



Southeast Texas USAFA Parents' Association Newsletter



January 2005

Dear Parents,

Hopefully you all had a great Holiday and you and your cadets are back to the reality of a New Year. I think by this point most of the Firsties have received their assignments for after graduation and you will begin to see the operation of the Squadron being turned over more and more to the 2nd class cadets.

We saw many of you at the All Academies Ball in December, which was a fabulous event. I thought Army did a great job putting it all together, and we thank them. Next year will be our turn to host the Ball. We already have a great core of people who have volunteered to help, but we certainly could use some more hands; so if you are interested, please let us know.

January is the meeting where we have traditionally elected new officers for our club. Marylyn and I will be graduating with our cadet in May along with Matt and Margie Godar and Lynn Brooks. The Omohundros and the Penas have graciously agreed to remain on the board for another year. I think I can speak for all of us on the board when I say that it has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have been on the board these past years. We not only have the best and most dedicated parents, but also the most fun! I look forward to keeping in touch with many of you as our cadets graduate and move on to the "REAL" Air Force. Please feel free to call us anytime and let us know how they are doing.

John and Marylyn DeFilippo



Feb 25	Class of 2005 100 th Night	May 29	Graduation Open House
March 18	Spring Break Begins after LMD	June 1	2005 Commissioning Ceremonies
March 28	Spring Break Ends (return by 7:00 pm)	June 1	2005 Graduation
April 17	USAFA Parents Meeting (tentative)	June 30	Class of 2009 In-Processing
May 14 – 15	Study Days	July 1	Class of 2009 Swearing-in Ceremony
May 16 – 21	Finals	July 16	Class of 2009 Field Day
May 27	2005 Graduation Week Begins	July 17	Doolie Day Out
May 27	Class of 2006 Ring Dance	July 24	USAFA Parents Meeting (tentative)
May 28	Outstanding Squadron Banquet	TBD	March to Jacks Valley

Club News

Graduation Info

Special thanks go out to Mike and Frankie Berry for holding a graduation Info meeting. Helpful information that can be passed on is always appreciated. Thanks to the Finches who also came and shared their experiences.

2005 Military Ball

I know we just had the ball, but work is already underway for the 2005 Ball. This year, Air Force once again is the host for the Ball.

Laser Graphics Fundraiser

If you have not looked on the web site, please check out the fundraiser information from Laser Graphics. So far it has been quite successful. If you have any questions on it, please contact Sandy Carp at 281-392-3569 or sandycarp@hotmail.com

USAFA Basketball Game

The Southeast Texas USAFA Parents Club saw a successful outing on December 13th when its members supported the Academy's men's basketball team against the Beaumont's Lamar University Cardinals, both in person and in spirit.

"The Rowdy-ite" women of the group met the day before the game for lunch and packing the Welcome Boxes. Marylyn DiFillipo, Sandy Carp, Louianne Reeves, Robyn Tompkins, Elizabeth May, Carol Murphy, and Donda Thomasson met first at La Madeleine's on Woodway before making their way over to David Carp's office where they over-packed 27 Welcome Boxes. **Thanks, David for generously offering your office, your board room, and your multiple computers + printers.**

The Welcome Boxes held at least two bottled drinks, bags of fresh fruit, the best home-made cookie assortment possible, a limited amount of candy, snacks and more snacks, and some fun things, too. Several other moms arranged to send in their home-baked goodies to be added to the 7"X 7" boxes. The boxes' contents were finished with a letter greeting the B-Ballers to Texas and affirming how proud we are of the young men. The individual boxes were then shipped off, via our Beaumont delegate, Donda, to be delivered to the team's hotel for Col. Head to distribute among the players, their tutors, coaches, announcers, and timekeepers.

An aside: Col. Head called Donda's home, only to get her husband to ask what kinds of things would be in these Welcome Boxes. John aptly replied, "Moms packed them. What do you think?" When Donda arrived with the boxes, Col. Head was most grateful and gracious for the show of support, but waited to pass out the boxes until after the players had a hearty dinner first. By-the-way, the players practiced only a few hours that day and most of the day was spent studying or taking finals on the road.

The next evening, on Monday, most of the Houston contingency gathered up at John Thomasson's work place for a Bar-B-Que meal before caravanning the mile to the Lamar Basketball stadium. There the 16-strong USAFA supporters managed to sit behind the USAFA basketball bench and among the traveling parents of the players. Small in number, the USAFA supporters were vociferous in their positive support of the team.

Although the team lost in overtime, in a very exciting, close game, it was heartwarming for our group to see such handsome, clean-cut, dedicated players perform their best.

The organizer Donda added this: "I took an idea about so big," cupping her hands to a six-inch circle, "then Marylyn added a suggestion, and then Sandy offered her husband's work place to pack, and then Louianne or Elizabeth suggested lunch before, and so forth. Adding Carol and Robyn to the mix, just added fun for us all." Then spreading her hands to the size of basketball, she finished, "my little idea became a great, wonderful, fun 'our' idea that brought a lot of smiles to both the players and to us. If I could work in committees with these great women, I wouldn't hesitate to say yes."



New Officers

New Officers were voted on in the January meeting. From left to right are Mike and Frankie Berry—President, Frank Buehner-Communication VP, and Louanne Reeves-Secretary.

They will join John and Peggy Omohundro-Administrative VP and Nelly Pena-Treasurer.

John and Marylyn DeFilippo, Matthew and Margie Godar, and Lynn Brooks all are stepping down this year as their cadets graduate.

Graduate Pictures

Traditionally, our April newsletter has included pictures and Biographies of all our graduating cadets. All senior parents need to send a picture and bio to Matthew Godar. In the bio, please list their squadron, awards, and duty assignment. If you have questions, please contact Matthew at mgodar@pobox.com or 836-321-8148

2nd. Lt. BJ Mills

is currently working Intelligence at Osan, S.Korea. He will report to Lakenheath Intel on 30 May 2005. Over the Christmas holidays BJ became engaged to C1C Jessica Williams (graduates AFA 6/1/05) of Springfield, VA. No wedding dates have been planned yet, the couple is waiting for deployment schedules, and joint spousal assignments before proceeding with the wedding plans. Jessica (CS 2) is a diver on the AFA diving team, some of the records she set in that sport in her C2C and C3C

2005 SPRING BREAK BUS TRANSPORTATION

(Tickets on sale starting January 10 thru March 4 2005)

No refunds or cancellations after March 4 2005

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 10 PAID SIGN-UPS FOR A BUS TO RUN..

Check for updates and changes at www.usafa.af.mil/smb

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner below Terrace)

Mar 18 Cadet @ 17:15 and 18:15

Mar 18 Prep @ 16:30

Mar 19 Cadet @ 05:15,06:15,07:15 HOURS

CADET RETURN 28 March, 2005: 12:00,13:00,14:00,15:00,16:00,17:00,1800 HOURS

PREP RETURN 27 March 2005: 16:00 (ONLY)

Type of Ticket	Purchase price
ROUND TRIP	\$40.00
ONE WAY	\$28.00

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner of Terrace)

Mar 18 Cadet @ 17:00 and 18:00

Mar 18 Prep @ 16:30

Mar 19 Cadet @ 05:00,06:00,07:00 HOURS

CADET RETURN 28 March, 2005: 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00 18:00 HOURS

PREP RETURN 27 March, 2005: 16:00 (ONLY)

Type of Ticket	Purchase price
ROUND TRIP	\$30.00
ONE WAY	\$22.00

- 1) Since this is a high volume time at the airports, allow additional time to check luggage or take only one carry-on bag.
- 2) Only bus times that meet sign up requirements are guaranteed a ride. Standby space may be available at the departure

ie. WATCH FOR BUS CANCELLATION/ PLEASE PURCHASE EARLY!!

DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

- 1) Cadet Buses leave from the BASE OF THE RAMP ON TIME. Luggage is limited to one large bag or two medium bags and one carry-on bag. Cadets are responsible for loading their own luggage onto the bus. Luggage should be clearly marked. REMEMBER all Cadet luggage looks the same.
- 2) Please allow at least 2 hours for driving time to Denver International Airport.
- 3) Please allow at least 1 1/2 hours for driving time to Colorado Springs Airport.
- 4) Additional departure times will be set up if the date or time for release of cadets or ILM changes.

RETURNING INFORMATION:

- 1) There will be standby tickets sold at DLA for \$85.00, COS \$25.00 but there is NO GUARANTEE a seat will be available!
- 2) Meet at DLA level 5 East baggage claim Door 511
- 3) Cole Spgs. OEC rep. will be present outside baggage claim area



2003-2004 OFFICERS

President	John and Marylyn DeFilippo	President@SETXAFAPA.org	281-493-9899
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