valley Forge Military Academy Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Important Message from a Distinguished Alum:

Gentleman I have a challenge for you'all. First I am not an employee of the organization and understand everyone deals with credit and finances differently, that said I think we are missing a "Target of opportunity" pardon the pun. I have seen in our Alumni newsletter and heard at the last AABOD meeting about signing up for the Target RED card (debit or Visa) program, where they give 1% of your expenditures to an educational institution of your choice. I did some research. After signing up (our school ID is #15343) which was relatively easy, I found out:

1. That of all the RED card users (over 10 Million), only 11 people have signed up and have made Valley Forge their school of choice.
2. The total contribution to date since 1997 to Valley Forge has been only $1611.34
3. They distribute funds yearly in February and this last FEB 2015 they sent a check to Valley Forge for $54.47, so far this year we have accumulated $44.54 for disbursement next February (probably just from my wife's spending...).
4. To put this in perspective, Target has given over $418 Million since 1997, and just this year has sent $31.7 million to over 40,000 schools.
5. The money is sent direct to the principal of the school and has NO STRINGS attached.

This is too easy and we are turning down free money, I challenge you all to sign up, designate our school and let's gets some "FREE CHICKEN" as we say in the military. That said, I think
we need to have a discussion with the administration to fence off these funds for targeted events or opportunities, not just sent to the general operating fund.
I recommend we establish a list of priorities that the Alumni see will help the school (i.e.. fix the alumni lanterns around post, upgrade the memorials, Fix barracks, buy Gym mats, etc.)
Again if every Alum on this site alone signed up, and over a year of spending what you normally would spend at TARGET the funds would grow to Thousands of dollars. We could impact the school without reaching into our own wallets, using other people's money! And by the way the "amazon smiles" program offers the same, but their statistics are not as forthcoming as Target. I throw down the gauntlet and will help in any way, showing folks how to sign up (message me), or working with the administration thru the AABOD on how we can use the funds.
CHALLENGE IS ON!

COL Raymond Boz Bossert, VFMA&C Class of '85

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?

Get married; have 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 me by email with your pictures (if any) attached: TGoldblum@vfmac.edu and we will let everyone know the happy news.