

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### CLARK-YUDKIN RESEARCH FELLOW FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016



Mary Elizabeth Ruwell and Marek Lazarz

Marek Lazarz, Director of the POW Camps Museum, Sagan, Poland, came to do research at the Academy in June 2016. During his week-long visit, he reviewed many records in the McDermott Library's Stalag Luft III collections and was able to photograph important lists and histories that he is now using in Poland.

Marek graduated in 1997 from the University of Wroclaw, majoring in Slavic Studies, and is proficient in several languages. After graduation, he taught Russian, then became a tour guide, leading tours in France, Greece, Italy, and Spain. At the same time, he worked as a volunteer at the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw in the armored vehicles and tank restoration department where he learned how to restore not only the tanks but also how to restore other historic artifacts such as coins and dog tags. He also designed several exhibits devoted to the history of the Polish Army and published a book, *The Making of Four Tankmen and a Dog* TV Series.

In May 2011, Marek was appointed Director of the POW Camps Museum, where he is also the museum's guide and researcher. He has attended and given presentations at three Stalag Luft III reunions. These visits to the United States have given him the opportunity to meet with the Stalag Luft III community. At the reunion in Colorado Springs in 2014, the participants honored him with a certificate in the Honor Book located in the McDermott Library's Special Collections Branch for "efforts to not only improve the museum but to promote it to the public in order to preserve the memories of the prisoners of war for generations to come and provide a research facility worthy of them to all who come to learn more."

He welcomes all of you to visit his museum: POW Camps Museum Zagan, Ul. Lotnikow Alianckich 6 68-100 ZAGAN



Phil Caine and Marek Lazarz

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been some time since The Friends sent out a newsletter. It's not that we haven't been doing anything, but rather because of a very busy spring last year. Several changes in the past year have affected The Friends and you will find articles about most of them in this newsletter. Some of the changes merit special mention.

The first is the announcement by Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the McDermott Library, that he will retire this summer. Ed has been a real "friend" of The Friends during his 21-year tenure. He has consistently supported Friends projects, has been a constant champion of the organization, and has not missed an opportunity to praise our impact on the mission of the Library.

Sadly, Brig. Gen. (ret) Jesse Gatlin passed away in January. Jesse was one of the original founders of The Friends and, while he did not serve on our Board, he was an enthusiastic supporter during the past nearly 30 years. His friendship, counsel, and support will be sorely missed. With Jesse's passing, there are no founders still living.

We have also had changes in the membership of The Friends Board. Dr. Don White, a longtime member passed away late last year. Don always brought to the group wise counsel and advice and his cheery smile will certainly be missed. Lt. Col. (ret) Steve Pomeroy resigned from the Board after a short tenure because of personal commitments. To fill those vacancies we welcome two stellar individuals, both of whom have a more detailed biography in the newsletter.

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## FUTURE PROJECTS OF THE FRIENDS

The Academy's McDermott Library continues to improve by virtue of gifts of unique collections of documents, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia which add immeasurably to the Library's ability to support cadets, faculty, graduates, and others for study, teaching, and research. The Friends role is to help solicit and enable the acquisition of such gifts and once received to help ensure their accessibility. An example is the recent gift of the papers of General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF chief of staff from October 1994 through August 1997. The extensive collection of papers covers an important period in Air Force history, and will be most useful when it is fully inventoried, indexed, and digitized. The Friends will undertake this project in stages with the aim of making the material available online. The McDermott Library also has recently acquired several important collections relating to Special Operations: the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society records, the Cortez Enloe collection, and the Special Operations collections donated by Lt. Col. "Brad" Bradbury. The Friends will also support the organizing, digitizing, and posting of these materials online.

In addition to supporting work on these collections, the Friends will assist in boosting cadet and patron

interest in and access to the Library's resources by helping to develop interactive kiosks. These attractive centers are envisioned to have 3-5 minutes of content, which would lead the user directly into the digitized special collections. In yet another initiative, The Friends are laying the foundation for an extensive archival database of material on unmanned aerial systems; our pilot program is well underway gathering documents and developing the overarching policy agreements necessary to work in this rapidly expanding field. Then, of course, we plan to continue our efforts to build and maintain accessible databases of special interest to the Academy, such as biographical information on the Jabara Award winners and the graduates enshrined on the War Memorial Wall.

Each of these projects is labor intensive, requiring special expertise and extensive work. Some of the work could be done by Library staff, but current staffing is not adequate to make much progress. The Friends goal is to advance the work by using trained volunteers and by contracting with individuals who have the requisite skills and experience. Of course, the pace of the work is governed by available funding. We depend on and greatly appreciate the generous support of our patrons for this and the rest of The Friends Projects.

## UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) PROJECT UPDATE

The Friends are sponsoring a project to gather materials from the study at the Academy of unmanned aerial vehicles and systems, popularly known as drones. A significant development with the project is the donation of over fifty articles published by Academy faculty members on the subject as well as some support documentation. Brig. Gen. (ret) Erlind Royer, Friends Vice President, assembled these materials and brought them to the Clark Special Collections Branch in December. In February, McDermott Library staff

members Linda Tully, Chief of Systems Administration; Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Archivist and Chief of the Special Collections Branch; and Melissa Robohn, Friends contractor for the Library, submitted an application to the Academy's new CyberWorx office to address the storage and access needs of the materials gathered for this project as a design challenge. The grant application was accepted and an award of \$5,000 has been budgeted for their use. The team is planning to begin the work in a "design sprint" later this year.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Suffice it to say that Capt. Steve Maffeo, USNR (ret), is a natural for the Board. Steve served for over 30 years on the staff of the McDermott Library, many of them as its associate director, so brings a vast store of knowledge about the Library and its operation. Lt. Col. (ret) Steve Simon, Class of '77, also brings extensive experience from his years at Air Force Headquarters and at the Academy. He is particularly knowledgeable about the Academy's history and will be immeasurably valuable in the heritage portion of The Friends mission.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to become publicity agents for The Friends. In these days of change and challenge for both the Academy and the Library, it is easy for small organizations, such as The Friends, to get lost in the shuffle. Therefore, it is important that we "toot our own horn" at the Academy and in the community. As you will see in this newsletter, we are making huge contributions to the institution and to the Air Force. If we are to continue our critical mission, we need the support of all our Patrons as well as the community at large. If you have ideas about publicity, please take a minute to let us know via email or a phone call.

This has been a very busy year and The Friends continue to focus on the effective accomplishment of our mission. Our efforts could not succeed without your continued support. Thank you for that. We hope to see you at our annual luncheon on May 9th.

**ON TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017 THE FRIENDS WILL HOST OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON AT THE USAFA FALCON CLUB. THE SOCIAL PERIOD WILL BEGIN AT 11:30 AND WE WILL SIT DOWN FOR LUNCH AT 12:00. THE COST OF THE LUNCHEON IS \$17 PER PERSON. YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD TURNOUT AT THE LUNCHEON TO MARK THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR THE ORGANIZATION.**



## NEW FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to introduce two new members to our Board of Directors. Steve Maffeo joined us in 2016 and Steve Simon will be joining the board in May 2017.

Captain Steven E. Maffeo, USNR, Ret., recently retired as the associate director of the McDermott Library at USAFA, having served there for 32 years as a reference librarian, assistant director for technical services, and associate director. Prior to that he worked at the Aurora (Colorado) Public Library, the U.S. Naval War College Library, and the University of Northern Colorado Library. He has a master's degree in library science from the University of Denver, and another in strategic intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College (NDIC).

Steve served in the Colorado Army National Guard (Signal Corps), and in U.S. Naval intelligence, from 1978 until 2008. He commanded three Naval reserve/joint service intelligence

units. His last Navy assignment was teaching the history of intelligence at the NDIC. He has published four books dealing with naval history and the history of intelligence. Steve lives in Colorado Springs with his wife, Rhonda, a computer programmer and program manager; their son Micah is a senior and an Army ROTC cadet at Colorado State University.

Steve Simon is a 1977 Air Force Academy graduate who served on active duty for 22 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Much of his career was spent working at or for the Academy, including a five-year assignment in the Pentagon as the Academy's Congressional Liaison. He completed his active duty career in Washington, DC, as the Academy specialist on the Secretary of the Air Force's Personnel Council.

After retiring from the Air Force, Steve served for 11 ½ years as the graduate/donor liaison on the Academy

staff. Most recently, he was a leader in the Academy's commemoration of its 60th anniversary. He conceived and researched a "This Day in Air Force Academy History" project to recognize significant events. They were publicized in the base paper and on the Academy's website throughout 2014. He continues to conduct research on the list of events, which now contains more than 3,000 items and is currently featured on the Association of Graduates (AOG) website. Steve also wrote several Academy articles on Academy history for the 60th anniversary commemorative issue of the AOG's quarterly magazine, Checkpoints. One of the articles, "The Building of the Air Force Academy," was named Best Article of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), District IV. Prior to working on the Academy staff as a civilian, he researched and co-wrote the 2005 Rocky Mountain PBS documentary "Jewel of the Rockies," which examined the Academy's founding and its first fifty years.

## FRIENDS FOUNDER PASSES

We are sad to announce that Brig. Gen. Jesse Gatlin, the last surviving founder of The Friends of the Academy Library, has passed. Shown here at the signing of the charter are (left to right seated) Lt. Gen. W.W. "Skip" Scott, Superintendent and Lt. Gen. (ret) Tom Morman, President of The Friends and former Superintendent; (Left to right standing) unknown, Lt. Gen. (ret) A.P. Clark, former Superintendent; General T. R. Milton; Brig. Gen. (ret) Jesse Gatlin, former Permanent Professor and head of English Department; Lt. Col. Reiner "Swiss" Schaffer, Director of Academy Libraries



## WHO'S COMING TO VISIT? YOU'D NEVER GUESS

Hoping to gauge the effectiveness of our outreach on behalf of the Cadet Library, The Friends installed a counter on our website in January 2016. The results are both encouraging and surprising.

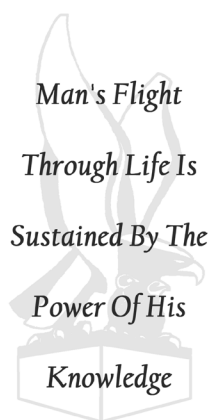
In February 2016, the first month in which the counter operated for a full month, about 300 visits occurred. The number grew steadily month-by-month, reaching 800 in December for a total of about 6,000 visits during 2016. That growth continues so far in 2017.

Those numbers are encouraging, and the monthly growth somewhat surprising. But even more surprising is the geographic extent of our audience. Are people outside the Academy community interested in The Friends?

Answer: The interest is widespread, as in worldwide spread. Here are the top 25 locales from which visitors came to the site in December: United States, Russia, Germany, India, Italy, Great Britain, Poland, Canada, France, Ukraine, Pakistan,

Brazil, Philippines, Uruguay, Algeria, Serbia, Indonesia, Hungary, Switzerland, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Australia, Romania, and Mexico. The top 25 represented every continent but Antarctica. Who would have guessed!

What's drawing all those visitors? Come see for yourself at [www.usafalibrary.com](http://www.usafalibrary.com). No telling whom you might meet.



## REPORT FROM DR. ED SCOTT, PhD., DIRECTOR OF THE McDERMOTT LIBRARY

Academic Year 2016– 2017 has certainly not been a dull one, but the McDermott Library continues to make progress despite a few potholes in the information superhighway. Since the last Friends meeting, we have made a number of significant changes.

Renovation of the main floor of the Library was one of the Superintendent's top priorities. All the books were removed from third floor, the reference and circulation desks were combined into a services desk on fourth floor, and the third floor was transformed into a variety of individual and small group study areas—ultimately 14 small group study areas, with the possibility of developing three more. There are also a large number of individual study areas with power and wireless connectivity for mobile devices. The final order for new furniture has been issued, and we hope the area is fully functional by graduation.

The Library is fortunate to have had the same online integrated library system for the last 17 years, so we know exactly which items have been used during that period. Of the more than 880,000 items in the Library, only 173,000 have been used at least once in the last 17 years. But, in a study conducted in cooperation with the Library of Congress and the Military Education Coordinating Council Librarians Working Group, we know that approximately 200,000 items are unique to the McDermott Library. Additionally, we know exactly which journals are available on the Library's various databases, which means that cadets and faculty have instant access in their rooms, their offices, their classes, or in the Library itself to the majority of journals to which the Library ever subscribed. In fact, when I came in 1995, the Library subscribed to almost 2,000 print journals; we are now down to fewer than 300 subscriptions; most of the journals that were available on at least two online databases were cancelled. Consequently, the Library deaccessioned more than 80,000 bound journals in the summer of 2016; the rest were relocated on the fourth floor, along with the greatly reduced print reference collection, and the remaining books from the third and fourth floors.

The Library's planning consultants, RNL of Denver and Shepley Bulfinch of Boston, noted that the average cost for storing one bound volume is now calculated at \$4.80 per year. That is a very high price tag to store the 707,000 books that have so far not been used and may or may not be used in the future. Consequently, not only is the Library purchasing journals electronically, when given a choice between print and electronic, it is purchasing books in electronic format. It is projected that in the next two years, the Library will reduce its printed book collection by more than 400,000 volumes, keeping those rare, but seldom-used books as well as those that continue to be used. [The Library is again considering the merits of joining the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) as a way to improve access to scholarly materials shared by all.]

As you may know, President Trump issued a personnel freeze for most vacant civilian positions in the federal government. The Library currently has a librarian and two support staff positions vacant, with another librarian vacancy expected this summer. Over the past four years the Library has experienced a loss of 13 positions, including 3 in the Multi-Media Lab that was located in the Library, but was not part of it. So, at this time, the remaining members of the Library team are focused on providing the highest level of service possible despite the reductions and vacancies.

I have announced my retirement effective 1 July 2017 after 51 years of service as an academic librarian, the last 21 at the Air Force Academy. The Vice Dean has appointed a Search Committee for a new Library Director. Dr. Aaron Byerley, Professor of Aeronautics, is chair of that committee. Members include: Dr. Steve Jones, Senior associate Dean, representing the Dean of Faculty; Col. Kathleen Harrington, Permanent Professor and Head of English, representing the Permanent Professors; Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske, an Academic Advisor representing both the Faculty Senate and the Making Excellence Inclusive Committee; and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Academy Archivist and Special Collections Curator, representing the Library. The outside consultant/referee is Dr. Christopher Barth, Library Director at West Point. While it is anticipated that the new Director will have a doctorate, that degree is not being advertised as a requirement. Until the personnel freeze is lifted, no action can be taken on the pending or current vacancies.

Over the years, The Friends has provided a margin of excellence in providing funds to support primarily Special Collections, but other Library activities as well. The purchase of rare books, the curation of special donations, the creation of special exhibits, the publishing of the Gimbel catalog, The Genesis of Flight, and the printing of special brochures are a few that come to mind. I am certain that there will be many opportunities for your support in the future.

On a personal note: please provide my successor with the same superb support and encouragement that you have given me. It will make the new director's tenure more effective, and I will be honored by your continued dedication.

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