

December 2007

TO: Alumni

FROM: John R. Rapp '74C, President of the Alumni Association

SUBJECT: Reports from Committee Chairs

On December 8, 2007, the Alumni Association Board of Directors' Executive Committee met to discuss the activities of the Board's sub-committees. I want to share brief summaries of the Alumni Admissions, Career Day, and Forge Way Committees. The report from the Homecoming Committee will be sent separately.

2007 Alumni Admissions Committee Report

Chair: Dave Martin '59

My first step this past July was to meet with the then Admissions Director Greg Potts to reaffirm the Alumni Association's (AA) interest in helping with admissions and enrollment in any way we could. Greg seemed open and receptive to AA support and, after our meeting, agreed to come to an AA meeting to brief us on the situation. Shortly thereafter, he and I exchanged emails and phone calls conveying the names of a handful of alumni who had already expressed an interest in recruiting in their locales. I was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiastic tone of volunteers as well as their wanting to take the initiative in visiting schools in their area to introduce administrators and guidance counselors to VFMA&C.

I called Greg a couple of times to follow up, and at that time of year (Aug/Sep) he was, of course, committed to preparing for the start of school. Next thing I knew, he was leaving for another position in Ohio and was no longer available through the office number. I tried to do some directory search for his home number since he told me he lived in Pottstown, but to no avail.

I was advised by various individuals to get in touch with Dr. Kathleen Anderson in Greg's absence. I tried that and then got hold of Lt. Col. Matt Bowe by phone who suggested it might be better for me to work through him in this area since Dr. Anderson was wearing many hats at the time. Col. Bowe has been a great help and very responsive although we haven't had time to talk face-to-face or in any depth.

I've talked with Col. Bowe on several occasions. He has filled me in on current and planning recruiting activity. I also re-sent him the names of individuals I had earlier sent to Greg and I understand that Matt had talked to at least one of those individuals. Most recently on 7 Dec 07 (Pearl Harbor Day), I talked with Matt by phone and he provided this information: Current enrollment is 473 and holding; 71 applications for 15 Jan 2008 are being worked (47 Academy and 25 College). He also noted that prospects for next year are being worked now by Admissions staff. Staff are making evening calls to prospects to do telephone follow-up, interviews, and encourage further interest. (I was encouraged to hear this because one prospect I knew of had received good written follow-up by Admissions but no personal or phone call follow-up.) He also

mentioned that two referrals came in through Harry Penny '73 '75JC in the Altoona area, who Matt says has been very helpful. Some also came in from Kent McKnew '59 '61JC in the Annapolis area.

I believe our goal for the upcoming year should be to find new ways where the Alumni and the School can develop a real sense of synergism in the area of Admissions and Enrollment. Despite what purports to be everyone's best efforts, there seems to be a real or virtual "disconnect." This is an organizational, not a personal, observation; it just somehow feels as though we (the Alumni and School) are running around—up and down—the field trying to advance the ball, but in slightly different jerseys and with slightly different game plans. One comes away with the feeling of "quasi-discomfort," without an earnest sense of having been helpful or appreciated.

All in all, in my humble view, one cannot help but be inspired by hearing Alumni of all ages talk of their love for Valley Forge and what an immeasurable contribution Valley Forge (and all that it stands for) has made to their lives, personal and public. It seems as though we have so many powerful resources, but lack the capacity to harness and direct them to the greater good of the School.

2007 Career Development Day Committee Report

Co-Chairs: Art Lambert '60 and Bob Shapiro '60

Concept: Career Development Day is an annual Alumni-sponsored program to provide Academy second and first classmen the opportunity to meet with expert counselors in the career fields they are interested in pursuing.*** *Please note this service was offered to the College but the College refused to participate for the third consecutive year. This program is provided totally for the benefit of the Cadets and does NOT require any Academy funding.*

Execution:

Career Development Day was conducted Thursday, 15 November 2007.

32 Counselors, mostly Alumni and a few from other sources, provided Cadets first hand knowledge of the careers the Cadets selected.

24 career areas were represented.

The day started with a brief meeting of the Counselors in the Mellon Hall, Sara Crawford Room followed with a Police Dog demonstration. Following the demonstration, the first of three separate career sessions began in pre-assigned classrooms in Shannon Hall.

Upon the completion of the sessions, the Counselors accepted the review of the Corps marching to Second Mess and then treated to a buffet lunch in Eisenhower Hall.

Comments:

1. The Alumni Director position was vacated several months prior to Career Development Day and there was no assistance rendered from that office. In fact, Barry Griffiths filling in as Alumni Director failed to respond to e-mail and phone messages.
2. Participants, especially Valley Forge alumni, were difficult in many cases to contact because the contact information was either missing or incorrect. With the Alumni office vacated, any current contact information it may have had was not available.
3. A number of the career areas were double staffed where possible to provide counselor depth and coverage in the event participants cancelled at the "last minute." This proved to be helpful, several participants did cancel at the last minute.
4. For the last 3 or so Career Development Days, the College has refused to participate. These Cadets are closer to establishing their careers than secondary students, yet denied an opportunity to obtain a wealth of information about the careers they may be interested in pursuing. Many feel that this is a huge mistake and we recommend that action with the appropriate College officials be taken to obtain their involvement.
5. Initially (late August to early October), we seemed to experience a great deal of resistance (not wanting to become involved with providing assistance) from the Academy when we were trying to finalize Career Development Day activities. We did finally obtain the assistance from Commander Hill, who, by the way, was instrumental in obtaining a Police Dog Demonstration and organized the counseling schedule and classroom assignments. The rift between the Alumni and the Academy management staff was quite clear during this process, thus inhibiting our efforts. We recommend that this become an agenda item at an Alumni Meeting.
6. Classrooms being used for counseling should have had signs on the appropriate classroom doors stating which career was being covered in the respective rooms. There was some confusion primarily by the Cadets locating the room to which they needed to report. During the 2006 event, there was a floor plan of Shannon Hall identifying the counseling rooms. This would be helpful for future events.
7. We need to do a better job in obtaining bio's from all participants so that they are available to the Cadets participating in that session.
8. We plan to up-date the contact list with the counselors that participated these past years and include additional names as possible counselor candidates.
9. An e-mail was sent out last month to those we have on file announcing that next year Career Development Day is on the Academy Schedule for: Thursday, 13 November 2008. So those that got the message have a one-year notice unlike prior years. Reminders should go out again about early spring 2008.

Forge Way Committee

Chair: Al Heyer '69

The mission of the Committee is to research, review and recommend to the Executive Committee of the Alumni Board of Directors, the implementation of practices, traditions and operations that would strengthen, reinforce and/or alter the Valley Forge Military and College experience.

Following are the activities that have occurred thus far toward this end:

1. Museum Tours for new cadets (COMPLETED)
 - Requested by Commandant Col Medearis
 - Scheduled dates: Sunday September 16, 23 & 30, 2007
 - Museum tours principally conducted by Museum curator Bill Smith AABOD Homecoming. Special thanks to Bill Smith for conducting all three Sundays.
 - Al Heyer helped Bill Smith with the September 23 date.

2. Tailgate Picnic (COMPLETED)
 - Renamed the "Hall of Fame Tailgate Picnic"
 - Held at an Academy home football game on Saturday September 22, 2007
 - Scaled down as to food offerings and cost (\$5)
 - Food sales open to all Alumni & Parents
 - Additional donations welcome
 - 2 Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda, 2 Cookies
 - Tent & Tables provided John Rapp AABOD President
 - Free to the "Best of" Old Cadet and New Cadet from each unit
 - Free to the Regimental Staff & Mascot
 - Free to TAC Officers

3. Gold & Silver Stars Dinner
 - Held December 10, 2007 Monday in Eisenhower
 - Invitations sent to awardees with required RSVP
 - Mandatory function
 - Included both College & Academy Cadets.
 - Bill Smith coordinated the catering of the function.
 - Very nice meal provided, buffet line style.
 - Each Alum present made a short introduction of themselves. 8 Alumni.
 - Ann Sinatra, Col Medearis, Col Doyle and President McGeorge attended.

4. TAC Dinner (COMPLETED) 12 TACS & 10 Alumni attended. A very successful and enjoyable event lauded by Col Medearis. Great job, Bill Smith!
 - Held October 18, 2007 at the Kimberton Inn.
 - Bus provided from & to The Forge for the comfort of the TACs. Coordinated by Barry Griffiths, Alumni Relations.
 - Cost was \$75 per person.
 - Alumni Association paid for the TACs' dinners
 - Coordinated by Bill Smith AABOD Homecoming
 - Thanks to all who were unable to attend but made a donation and to the continentalonline.org in assisting in raising funds with Tom Balish spearheading effort.
5. Museum Staffing Requested by Col Medearis for the following events. This is so the cadets can show the museum to their dates for the evening.
 - Ring Dance, attended by Bill Smith and Woodie Stevens.
 - Winter Ball, TBD.
6. Academy & College Wrestling Uniforms Fundraising successfully completed.
 - Several Alumni were involved in this campaign.
 - Goal was reached to raise \$1500 which was exceeded.
 - Funds have been made available to the Wrestling Coach Lorusso
 - This committee wishes to thank all who stepped up to this challenge and contributed to the needs of our wrestling team.
 - A photo op with a ceremonial presentation of the monies will be scheduled for career day November 15th.
7. Chapel Speakers from the Alumni have been requested by Col Medearis and Col Steele for Thursday community chapel. Talks to be on the virtues for the month.
8. Alumni participation requested by Col Medearis for NCO & Officer calls. Preferred times are Monday at 1700 but can be scheduled for Saturday mornings.