

## *The Leading Edge*

DECEMBER 2012

# Every Gift Matters: Together, we can make a difference

by Gen (Ret) Stephen Lorenz '73, President & CEO

Recently, I had a chance to address graduates who were returning to the Academy to participate in their class reunions. The overarching theme of my presentation was a simple call to action that can be summed up in one short statement – “Give *what* you can, *when* you can, to whatever program you want ... and as graduates, we should each give something *every year*.”

Although most who read this newsletter already contribute to the Academy on an annual basis, we must continue to “beat the drum” throughout our graduate community about the relevance of giving back to our Air Force Academy each and every year.

Until I landed in this role, I had no idea how important the percentage of graduates participating in annual giving was to the life of our institution. This graduate participation rate is used by publications like U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review, and others as a primary indicator of alumni support. In addition, graduate participation serves as the measure by which many corporations and foundations rate graduate involvement and funding decisions.

Finally, the graduate participation rate is a visible sign used in peer benchmarking as a measure of institutional pride. The current Academy graduate giving participation rate is only 11% in comparison to Navy’s participation rate of 24% and Army’s participation rate of 29%. I know that we have one of the most dedicated graduate

communities in the nation, and in this area, we can do better.

We are proud of the support provided by thousands of graduates in the past and eager to expand upon this support in the future. Giving back helps create a culture of graduate involvement. Also, broad graduate participation helps establish a culture of philanthropy that is vital to the success and sustainability of the Academy.

There are many ways to participate through contributing to your class projects, the Long Blue Line Fund, or by giving back to the Air Force Academy Fund (which supports vital cadet “margin of excellence” programs, important graduate services and programs, and other Academy priorities like the Center for Character and Leadership Development, the Rando Fund and the Risner Senior Scholar).

If you have not yet made your 2012 contribution, I encourage you to do so by December 31. If you have, then I ask you to consider an additional contribution and to encourage others to give back.

The power of collective giving is greatest when we all participate, and every gift of every size is important. Together, we can make a difference!

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Lt Col Bill Barrington, Jr. '95,  
Lt Col Cathy Barrington  
'97, and their two sons,  
Will and Adam.

## Supporting their Alma Mater

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Barrington, Jr. '95 and his wife, Lieutenant Colonel Cathy Barrington '97, recently made a generous five-year commitment in support of the Air Force Academy Fund and the new Center for Character and Leadership Development. They took a moment to share why they choose to give back to the Academy.

### Please tell us a little about yourselves:

**Cathy:** We are currently stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base outside Cheyenne, Wyoming, with our two sons, Will and Adam. I took command of the 319th Missile Squadron earlier this year, and Bill is the 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron commander. We have been in the ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) business for most of our careers.

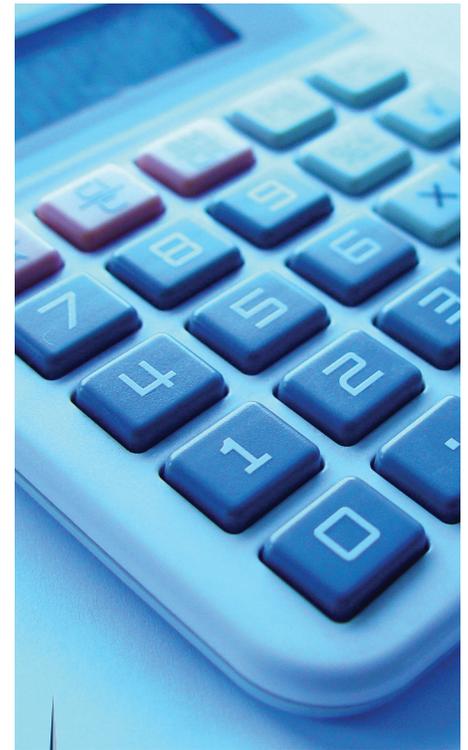
**Bill:** Many members of both of our families have served in the military, and Cathy and I greatly appreciate being able to continue in that tradition. Our Air Force service has enabled us to live and work in different areas of the country, and we have enjoyed the support of many great leaders who helped us with being stationed together, so we can serve as a family.

### What inspired you to contribute to the Academy?

**Bill:** We were stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, when I was selected as Stalag 17's AOC—a position I held for two years. My time as an AOC at the Academy was a turning point for us—being back around the Academy, having season football tickets, and interacting with the cadets just re-blued and energized us to give back. It drove home an appreciation for everything the Academy has given us; we are where we are today because of what we learned at the Academy.

### Why is it important to support the Academy in this way?

**Cathy:** We are both squadron commanders now, which makes us graduates and customers of the Academy. Freshly-graduated lieutenants enter as part of the Air Force nuclear enterprise, and we heap a ton of responsibility on their shoulders. We trust that they graduate from the Academy with every critical tenet and principle for leadership in place—to do what is hard but necessary, to do the right thing when no one is looking. We see giving to the Academy as an ongoing investment that we get to work with and help develop—supporting the mission of building the leaders of character that we need as a nation.



## The Quandary of Unknown Tax Changes

As 2012 draws to a close, there are still many uncertainties about some key tax matters that may affect your financial and estate tax planning. Important issues including tax rates, capital gains and estate taxes have yet to be determined as this article is written, mere weeks before 2013. While the USAFA Endowment does not render specific legal or tax advice, we are able to provide general information to assist you in determining a course of action that will enable you to achieve your objectives, including support for USAFA.

When Congress passes laws addressing these matters, we will swiftly send out informative emails and newsletters. As always, we stand ready to assist you, grateful for the many persons who have included provisions in their estate plans to benefit the Academy in the future, and those who have made current gifts of appreciated securities. Please direct your questions to Dale Zschoche at 719.238.7510 or email at [dale.zschoche@usafaendowment.org](mailto:dale.zschoche@usafaendowment.org).

# Academy breaks ground for new CCLD

On October 19, 2012, over 150 guests gathered in the Harmon Hall Honor Court at the Academy to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Center for Character and Leadership Development. The CCLD, funded through the military construction budget and \$12.5 million from private donors, is slated for completion in late 2014.

Donors, graduates, family and friends of the Academy community joined Academy senior staff and leadership to celebrate this historic advancement for cadet character and leadership education. Lieutenant General Mike Gould '76, Superintendent, thanked the many individuals, staff, and organizations whose support made the



construction of the new Center possible, ushering in a new era in the Academy's mission of developing leaders of character for the nation.

"We have all been looking forward to this day for quite some time," said General

(Ret) Stephen R. Lorenz '73, President and CEO of the USAFA Endowment. "The only moment I can imagine that will surpass today's excitement is when we meet again at this site for the ribbon-cutting celebration, opening up this amazing facility's doors to our Academy's cadets."

*Counting on you ... In the spirit of giving this season, please remember that every gift matters – your participation is vitally important!*

The season of giving is here and now is the time to make a gift to the **Air Force Academy Fund**. All gifts are tax-deductible and provide vital support for Cadet "margin of excellence" programs, graduate programs and services, and help meet the Academy's immediate strategic needs.

**Every gift makes a difference.** If you've not yet given, please consider a year-end gift and help boost the Academy's giving participation rate. Give by December 31 and you will be recognized in the 2012 Donor Report. If you've already made a gift this year, we are deeply grateful. Your ongoing support is tremendously appreciated and an additional gift will help us meet our year-end goal.

Visit our online end-of-year gift guide at [www.usafa.org/eoy](http://www.usafa.org/eoy) for more information.

**We're counting on your participation by December 31!**

*In the spirit of the season, we extend our sincere appreciation for your support!*

**Give online at:** [giveafaf.org](http://giveafaf.org)

**Give by phone:** 719.472.0300 Ext. 221

**Give by mail:** Checks payable to  
USAFA Endowment  
3116 Academy Dr, Ste 200  
USAF Academy, CO 80840

## Upcoming Events

**FEBRUARY 20-22, 2013**

National Character and Leadership  
Symposium (NCLS)  
USAFA, CO

**APRIL 5, 2013**

Founders Day Dinner  
USAFA, CO

**APRIL 10-12, 2013**

Falcon Heritage Forum  
USAFA, CO



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