



VALLEY FORGE MILITARY
ACADEMY & COLLEGE



VISION 2021 & BEYOND



VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY & COLLEGE

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY & COLLEGE is an international Leadership institute providing a world-class military style education focused on developing its Cadets to achieve full intellectual, physical, moral and leadership potential.

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY is a private independent college preparatory school for young men in grades 7-12. Committed to growing the whole person, the Academy develops individuals to be fully prepared for the challenges and responsibilities of becoming citizen leaders.

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY COLLEGE, known as the Military College of Pennsylvania™, is a private co-ed two-year college offering AA and ABA degrees. It is only one of four in the country and only one located in the northeast to offer an Early Commissioning Program.

Our Mission is to develop individuals to be fully prepared for the responsibilities of being citizen leaders. We produce graduates who are strong in mind, body, and soul.

Our Vision is to be a shining beacon, calling young people from around the world to achieve their full intellectual, physical, moral and leadership potential.

Our Philosophy is to develop the whole person within an integrated academic and military environment. Our tightly structured and supervised Cadet-led community helps to inculcate a deep, enduring commitment to be responsible and informed citizenship in a democratic society.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FORGE,

A reflection of the last year at VFMAC highlights advancements and investments for the Academy and the College. The result is an institution in a strong position to continue providing a military style education that is second to none.

This would not have been achieved without your ongoing confidence and support you place in VFMAC's leadership. We are grateful for it. With your generous support, nearly \$1.4 million was raised during 2020-2021.

The 94th Corps of Cadets returned to a campus which benefited from capital improvements in their living and learning spaces.

Martin Hall, the main barracks for Academy Cadets, was completely redone. New bathrooms, new furniture, and new lighting create a modern but still spartan living environment for Cadets.

The Boodle benefited from your generosity on Giving Tuesday with kick off donations from LTG H.R. McMaster '80, '17 HC, and Mr. George H. Schildge '56 which enabled purchase of new televisions and a projector providing an upgrade to the theater. We see the Cadets' enjoyment of these improvements as they experience much-earned relaxation.

The fence line perimeter of the campus has been repaired and two new gates improve the entrances to the school, elevating our streetscape to a level befitting an institution such as VFMAC – this thanks to a generous contribution from Dr. and Mrs. William H. Martoccia, Jr., '73, '75C.

A campaign led by Dr. Paul Lea, IV resulted in generous donations enabled the carving of a Cadet sculpture from an oak tree which now stands watch over the parade grounds.

Like schools and businesses everywhere, VFMAC continued to manage through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health monitoring for our Cadets, faculty and staff assured we were

able to maintain a safe learning and living environment for everyone.

The impact of VFMAC both domestically and internationally has been much in evidence this year as our graduates hold leadership roles here and around the world.

In charge of Operation Warp Speed, General Gustavo Perna, class of '81C led the initiative bringing testing and vaccines for COVID-19 to the population within seven months. Panama President Laurentino Cortez-Cohen, class of '72C welcomed a contingent of VFMAC alumni to the presidential palace in Panama. And soon to begin receiving its first Cadets is the Valley Forge Academy in Doha, Qatar.

With an eye toward the future, we are expanding relationships within the regional and global community. Entering a partnership with Eastern University, VFMAC is refurbishing the track and field so the space can be of use to our Cadets and others while generating a revenue stream for VFMAC. Relationships in Panama provide a path for recruitment in the Central and South Americas. We anticipate a June 2022 visit to the UK will reopen similar doors.

Advancing to Vision 2021 and Beyond, preparations for the 2028 Centennial are beginning. This upcoming milestone is a reminder of the responsibility we bear to those who came before, those in our care now, and those to come in our future.

As the Academy shapes young men and the College both young men and women, we are



“With an eye toward the future, we are expanding relationships within the regional and global community.”

- Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College

reminded of VFMAC's rich traditions and the rigors required of a VFMAC education. With your support, we continue to improve, to advance academics and to challenge ourselves and our Cadets. We do so knowing these efforts are manifest in the lives of our fine graduates.

This is possible only because of your generosity. It is a privilege to continue this legacy. Thank you for your leadership, your support, and your confidence and commitment to VFMAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart B. Helgeson".

Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College

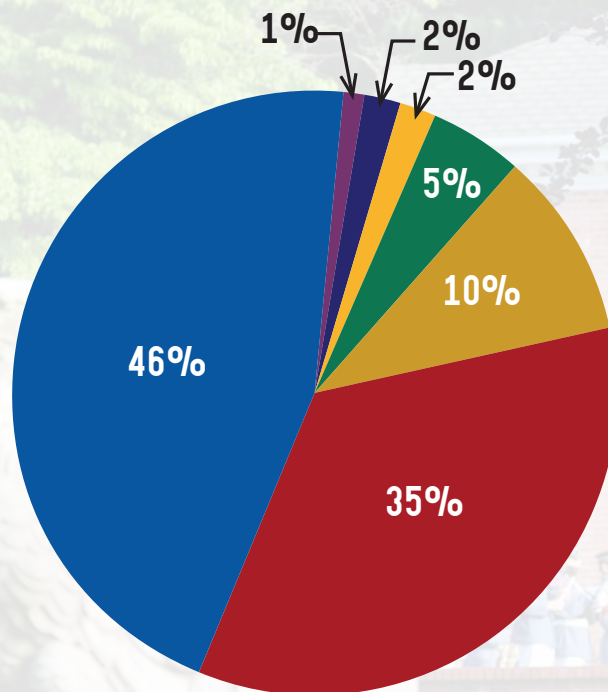
Without the generous commitments of our benefactors, a VFMAC education would be out of reach for deserving Cadets. Holding to the high standards of academic excellence means holding to the highest quality of teaching and services—standards tuition alone can't cover. Your ongoing support enables us to fulfill the commitments we make to our Cadets and their families. We are good stewards of your trust. This is how your gifts are applied.



VFMAC's overall offerings in education, programs, and services continue to strengthen as evidenced by the quality of our graduates. Institutional leadership is committed to directing your gifts so that first and foremost, our Cadets are the direct recipients of your generosity.

In 2020-2021, \$1,301,210 was raised for the betterment of the school and our Cadets. Thank you for making it possible."

- Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College



Scholarships	\$594,472
Unrestricted	\$451,372
Facilities & Maintenance	\$131,779
Cadet Life	\$63,060
Miscellaneous	\$27,483
Academy	\$20,362
College	\$12,682
TOTAL:	\$1,301,210

FIVE CORNERSTONES

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College

Since its founding in 1928, VFMAC's mission has focused on educating the whole person with an intent on developing citizens to lead society in the future. It has done so by focusing on its Five Cornerstones. Five Cadets exemplify these Cornerstones; here is why.

LEADERSHIP

Cadet Christopher Seiler exemplifies leadership at VFMA. Cadet Seiler is a senior from Fallsington, Pa., and is the class president of the Class of 2022. He is the company commander of the plebe company in charge of the plebes and all of the plebe trainers within his command. Cadet Seiler is always available to assist other Cadets as well as member of the faculty to support new projects. He keeps fellow classmates organized and on task during meetings and models good listening skills about new ideas or concerns. He is an exemplary leader and Cadets look up to him and model his behavior.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Cadet Christopher Howard, a senior from Middletown, NJ, embodies the Cornerstone of Academic Excellence. Since arriving to VFMA in his freshman year, Cadet Howard has finished each academic year at the top of his class. During his high school years, he has taken dual enrollment courses as a sophomore and junior with the Valley Forge Military College and in his senior year taken additional courses at Cabrini University. Cadet Howard not only excelled academically but participated as a varsity athlete in football as well as in a variety of extracurricular activities including National Honor Society to the Community Service Club.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Cadet Noah Plotkoski from Las Vegas, NV is a 9th grade Cadet at VFMA. He was most recently named the Gentlemen Extraordinaire in his Customs and Courtesies class by obtaining the highest class score in the questions and subjects related to etiquette. He also was the first to respond when a staff member slipped on ice. He notified the proper people, remained calm, and stayed with the staff member until help arrived. Cadet Plotkowski is a great example of Character Development.



PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Cadet Nathan Nantasai, grade 11, exemplifies Personal Motivation. From Philadelphia, Pa., he is always looking for ways he can help to improve life at VFMA for his fellow Cadets. Among the examples of his initiative is Cadet Nantasai seeing an overlooked need and without prompting from others, taking on a project to sand and clean plaques in Shannon Hall. A member of the Regimental Band, he is first to practice, first to demonstrate the importance of musical practice, and first to help others in the band or anywhere within the Corps of Cadets.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Cadet William Anozie, a senior, demonstrates the Cornerstone of Physical Development. From Houston, TX, Cadet Anozie is at the top of his game in basketball. He is the team's leading scorer and scored his 1,000th career point during the season making him the highest scorer in Pennsylvania and among the top five scorers nationally. He was selected as Player of the Year and for the First Team by the President's Conference.

Cadet Anozie is known for encouraging his teammates and is committed to being fully physically fit making him the model for Physical Development.





CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

to Valley Forge Military Academy & College

While we look ahead with excitement to the VFMA Centennial in 2028 it is also a reminder about the age of the grounds and facilities of the institution. With great generosity of our benefactors, there have been many improvements that greatly enhance the living and learning experience for our Cadets.

➤ **THROUGH A JOINT VENTURE TO IMPROVE THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND TRACK, THE FACILITY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR USE THROUGH EVERY SEASON FOR VFMAC CADETS AND OTHER SCHOOLS, CAMPS AND THE COMMUNITY.**



TRACK & FIELD

The VFMAC track and field complex is impressive and has served the institution well. In recent years, both the track and the field have suffered from water damage as a result of poor drainage. The track aged in a way which made it unsafe for running and competition.

The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with Eastern University enabling the updating and upgrading of the track and field. On completion, the facility will support athletic activities at VFMAC as well as Eastern University and other schools, clubs and camps, providing a revenue stream for VFMAC.

A new turf field replaces the grass field with a new underground drainage system to eliminate standing water. It will be lined for football, soccer and lacrosse, increasing its potential use. The track surrounding the field is replaced with state-of-the art run/jump materials for advanced level competition.

“No institution operates in isolation,” said Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMC (Ret), president of Valley Forge Military Academy & College. “Recognizing the investment required for a world-class facility could not be borne by any one institution, this agreement opens our facility to our Cadets and those from other schools, offers community collaboration, and provides a previously unrecognized revenue stream for VFMAC.”

The new track and field will be ready for spring 2022 sports.

SHANNON HALL

Shannon Hall is among the most important and well-used buildings on the campus. It has long housed the Academy and provides comprehensive educational rooms and laboratories for Cadets in grades 7-12.

Universally known as “the Schoolhouse” Shannon Hall is now fully air-conditioned. Each space in the Schoolhouse now benefits from a steady temperature during the warmer months. This is an essential upgrade as our Cadets learn better when not distracted by uncomfortably high temperatures. Further, it puts VFMA offerings on a higher level than other military-style education institutions.

The roof on Shannon Hall was no longer doing its job protecting the building from rain and snow. Portions of it needed to be replaced. Those areas in flat and low-lying sections are new and sealed with advanced roofing materials. The 30-year warranty offers assurances that the building is protected from the elements.

Technology continues to evolve more rapidly than measurable. Nonetheless, it is our responsibility to provide the best access for our Cadets. Campus-wide improvements in technology, especially Wi-Fi strength, has improved in Shannon Hall and across the campus.



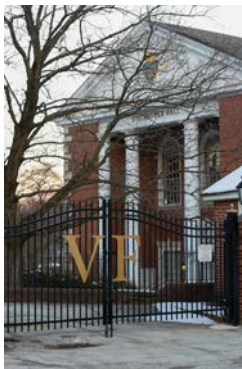
MARTIN HALL

Martin Hall is equally important in Academy life. All Cadets are housed there. And while accommodations in a military-style boarding school are intended to be spartan, the building was in need of an upgrade. Donations enabled it to be completely redone. Cadets returned in the fall 2021 semester to find newly painted rooms and halls, new floors, new furniture, new lighting, improved Wi-Fi, and upgraded security. The lavatories are redone with new floors, fixtures, stall doors, new showers with improved water pressure.

Everything was done to achieve the best quality at the lowest cost for the institution. Because extant facilities personnel were able to do electrical and plumbing work, costs for external contractors were eliminated, extending the funding for the overall project.

PERIMETER FENCING

The wrought iron fencing surrounding the campus has mostly withstood the test of time. However, several places along the perimeter



needed repair or replacement including an area near the main entrance damaged when a car collided with it. The repairs have now been made, thanks to a generous donation by Dr. and Mrs. William H. Martoccia, Jr., '73, '75C. In addition, two new gates—one on



Radnor Street Road and one on Eagle Road near the parade grounds have been replaced. Two beautifully sculpted VF initials are affixed to the gates and provide the institution with a greatly improved impression for visitors and those passersby.

CADET SCULPTURE

Also near the parade grounds is a wood carving of a VFMAC Cadet in dress uniform. An aging oak tree needed removing. In keeping with preservation efforts, parts of the tree were preserved with the intention of creating a meaningful carving representing the institution. In an effort led by Academy dean Dr. Paul M. Lea IV, '87, '89C, several alumni graciously contributed the funds for the wood carving.

During the cold winter months, the tree was carved into a Cadet and then painted in the colors recognizable anywhere. This permanent carving now stands watch over the parade grounds as a perpetual reminder of the model VFMAC Cadet.

GAZEBO

The senior class of 2021 built a gazebo on the campus. Intended as a place of rest for Cadets, the structure was built by the Cadets from donations of materials and time by VFMA teacher Tim Oskin and parent Mike McCann.

Not an easy endeavor, the gazebo is a complicated octagon design built with treated lumber. It rests on a concrete pad. The Cadet labor was a gift of love for VFMAC and the generous gift of others made it possible.



This permanent carving now stands watch over the parade grounds as a perpetual reminder of proper Cadet bearing.”

- Paul M. Lea IV, M.S., Ph.D., '87 & '89C,
Dean, Valley Forge Military Academy



 **THE GAZEBO, A GIFT FROM THE CLASS OF 2021, IS A PERMANENT FIXTURE ON CAMPUS.**



ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

at Valley Forge Military Academy

Building leaders for a global society starts here.

Since its establishment nearly a century ago, VFMA has educated fine young men to become leaders. Its graduates have gone on to lead corporations, countries and battalions in to battle. Saying we are proud of them does not begin to describe our sentiment to their achievements.

The philosophy of the Valley Forge Military Academy is expressed in its long-held mission:

- To provide young men with the opportunity to develop to their full potential;
- To foster love of God and country;
- To assist in the development of free but disciplined members of society; and
- To prepare young men for life using the "Whole Man Concept," with its emphasis on an academic, character, physical and leadership education.

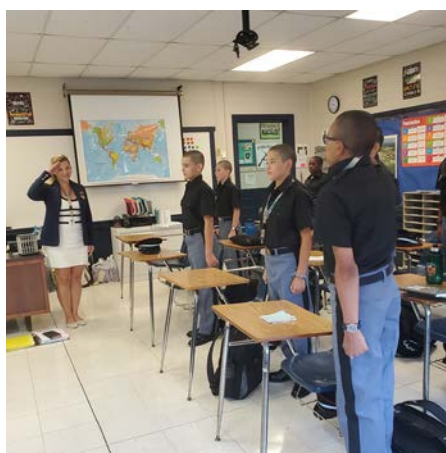
The *military environment* is singularly significant to this philosophy since the military structure with its concurrent emphasis upon discipline, duty, and responsibility develops leadership ability, fosters respect for authority, and provides the orderly setting and wholesome atmosphere necessary for young men to obtain a quality education.

The *military approach* is a fundamental cornerstone of our philosophy and serves as a technique of education. It provides the framework for learning and is used as the means to an end, not as an end in itself, for the purpose of developing, forming, and shaping the educated, responsible citizen.

The same pride and philosophy extends to the Corps of Cadets in our care today. VFMA's military style model of education is second to none. This is the result of a combination of factors: a low Cadet to teacher ratio enables individualized instruction allowing Cadets to reach beyond grade levels. Further, it enables Cadets requiring more instruction to get it and not languish behind their peers

VFMA has an ongoing commitment to educate the whole person in mind, body, and soul. It develops young men to their full potential with evidenced character, integrity, self-discipline, strength and confidence. In and out of the classroom, Cadets are educated around the Five Cornerstones: Academic Excellence, Physical Development, Character Development, Personal Motivation, and Leadership.

The model has been recognized as a successful one on a global level. In Doha, Qatar, the Valley Forge Academy has been established embracing VFMA's qualities and characteristics universal to good global citizenship and leadership.



THE VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY MODEL OF EDUCATION IS EXPANDING GLOBALLY WITH THE OPENING OF THE VALLEY FORGE ACADEMY IN DOHA, QATAR.



During the last year, VFMA has focused on enhancements to the science programming options offered to Cadets. The STEM Lab, with state-of-the-art technology, is challenging Cadets and expanding their mindset on the sciences.

A new robotics elective has been offered and there is great interest among Cadets. They learn the potential of robots on our world and how they work. The class will attend a robotics competition and compare their learnings with those at other schools. It is the intention of VFMA to compete in this competition in fall of 2022.

Recognizing a different perspective can bring about different perspectives, teachers are moving classes outdoors. It is adding a new dimension to the academic programs; an open area environment enhances class participation and encourages teachers and Cadets to interact with nature and deliver instruction across all areas of the curriculum.

Class trips continue to be a key part of comprehensive education. For several consecutive years, alumnus Dave Epstein, class of '54 has provided funding for Cadets to visit the Gettysburg Battlefield. A pivotal period in history, the trip proves to be a pivotal moment for Cadets as the magnitude of the battle and a different outcome might have proved a different direction for the nation. VFMA intends to expand educational opportunities to foster learning and extension classroom instruction.



BEYOND THE BOOKS, CADETS ARE CHALLENGED PHYSICALLY AND LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD SHARED GOALS.



CADET LIFE

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College

THE BOODLE

Great generosity on Giving Tuesday in November means Cadets can enjoy downtime in the Boodle. As a result of donations, eight new 65-inch Samsung Smart TVs and one 75-inch Samsung Smart TV have been installed there. These TVs will enable Cadets to use various streaming platforms, giving them flexibility and choice with programming.

A new laser projector enables all video content to be accessed digitally and operated wirelessly for direct connection, and to be coupled with DVD and Blu-ray. The projector offers a 160-degree diagonal theater projector screen for an optimal viewing experience from every seat in the theater.

THE ARTS

The Arts are important to Cadets at VFMA. Long-time supporters of the theater program, a gift from Dr. and Mrs. William H. Martoccia, Jr., '73, '75C enables Cadets to present the musical, *Damn Yankees* in the Spring of 2022.

With the production Cadets have the opportunity to participate in both singing and acting roles, and most importantly, gives them real theater experience from rehearsals to performances in front of a live audience.

In ongoing collaboration with the community, parts calling for females will draw young ladies from local high schools to round out the cast. As with all things VFMA, the production is Cadet-led with

performers and stage crew staffed by VFMA Cadets. Behind the scenes, the stage crew is responsible for all aspects of the set that they will create, build and operate during the performances. The Shannon Hall Woodshop is in full service to support the creation of the sets.

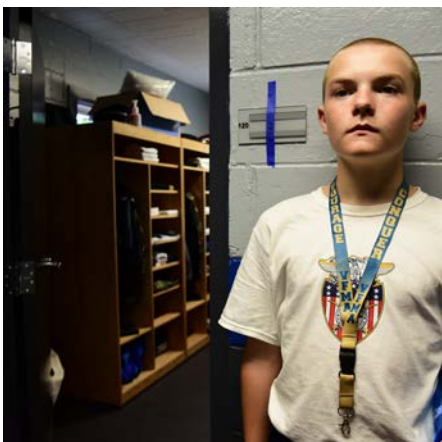
LIFE SKILLS

Developing practical life skills is part of Cadet education, preparing them for college and an independent life after it. Cadets are learning about etiquette, interpersonal relationships, cooking, personal banking and finance, basic first aid, among other important general skills. Additional programs added for this semester are robotics, a science fair, and a deeper dive into the Constitution.

SPORTS

Sports play a large part in the lives of our Cadets. They are a large part of all schools. As we foster relationships with other institutions in the region, VFMA entered into an agreement with Eastern University to refurbish the track and field. Doing so restores the facility to improve the performance of those competing there.

The football field has replaced grass with turf and an underground drainage system. The track has been replaced with state-of-the-art material to enhance safe competition. The agreement opens the facility for use by other institutions and provides a perpetual revenue stream for VFMA.



SENIOR WILL ANOZIE SCORED HIS 1,000TH CAREER POINT DURING THE SEASON, RANKING HIM HIGH AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



BASKETBALL

VFMA's leadership is in evidence here with senior, Will Anozie receiving accolades for achieving his 1,000 career point. In addition, he was selected as both Player of the Year and appointed to the First Team by the President's Conference. With attention from media, Cadet Anozie credited his coaches and team for the feat – a leader on and off the court.

of varsity sweaters and team pins. They were awarded to those competing last year. The Cadets were honored to receive these and proud to represent VFMA in the e-Sports competition. The pandemic caused most schools to cancel their sporting events and e-Sports was a unique opportunity to compete at the varsity level during an unprecedented time for high school sports overall.

HIQ

With academic excellence one of our cornerstones, the HiQ team has performed well. The quiz-like game challenges knowledge from a vast array of topics providing an opportunity for Cadets to demonstrate the excellence of their education. In consecutive years, the team has advanced in the state standings for competition.



FOOTBALL

The quintessential sport of fall, football at VFMA is a competitive one. Part of an eight-man football league, the game is gaining in popularity, especially among smaller schools. Played nearly identical to an 11-man football game, the only difference is the number of players on the gridiron at any one time and the gridiron is slightly narrower than the other. Funding has provided improved padding and uniforms, enabling the team to compete safely and proudly represent VFMA.

E-SPORTS

The e-Sports arena continues to be a draw for many Cadets. Only in its second year, the e-Sports team competes in the High School e-Sports League at a varsity level against other high school and middle school e-Sports teams. The team received a generous donation



SOCCER

With new coaching this year, the soccer team did well in competition. Evidenced on the pitch was teamwork, leadership, and ongoing physical development. The team won its first match of the season converting a string of losses over three years to a new and winning beginning. With the cheer of "One Team! One Fight!" the team exemplified the values of VFMA.



With the cheer of 'One Team! One Fight!' the team exemplified the values of VFMA."

- Mike Muscella, *Athletic Director*
Valley Forge Military Academy & College



COMBAT ARTS

What started as a club sport for martial arts at the college level has evolved into an accredited course and resulted in a name change to encompass all aspects of the instruction. Now known as Combat Arts 1-4, the program is progressive, starting with the first module. Building upon the preceding course, Cadets are trained in martial arts and combat training. The courses are open to all levels and backgrounds. Cadets can complete all four courses, in their two years, in sequence, or take just one.

Participating Cadets are trained in managing attack situations during deployment encounters where it is expected assailants are military personal trained to kill, are weaponized and wearing protective gear. The course focuses on not just hands but utilizing all possible available weapons one could face on deployment such as blades, bats, and unloaded firearms.

“This training is very different from what many might think of as self-defense,” said Emmy Shea, Combat Arts instructor, and part of the VFMC adjunct faculty. “This program is not something someone would necessarily use, for example, trying to defend herself against the theft of her purse on the street.”

Ms. Shea is much accomplished in the category, having earned ranking in five different martial arts. With a degree from Skidmore College in studio arts – she is a trained classical painter – arts of a very different sort than martial arts. She is also a Golden Glove champion and an accomplished polo player, having pioneered a tri-state polo team. While not training VFMC Cadets in Combat Arts, Ms. Shea is studying to become a tactical paramedic at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

BOXING

The boxing club teaches basic skills as well as MMA, comprising other styles including muay thai, grappling, jujitsu and kickboxing. It is an intramural club, not interscholastic; Cadets practice, drill, and do light sparring. Various techniques

of boxing are introduced so Cadets first learn the moves and practice one-on-one with the coach. Once sufficiently proficient, the Cadets practice with one another to improve.

Generous gifts have enabled the purchase of equipment including boxing gloves, forearm pads, a chest protector, and jump ropes.

BAND

The Valley Forge Military Academy and College’s Regimental Band is widely recognized in the region, across the US, and around the world. It serves as an integral part of Cadet life on campus and includes Cadets from both the Academy and the College. Marked by distinctive blue gray military style uniforms, the Band stands out wherever it performs. Another distinction is the precise way the band members march. The fully in-step gait results from military discipline and hours of practice.

Performances include campus concerts, monthly regimental parades, ceremonial events, and some international performances as well. To date, the band has performed in Pennsylvania, New York, Canada, and the UK, and the world’s largest indoor military tattoo in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in recent years.

The Valley Forge Military Academy and College’s Regimental Band benefits from the support of generous donors. It received a rare record collection of rare jazz recordings – some are the only remaining copies. The records will be digitized and are accessible through the library. In addition, funds were donated to establish an audio station sound system for recording and playing music. It was donated for the specific purpose of performing and recording the jazz record collection and has broader applications for use with band classes, performances and performance examples.

Other donations included a Harp and an electric violin. Both instruments are played by one Cadet and are featured instruments in Band concerts.

“
VFMAC Regimental Band serves as an integral part of Cadet life on campus and includes Cadets from both the Academy and the College.”

- Vincent DeMarro, *Director of Music*
Valley Forge Military Academy & College





THE STEM LABORATORY

Cadets have the opportunity to broadcast the weather reports, create posters and displays for class projects, use the interactive 3D printer, and build models that correspond to the experiments that are taking place within the non-STEM classrooms. The STEM Lab is not just limited to being used in the science classes, it can be used across all areas of the curriculum from English, where Cadets use computer software to make book covers or in the language department where Cadets can use the 3D printers to make replicas of cultural items from the language in which they are studying.

STEM education is an essential part of any high school curriculum. Cadets at VFMA are demonstrating their knowledge derived from the STEM lab in Shannon Hall.

Established from a grant from the Hearst Foundation, supplemented with a McGraw-Hill online learning package, and rounded out by donations for fully stocked aquatic tanks, Cadets are benefitting from the full scope STEM experience.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and a Maker space, the STEM lab is among the most coveted by Cadets.

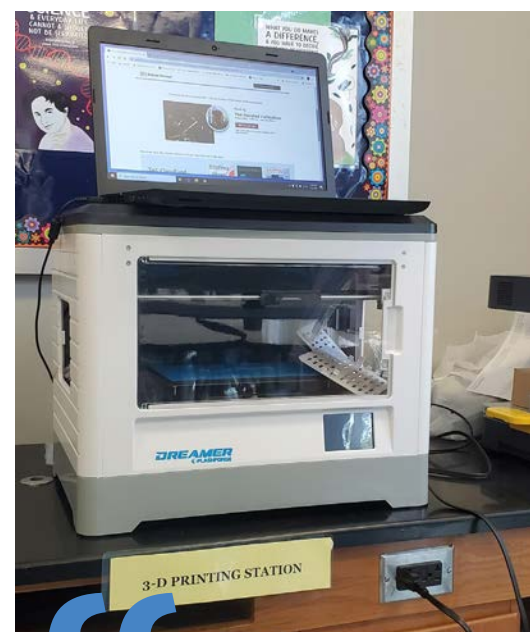
“This lab has provided a whole new dimension for our Cadets,” said Kim McCann, instructor, and chair of the

VFMA science department. “Their energy and excitement is in evidence—they are learning and having fun doing so. The lab brings out their creativity as they explore new concepts, strategies, and then creating products.”

Part of the curriculum for a year, it is a well-used learning space. Cadets use all of the technology in the lab, creating educational posters and the 3-D printer to build cells illustrating all of the cell’s organelles.

Maker space materials have been used to represent the water cycle, cloud types and design and build bridges. Cadets have assembled and installed weather station tools outside of the STEM lab and are learning how to use the software and arrange data to predict weather.

Beyond the walls of Shannon Hall, the STEM lab has enabled Cadets to participate in various competitions across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, drawing attention to the Academic Excellence of Cadets from VFMA. In spring 2022, six Cadets will participate in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Fair (PJAS). Competing against other Cadets and schools in the region surrounding VFMA, Cadets will conduct a research experiment based on a hypothesis and either prove or disprove it based on the findings. On completion, Cadets will develop a presentation and video of their findings for judges from PJAS.



This lab has provided a whole new dimension for our Cadets.”

- Kim McCann, *Science Department Chair*
Valley Forge Military Academy

SCHOLARSHIPS

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College

The generosity of those donors supporting scholarships is best noted by the success of those Cadets who are the beneficiaries. Individuals as well as businesses provide tuition and other financial support to Cadets with financial need.

THE CORY STEIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Eighteen Cadets are recipients of the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarships. These specific scholarships are intended to identify and develop those who are extraordinary.

Ken Stein is the administrator of the scholarship fund named in honor of his son, the late Cory Stein, who exemplified extraordinary. The scholarships are available to Academy Plebes and Cadets in grades 9-12 who demonstrate good academics and citizenship, who desire leadership roles and have financial need. These scholarships enable those to attend VFMA whose families cannot afford to fully pay for attendance at the Academy.

Two of the Cadets benefiting from the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarship are seniors Arthur Movsesyan and Stanley Wratto. Having met as Plebes, the two are brother Cadets and roommates.

ARTHUR MOVSESYAN

From Brooklyn, NY, Cadet Movsesyan arrived at VFMA for the final semester of his junior year. Now a senior, he recognizes the value of his VFMA education. "Even though I sought out VFMA and wanted to come here, it would not have been possible without the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarship," said Cadet Movsesyan. "The smaller class size made a difference in my learning and my grades improved significantly." Cadet Movsesyan appreciates the military-style education and says it has improved his self-discipline.

Everyday is an opportunity to exemplify the Five Cornerstones. Of the five, he says Academic Excellence was the hardest because he needed to catch up on his studies. With extra effort and support from his teachers, Cadet Movsesyan now has a 4.0 GPA. He says Personal Motivation is the one he is always seeking to improve.

Cadet Movsesyan is a plebe trainer, putting him in a leadership role over the new class. In addition, he is a power lifter, boxes, and is on the Raider team – a military-style challenge with events including navigating a rope bridge, a 2-3 mile run, and pulling a tank, among other equally difficult feats. He has been accepted and plans to attend John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan majoring in forensic psychology with the intention of supporting law enforcement by studying and understanding criminal activity.

STANLEY WRATTO

Desiring an all-male private military education, Cadet Wratto sees VFMA as a way to open doors to a bright future. From Ephrata, Pa., Cadet Wratto finished his junior year at VFMA and will graduate in June, 2022.

"This is much better than my public school," he said. "There is so much here to offer that I can take advantage of." Cadet Wratto is a triple sport athlete. He plays football, basketball, and runs track. However, he has set these aside so that he can help mold new plebes into Cadets. He



 **STANLEY WRATTO (LEFT) AND ARTHUR MOVSESYAN (RIGHT)**

CADET MIRIAM CONEBY IS ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS (SAME) SCHOLARSHIP.



...this support has enabled me to buy course materials and other supplies to allow for the intense course load.”

- Cadet Matthew Riley

does power lifting, boxing, and participates in the Raider Challenge. Not surprisingly, the Cornerstone he finds less difficult than others is Physical Development.

Cadet Wratto said, “My focus had always been about sports and now, with so much to offer here, my view of opportunity and potential has expanded.”

Born in Liberia on the west coast of Africa, Cadet Wratto is the middle of five siblings. He enlisted in the US National Guard at age 17, enabling him to drill at the Armory in Philadelphia. Planning a military career, Cadet Wratto plans to attend West Chester University in the ROTC program, studying business and minoring in architecture

HOCKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Established by Richard Hocker, '64, the Ethel Mae Hocker Foundation scholarship provides funding for up to five Cadets to attend the Academy. In addition, an annual and recurring grant to VFMA extends the benefits of the scholarship to the Academy's overall operations.

YOCUM SCHOLARSHIPS

Part of a perpetual trust, the Yocum scholarships are annual gifts impacting 24 Cadets. Cadets demonstrating financial need aligned with academic standing and overall commitment to a VFMA education may be selected to receive support from the Yocum scholarships.

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

VFMC Cadets benefit from scholarships enabling them to continue their education at VFMC and at their follow-on colleges. With STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning so essential in education, scholarships from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) are among the most beneficial.

SAME cultivates Cadet engagement in an effort to inspire, encourage, and enable youth to pursue STEM careers with the intention of developing a technical capacity that the US needs to remain globally competitive.

Two VFMC Cadets are the beneficiaries of the SAME Scholarships.

MIRIAM CONEBY

Cadet Miriam Coneby is in her sophomore year at VFMC and will graduate in May. From Marlton, NJ, Cadet Coneby is majoring in engineering and physical sciences. Her intention is to attend Syracuse University, majoring in biotechnology with a goal of becoming an engineer in the US Army.

“In addition to the financial support, SAME is an organization that recognizes the contribution I can make now and into the future,” said Cadet Coneby. “The relationship is one that will be a part of my full career – a career the organization helped launch by providing a scholarship.”

The scholarship is expected to cover living expenses so she can focus fully on continuing education without financial concerns.

MATTHEW RILEY

Also, in his sophomore year at VFMC, Cadet Matthew Riley is obtaining an Associate degree in Science in Engineering. Originally from Clarksville, TN, he will return to the south after graduation and commissioning in May. He will continue his education at Florida Institute of Technology to earn a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

“I am grateful for this SAME scholarship,” said Cadet Riley. “Engineering is a rigorous curriculum, and this support has enabled me to buy course materials and other supplies to allow for the intense course load.”

During his time in the US Army, Cadet Riley will serve as a field artillery officer.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

Valley Forge Military College is known as the Military College of Pennsylvania™. It is a Junior College offering more than 10 areas of study for Cadets to receive an associate degree before matriculating to finish their bachelor's degree.

VFMC is one of four schools in the country and the only one located in the northeast to offer an Early Commissioning Program. Graduates of this program are commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the US Army Reserve or National Guard. Active military at commissioning, they serve as platoon leaders in reserve units while completing their degrees at another college or university.

Currently, 90 percent of college Cadets are enrolled in the ECP. The remaining 10 percent are Citizen Leaders, taking part in the same disciplined schedule as their ECP colleagues, and preparing for transfer, but without focusing on a career in the military.

“There is no question VFMC is a unique school,” said Robert F. Smith, Ph.D., MEd., provost of VFMC. “Our Cadets outside the ECP tell us the rigors and discipline are why they choose to be here and not elsewhere. VFMC keeps them focused, and supports them, enabling them to succeed academically, undistracted from experiences they may find at other schools.”



All Cadets graduate to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US, and in some cases, around the world, including Syracuse University, Penn



COLLEGE IS RIGOROUS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE LECTURE HALLS.



State University, the University of North Carolina, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech, and the University of Mississippi.

VFMC has benefitted from the support of donors. Among the most notable benefits from generous donations is the element of experiential learning. Benefactors enable transport for Staff Rides and entrance fees to museums. The Staff Rides are among the more unique additions to education at VFMC. Taking Cadets into the field, placing them in locations crucial to the nation's history, and having the Cadets lead the program demonstrates the value of experiential learning.

The expertise of college instructors is augmented by speakers with specific experiences. Donations have enabled honoraria to bring speakers to campus. Among the successful speaker series was a Congress to Campus event which brought two former congressmen to campus.

Over a period of two days, Cadets from both the College and Academy learned about the inner workings of government, how bills are developed

and passed, and how political leadership guides the direction of one arm of the US government.

The HR McMaster Center for Security Studies is named for VFMAC graduate Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster '80, '17HC, US Army (retired), who received an honorary college degree from VFMC in 2017. LTG McMaster served as the 26th National Security Advisor during the Trump administration. Through generous support, renown speakers such as General Gustave Perna, '81C have addressed Cadets at VFMC.

Cadets are not the only ones to benefit from the generosity of our donors. Faculty and staff benefited from generous donations enabling them to acquire new MacBook Air laptops, and Microsoft Surface tablets. Each are making instruction, preparation, and presentation more efficient.

Overall, the College continues to educate and graduate leaders who excel at academics and are well-rounded individuals with confidence and integrity necessary to operate in a global society.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: GENERAL GUSTAVE F. PERNA US ARMY (RET), '81C

VFMAC has a long list of notable alumni. General Gustave F. Perna, USA is a 1981 graduate of VFMC. Recently retired as a four-star general, General Perna's last command was Operation Warp Speed, guiding the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. General Perna spoke to VFMC Cadets, describing how his time and experience at VFMC helped him achieve success in his career. What follows are his abbreviated remarks.

You know what I learned at VFMC?

I learned relationships matter. You learn who you can trust and who you can't trust. And it starts that young. And it was very, very important. That's why I'm a big people person. I believe in building relationships before the emergency.

But if the emergency comes in, you learn how to treat people right and then you learn how to make assessments quickly. I'm a body language person. Truth matters. You say you're going to do something. You better do it. You implied something. You better do it. You don't, we'll hold you accountable. So relationships matter. Number one.

Number two, you can get anything done as a member of a team if you're not worried about who gets the credit. As soon as that becomes relevant, then you're going to fail. I learned this at Valley Forge to be honest with you,

whether it was how to do things as we were told to do. You know those two things.

The third thing I learned (is) Battle Rhythm at Valley Forge. That's why I started doing it right. There were things that you had to do when you had to do— wake up in the morning on time, we went to formation on time, you went to class on time.

You were expected to do study hall on time. We went to chapel. These were regimented things that became a big part of my life. You have to be able to adapt, to be agile. But if you don't have a foundation then, you know, I don't care who you are.

So three things at Valley Forge, I would give credit to. Valley Forge was life changing for me. The foundation it set was everything for me. And that's the team, the professors, you know, the administration and students, you know, guys, I'm still friends with today.

Over 40 years later, when I got done with Operation Warp Speed, two college roommates and their wives came to my house to just hang out and talk about things. That's the foundation that was set at VFMC. So for me, it's an honor and pleasure to be a graduate and to share some of the most important things I learned there. If I can do anything for the school or the students, it would be my pleasure.

“

**Valley Forge was
life-changing for me.”**

- General Gustave F. Perna
US Army (Ret), '81C



“

**You can get anything
done as a member of
a team if you are not
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the credit.”**

- General Gustave F. Perna
US Army (Ret), '81C



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