

The Leading Edge

SEPTEMBER 2012

PRODUCING LEADERS OF CHARACTER

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

Our great school's mission is to build leaders of character for the nation. We have accomplished that mission since the Class of 1959 graduated and became Second Lieutenants. Each graduating class since that time has built on this tradition of leadership to our nation in so many different ways. Our Academy graduates have served in the military, business, medicine, law, the clergy, and many other professions as leaders of character. I always remember that our school was not only built for ourselves, but for all the others that we will lead. You see, our nation expects our graduates to make a positive difference in the lives of the individuals we lead.

In the almost 38 years I was honored to serve in our United States Air Force, I had the privilege of working with thousands of great Airmen who deserved the very best leadership that we officers could provide. Our Airmen are smart and highly motivated. They get their early dedication and character from their families and communities, and further develop themselves through training, education and, most importantly—the example set by their leaders. I would like to tell you the stories of three Airmen who embody what true leadership is all about.

“NOW, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES: ARE WE AT THE ACADEMY CONTINUING TO PRODUCE LEADERS GOOD ENOUGH TO LEAD THEM?”

The first was Staff Sergeant Olsen, who I first met at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He was a Security Forces working dog handler who had been seriously wounded in Afghanistan several weeks before, when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated near him and his dog, Blick. Olsen's upper arm was shattered—his limb was now framed by a series of protruding, surgically-implanted rods. I was there to visit him before his operation to remove the metal bars bolted into his arm. We exchanged pleasantries, and I asked him if there was anything I could do to help him. He paused and said, "My dog, Blick, was also wounded in the IED explosion, and I understand him better than anyone else. General, can you help me adopt Blick? He needs me now." Here is this very seriously wounded Airman who is about to be operated on, and what is he worried about? His dog! I told him I would do everything I could to help. One year later, I was at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, and I went to find Olsen at the base kennel. There he was—back doing his full-time job as a dog handler—and sitting beside him was Blick, now retired. Blick was sitting there contentedly and weighing in at just a little bit more than when he was on active duty. Olsen's attitude inspired me.

The second story is about two other Security Forces NCOs at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, cross-training to become medical technicians. Staff Sergeants Jade Henderson and Deondra Sauls were studying for an exam in a bookstore in downtown Wichita Falls one night, when a lone gunman came in and shot both Henderson and Sauls. The two seriously wounded staff sergeants were rushed to the nearest major hospital in Dallas that could treat their injuries. The next day, I flew to Dallas to visit these two Airmen.

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Henderson was in surgery when I arrived, and Sauls was in the emergency room after her operation. When I visited with her, I told her that she had the entire might and weight of 332,000 Airmen behind her and asked if there was anything I could do to help. She grabbed my hand and said, "Do not take away my training slot!" Needless to say, we kept her training slot open. Once again, a young NCO in a time of crisis and pain was setting the example for me to follow.

We can agree that these are extraordinary Airmen. **Now, we must ask ourselves: Are we at the Academy continuing to**

produce leaders good enough to lead them? After watching the Class of 2012 graduate and observing their training and education, I think we are. However, we must continue to improve our great school to develop leaders of character for our nation. That is where all of us who support USAFA can continue to make a difference. The extra margin of excellence we donors provide ensures that our graduates will continue to be the type of leaders Airmen like Staff Sergeants Olsen, Henderson and Sauls deserve.



Andi Biancur '60

A matter of trust

Mention trust to Andi Biancur '60, and he is passionate in his response: "It is the basis of my success, from the time I was a cadet, through my military and business careers. Whether it was my wingman, superior officer or an associate, I was surrounded by people I could trust. More than once, it saved me," recalled the long time military and civilian pilot, who rose to the rank of Colonel before retiring. He then worked in aircrew training management and as a consultant.

Trust of another kind binds him to the future of the Academy – when he did his estate planning, he elected to establish a charitable remainder trust. This qualified him to receive an income tax deduction, income for the rest of his life, and the satisfaction of knowing the Academy is to receive the remaining trust principle. "Giving back is essential, and our duty as USAFA graduates. We owe – everything most of us have today, began here," said Andi.

Father of two children with his late wife, Andi is now married to Carole, who, like Andi, is an avid skier. They winter in Park City, and from their Colorado Springs home, Andi serves as an alternative member of the Colorado Springs Airport Commission. A former AOG board member, he remains active as his class president and, along with Carole, continues to serve as sponsor parents. He also serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of The Friends of the USAFA Library.

POLARIS SOCIETY – *Factoids*

- Andi is one of 200+ members in this recognition program
- Qualifying activity includes trusts similar to his, bequests to the Academy in wills, and designations in retirement and insurance plans.

For more information, contact Dale Zschoche at 719.238.7510 or dale.zschoche@usafaendowment.org.



From L to R: Gil Mook '67, Larry Wilson '67, Chuck Heflebower '67, Greg Bailey '67, Pete Milne '67, Jim Shaw '67

Reaching New Heights: 2012 Academy Summit

In late July, over 100 donors and guests gathered at the U.S. Air Force Academy for the 2012 Academy Summit. They traveled from around the nation to meet with senior Academy leadership and cadets, and to learn more about the strategic direction of the institution. This marked the Endowment's second nationwide conference to connect donors with the Academy; the inaugural Summit was held in 2010.

Over the course of three days, guests enjoyed a luncheon and golf at the Eisenhower Golf Club; a reception and awards presentation at the Colorado Mountain Brewery; briefings from senior Academy leadership and staff; a tour of Athletics facilities; a reception hosted by the Superintendent and his wife, Paula, at the Carlton House; and a tour of Jacks Valley.

"I greatly appreciated being part of this event," says Patrick Coyne, Professor Emeritus at Kansas State University. "The

activities and briefings were superbly executed, informative, and interesting. The visit to Jacks Valley was a first for me as it is normally closed to the public so that was much appreciated, and the evening reception at Carlton House hosted by General and Mrs. Gould was exceptionally nice. Everyone involved with this Summit was so friendly and helpful and are working to make the Academy program and experience the best possible."

The Endowment would like to thank all of the donors, parents, grads and friends of the Academy in attendance. Your contributions help support vital activities and programs like cadet clubs and intramurals, character and leadership development, summer internships with NASA, NATO and Congress, and international immersion opportunities, in addition to making critical capital projects possible at the Academy. We look forward to seeing you again in 2014!



Mark and Ginger Anderson '61

Giving Back: Supporting Cadet Character Development

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Marcus Anderson '61 and his wife, Ginger, recently made a generous commitment in support of the VECTOR (Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection) program at the Academy—a character development capstone seminar for fourth class cadets. General Anderson shares why he and Ginger choose to give back to the Academy.

Tell us a little about yourself: I spent most of my career flying fighters (F-100, F-4, F-15, and A-10). I flew combat in Vietnam and pulled alert in Europe. I had great bosses and mentors, who gave me opportunities and good advice. I was fortunate to command a fighter squadron, a fighter wing, a numbered air force and a test center – and to serve as Commandant of Cadets at our Academy. My wife and I moved 22 times over the course of my career. She became a “pro” at making any apartment or house a home in a day or two. I retired in 1996, and we have lived in Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas, ever since. I still fly and enjoy chasing the little white ball around the golf course.

What inspired you to contribute to the Academy? My four years at the Academy provided me the foundation of values, education and skills that served me well for my 35-year active duty Air Force career. I have seen firsthand what private support does for our cadets and the Academy. I have been contributing to the Sabre Society for several years because I’ve always felt the need to “give back”. Recently, my wife and I reached the point in our lives where we could provide a major gift, which we have done. It is very gratifying to be able to help the Academy, the Association of Graduates and the Endowment.

Why is it important to support the Academy in this way? Government funds provide the essentials to operate and maintain the Academy, but private funds are needed to provide the “extra measure of excellence” that cannot be achieved with government funding. It’s important that we graduates do our part to make that “extra measure of excellence” a reality.

Integrity First, Service Before Self, And Excellence in All We Do

These core values are ingrained within our cadets and graduates.

They are values that make a real difference. Your **Sabre Society** level gift (*\$1,000 or more, annually*) to the **Air Force Academy Fund** supports cadet and graduate programs and services which reinforce Academy core values.

Make a real difference – give today!

Give online: www.usafaendowment.org
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3116 Academy Dr, Ste 200
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Please verify or provide your email address today in order to receive Sabre Society event information. Send your address to:
patricia.oconnor@usafaendowment.org

DOUBLE or even TRIPLE your gift to the Air Force Academy Fund

Does your employer match charitable gifts? Some companies even match gifts made by retirees and spouses. Visit http://www.usafa.org/AreasofGiving/Matching_Giving to determine if your company matches gifts and how to get your gift matched.



Don't pass up this easy opportunity to increase your dollars for the Air Force Academy Fund.



Upcoming Events

November 2, 2012

Donor Dinner
Castle on the Hudson
Tarrytown, NY

November 3, 2012

Tailgate/AFA vs Army
Eisenhower Hall, West Point, NY

November 9, 2012

Falcon Fan Reception
Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

November 10, 2012

Tailgate/AFA vs San Diego State
San Diego, CA

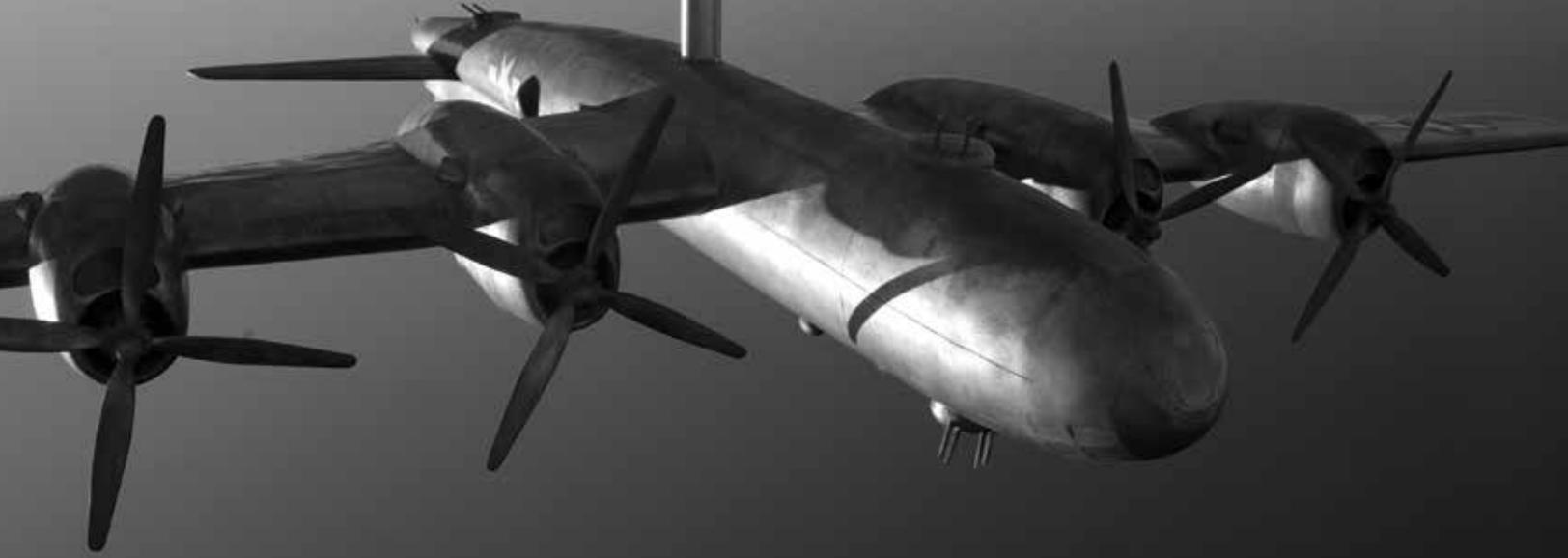
February 20-22, 2013

National Character and Leadership
Symposium (NCLS)
USAFA, CO

April 10-12, 2013

Falcon Heritage Forum
USAFA, CO

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