

2019 AOG Chapter Presidents' Conference

28 August

Planetarium Visit

- We kicked off the conference with a visit to the newly remodeled John H Martin Planetarium and STEM Center.
 - o Reopened Last March after 15 years in shuttered status
 - o Not your father's planetarium
 - Cost \$5M to renovate
 - \$2M donated by a single individual and \$3M from the Endowment Foundation
 - State of the art facility with 110 seats
 - Free shows every Tuesday and Thursday
 - o Enthusiastically embraced by educators on the Front Range and Academy visitors
- Highly recommend you take the time to visit it on your next trip to the Academy.

Administrative Remarks

- Held in Polaris Hall – awesome facility
- **Cathy McClain '82 - AOG Chairman**
 - o Cathy provided opening remarks via video conference
 - o She shared her vision for the AOG
 - "...serving all cadets and grads through all phases of their lives, documenting their contributions to Academy, the service, and our nation."
 - Wants to provide life- long support to cadets and grads at each phase of their life
 - Emphasized the grads encompass a larger family to include actual grads, their extended families, and those they adopted along the way.
 - o Stated we need reevaluate where we need to be in the future
 - o Is working with the AOG and Endowment Boards to elect new single CEO
- **Marty Marcolongo '88 - AOG President and CEO**
 - o Emphasized the grad "family theme" intertwined with "service before self" aspect of the AF Core Values
 - Provides an avenue to enlarge our Academy footprint and gather supporters and new candidates along the way
 - o Highlighted only 60% of grads are member of the AOG
 - Looking for ways to increase that number

- Toying with ideas of no dues
 - Dues only support 12% of AOG operation expenses
 - Abandoning dues business model would give the AOG access to the cadets and hopefully introduce them to the association and all it can do for them
 - Larger membership focusing on ways to give back to our nation may could result in tangential benefits
 - Introduced new theme for away football games
 - “It is more than just a game”
 - want to make grads and the AOG more visible in the community
 - When the AOG travels it will look for an opportunity to give back to the community via a community service project
 - Look for more on this as the season unfolds
- **Lt. Gen. (Ret) Mike Gould “76 – Endowment Foundation President and CEO**
 - The Endowment Foundation is focused on the theme of “...service for a lifetime and giving back”
 - Shared some interesting numbers on alumni support from various academic institutions
 - Princeton – 55%
 - Army – 35%
 - Navy – 24%
 - Stanford – 24%
 - AF – 12%
 - The Endowment has raised \$191M since its inception
 - Contributions are on a rise - \$28M last year
 - Wants to grow the fund so we can tap while it grows in perpetuity
 - Currently spend approximately 4.5% per year
 - Stated that philanthropy is the key to the future growth and success of the Academy
 - Some examples of where endowments have enhanced the Academy mission
 - Holiday Athletic Center - \$17.5M
 - Center for character and Leadership Development - \$20M
 - Future areas
 - Institute for the Study of Future Conflict
 - Center for Cyber Intervention
 - Air Warrior Combat Memorial
 - The Endowment Foundation will soon change its name to Air Force Academy Foundation

- Initiative to eliminate confusion and establish it as the single fundraising organization at the Academy
- Gen Gould reminded us that 20 years ago the government provided for most if not all the Academy needed to support its mission
 - Not that way today
- Lastly, the Foundation is not about Academy policy; it simply solicits gifts to support the priority list the Superintendent gives it

Tech Connect – Devin Davis – Young alumni Engagement Coordinator

- Looking for ways to accelerate your digital presence
 - Launching Zoomie Link in early September
 - Secure platform
 - Connecting USAFA grads to a network of possibilities
 - The more people that use it will only increase its usefulness
 - Provides chapters with free website
 - Will help set it up
 - Provide tips for enhancing your web if already established
 - Survey Planet
 - Provides the why and when to survey your members and how to gather the data

Career Center Briefing – Corrie Grubbs - Senior VP for Operations

- Provides grads with a single point of contact and tools to use for:
 - Employment resources
 - resume writing
 - recruit awareness
 - education opportunities
 - self- employment

Growing Our AF Academy Family – Bill Preston - Parents Programs Coordinator

- Looking for ways to grow our Academy family
- Vision – “empower the AF Academy family to do great things for each other and their nation”
 - If you have never seen it, go on u-tube and watch Marty Marcolongo’s 2018 speech at the Academy Founder Day Dinner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTy8JzH0iQg>
 - It embodies the theme of “service before self” and should be mandatory viewing by all grads
- If you know anyone who wants to organize a Parents Club have them contact Bill

Round Table Panel

- **Introduced new Academy staff members: BGen Michelle Edmundson/ Commandant; Colonel Linell Letendre/Dean (select)/ '96; Chief Rob Johnson/ Commandant's Command Chief**
- Very interesting and enlightening session
 - They are energized and excited about their opportunity to help shape and mold tomorrow's AF leaders
 - Immediate changes
 - Cadets will pick their post- graduation AFSCs during junior year
 - Anyone who want to fly and is qualified will get an opportunity to go to UPT

USAFA Strategic Communications – Mike Peterson '87

- Introduced Nicole Cox '09
 - Key resource for outreach to grads to include such things as
 - Coordinating Academy visits
 - Acquiring speakers for events
 - Helping grads connect with what is happening at the Academy
 - She can be reached at
 - USAFA.graduateliasion@usafa.edu
 - 719-333-8827
 - However, she did remind us that for reunions you should first go to the AOG Reunion Team
 - AOG staff emphasizes that when planning a reunion you should think outside the box
 - Get away from the past cookie cutter agenda
 - Some classes are now holding reunions on away game weekends and watching the game on the big screen at Arnold Hall
 - Discussions are on going about giving 10,25 and 50 year reunions priority on dates and putting the rest on a lottery system
 - Highlighted the
 - 19 Founder Day Dinner events held across the country
 - 2019 Jack's Valley March back
 - 216 grads participated
 - Hope to make this an annual event; look for the date in 2020

29 August

Opened the day with a panel discussion with the Academy senior staff

Lt General Silva '85 – Superintendent

- Highlighted theme of networking between the AOG and Parents Clubs
 - o Parents are becoming more and more involved with the Academy and have become a key element in spreading the Academy vision and mission along with our AOG chapters
 - 62% of class of 2023 parents have no prior connection to the military; USAFA is their connection to the military
 - Number of parents coming to events is growing
 - Induction day – 2500
 - Acceptance Day Parade – 4000
 - Parents Day Weekend – 10,000
- Interesting stats from class of 2019
 - o 528 - UPT
 - o 54 – Cyber Space
 - o 60 – RPA
 - o 31 - Space Command
 - o 2 Rhodes Scholars
 - o 110 – Graduate School
- Facility updates
 - o Chapel closes for 4 year renovation project effective Sept 4, 2019
 - o Plans in the works to:
 - Build Cyber Innovation Center
 - Build new Visitor Center at the North gate
 - Funded by an enhanced user lease
 - No government funds
 - Complete renovation of Sjian Hall
 - IT infrastructure over-haul that will tie the Academy into the I-25 educational net from Cheyenne to Pueblo
- Sup's priorities for cadets
 - o Remain innovative
 - o Build warrior ethos
 - o Build impeccable character
 - o Elevate performance
- Sup's priority for the Academy
 - o Stay on top of social issues
 - o Increase number of female and minority cadets
 - o Grow future AF officers so they are prepared to lead the fight in any future conflict
- Sup's closing remarks: Academy is about

- Service
- Being part of something bigger than yourself
- Values
- Being part of the AF team
- World Class Education

Connecting Across Generations – Rita Murray

- A very enlightening and insightful presentation on how to understand and connect across the various generations to include traditionalist, baby boomers, gen x, millennials, and cloud babies
- If you are having trouble communicating or understanding the millennials this is a must watch. It will be the best 30 minutes you spent in a long time.
- AOG will put a link to view this presentation.

AOG Chapter Operations

- The remaining time at the conference focused on ways to improve Chapter operations
 - The Kansas City Chapter provided a presentation on their Chapter/outreach events
 - Included federal holiday events, collaboration with key players in the city, and avenues to recruit new candidates and support grads
 - New chapter presidents met to highlight areas where they could use help
 - Distinguished chapter presidents reviewed the AOG Chapter Handbook and provided inputs for improving the document.