



Falcon Footnote

Department of History
United States
Air Force Academy

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Academic Year 2021-2022

Commander's Call: Colonel Meg Martin



Greetings DFHers and welcome to the Spring edition of the Falcon Footnote. We hope to have Spring volumes focus on you, the alumni, with contributions managed by our nascent Department of History Alumni Association. To that end, I hope we can capitalize on the hard work of Larry Weaver, Don Bishop, Brenda Roth, and Larry Skogen, who have done everything from updating our alumni email list, to collecting the current status of many "missing" alumni, to editing

this Spring's Falcon Footnote. As you have already read, we are working to formalize a Department of History Alumni Association through the AOG, and I encourage all of you to participate. We envision it as a platform to connect our department alumni (both faculty and cadets) to current DFHers, department projects, and initiatives. Success depends on wide participation, and if you're receiving this Footnote, you are already a part of the Affinity Group! We hope a twice-yearly Falcon Footnote will help improve communication and renew a sense of connection between our past and present department members. We look forward to your participation providing alumni news!

Academic year 2021-2022 is quickly coming to a close and the Fall Falcon Footnote will focus on Department news. For now, I want to share a few high

points:

- DFH will graduate 35 new lieutenants to the Air Force and Space Force in the Class of 2022.
- The Air Power Studies Minor (overseen by DFH) is on the books and available to the Class of 2024 and beyond.
- Our three GSP (faculty pipeline) cadets will start MA programs at Virginia, Yale, and Howard in Fall 2022.
- Donor dollars will fund eight cadets on a Holocaust education trip this summer.

Stay tuned for more details, additional faculty and cadet accomplishments, and other academic year highlights in the Fall Footnote. In this issue I want to emphasize my pleasure at seeing this first alumni edi-

tion of the Falcon Footnote come to fruition. My hope is that it will spark fond memories of your time in the department and help you reconnect with us in 2022. As we launch our Affinity Group with the support of the AOG, I hope each of you will use the platforms we hope to provide to communicate with each other and support DFH in its mission to Teach History for the Profession of Arms.

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Department Launches Alumni Association

Welcome to the first Spring Falcon Footnote! Many of you have heard that a group of DFH faculty alumni are working to form a Department of History Alumni Association, open to all who taught in the Department, majored in history, or have an interest in teaching history at USAFA.

We are engaged in two startup efforts to create the Association. First we are creating an Affinity Group with the Academy Foundation. This group will provide operational support, assistance in getting organized and a no cost structure for building the Association.

Second, the Falcon Footnote will be part of a communication effort designed to establish membership and participation. For example, you obtained the link for the Falcon Footnote through a new website that is a requirement for the Affinity Group. This effort will grow and improve with time and your help.

In conversations with Colonel Martin, we decided to share editorship of the twice-yearly Falcon Footnote. Both issues will include a "Commander's Call" note by Colonel Martin and department news. The Spring edition, created by Department alumni, will focus on alumni issues and former facul-

ty and majors articles. The Fall issue will highlight current activities and Department news. Both issues will draw former instructors and cadet majors together to remember shared experiences and support the current generation of instructors and cadets.

Here is the good news. Being a part of the Alumni Association costs you nothing but your time. In future editions you will get more details on the Affinity Group, updates on membership, future reunion details and department information. In turn, for-

ward us your comments, thoughts, and updates to laweaverphd@gmail.com

Finally, I want to thank Col Martin for her support and direction and Don Bishop, Larry Skogen and Brenda Roth for their efforts that made this edition happen. Now let us hear from you and enjoy catching up, whether it has been 50 years or 5 years since you were in a USAFA history classroom.

Larry Weaver
DFH, 1985-1990

Faculty Farewells

Colonel **Paul Gillespie**, completing his third tour in the Department, will retire. Sectionals are open on the table, and he is charting his flight plan.

After teaching History 100 (Introduction to Military History), History 100S (the Scholars Section), and History 328 (Axis and Allies: The History of World War II), **Kathryn Barbier**, Distinguished Visiting Professor, will return to the Department of History at Mississippi State University.

The next assignment for Lieutenant Colonel (Colonel-select) **Ryan Menath**, who came to the Department in 2018 and fit a deployment to Afghanistan into his tour, will relocate to Riyadh and become Chief of the Joint Advisory Division of the U.S. Military Training Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Major **Joel Mathews** will next be an Air University Fellow; attending the Air Command and Staff College followed by faculty duty at one of the PME schools at Maxwell AFB.

Major **David Martin** will next spend eleven months at the Advanced School of Air Mobility (in the Joint Expeditionary Center) at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.

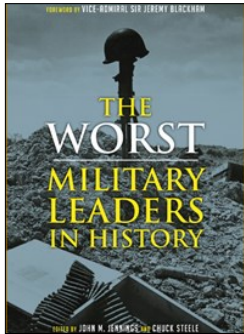
Our 2022 Graduates

These are the names of the 35 History and Foreign Area Studies-History majors who will be commissioned at graduation. For some, assignment information is provided.

Ellie M. Beaulieu, CS-27 • **Logan Beck**, CS-01 (Thousand Oaks, CA), to Awaiting Pilot Training Casual and Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT), Vance AFB, OK • **William R. Broadus**, CS-07 (League City, TX), to Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Training, Vandenburg AFB, CA • **Catherine R. Crow**, CS-30 (Cedarburg, WI), to intelligence officer course, Goodfellow AFB, TX • **Allen R. Doakes**, CS-18 (Houston, TX), to Howard University, Washington D.C., and then to UPT, Laughlin AFB, TX. • **Corey C. Eisert-Wlodarczyk**, CS-35 (Erie, PA), to graduate school at Yale University, then to Goodfellow AFB, TX. • **DarAsia Elliott**, CS-15 • **Maisha Farjana**, CS-39 • **Nicholas R. Forbes**, CS-01 • **John R. Gabor**, CS-27 • **Jakob M. Hauser**, CS-28 • **Frederick A. Heidt**, CS-18 • **Haley Jones**, CS-16 (Torrance, CA) to UPT, Vance AFB, OK. • **Samuel J. Karlson**, CS-17 • **Dylan Langan** CS-25 • **Colton J. Layman**, CS-16 (Williston, VT), to UPT, Columbus AFB, MS. • **Luke D. Leon**, CS-30 (Memphis, Tennessee), to Helicopter UPT, Fort Rucker, AL • **Kainoa A. Likewise**, CS-20 • **Tatiana Limon**, CS-31 • **Roberto Lara Nino**, CS-19 (Dallas, TX), to Tactical Air Control Party Officer (TACPO) training, Lackland AFB, TX. • **John H. Nitz**, CS-39 (Sterling, IL) to Special Tactics Officer Training, Joint Base Lackland, San Antonio, TX • **Peter T. Nyfeler**, CS-13 (Hell, Michigan), to UPT, Vance AFB, OK. • **Aidan P. O'Connor**, CS-18 (Dover, DE), to UPT, Vance AFB, OK. • **Joshua M. Payton**, CS-23 • **Audrey O. Phillips**, CS-11 (Savannah, GA), to Graduate School, University of Virginia, VA and UPT, Columbus AFB, MS. • **Andrew J. Puseman**, C2-26 (Bailey, CO), to UPT, Laughlin AFB, TX. • **Cole Ragan**, CS-26 • **Cole A. Resnik**, CS-39 (Topeka, KS), to Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, TX • **Andrew R. Sellon**, CS-27 • **Andrew M. Sillhart**, CS-34 • **Anna K. Sims**, CS-26 • **Wills R. Troutwine**, CS-10, (Dayton, OH), to TACPO training, Lackland AFB, TX. • **Claire D. Van Houten**, CS-39 (Jaffrey, NH), to UPT, Columbus AFB, MS. • **Jacob M. Whited**, CS-16 (Phoenix, AZ), to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Officer training, Randolph AFB, TX • **Caleb K. Wong**, CS-15 (Brooklyn, NY), to UPT, Laughlin AFB, TX.

Research and Publications

They Came, They Saw, They Were Losers



“Numerous informal discussions among the faculty” at USAFA were the origins of an acclaimed new book, [*The Worst Military Leaders in History*](#), just published by Reaktion Books in London (and circulated in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press).

John Jennings and **Chuck Steele**, current members of the DFH faculty, gathered fifteen essays -- not on great captains but on “losers” and their flaws, grouped under “criminals,” “frauds,” “the clueless,” “politicians,” and “bunglers.” Ten contributors are current or former members of DFH – **John Jennings, Chuck Steele, Christopher Rein, Courtney Short, Robert Wettemann, Mark Grotelueschen, Derek Varble, John Abbatiello, Gregory Hospodor, and James Tucci.**

In a *Times of London* book review, the celebrated British military historian and broadcaster, Saul David, praised the authors for “a stimulating collection of essays – pithily written and persuasively argued” and “such a counterintuitive list.” In the book’s foreword, Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham, former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, praised it for “some of the more interesting and conten-

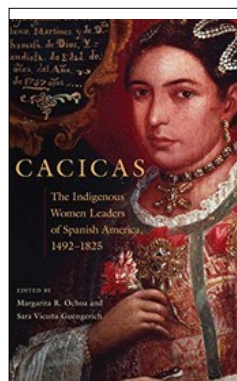
tious views of the complicated subject of successful military leadership that I have come across.”

Here’s the list of “losers”:

- Roman Fedorovich von Ungern-Sternberg
- Nathan Bedford Forrest
- John M. Chivington
- David Beatty
- Gideon J. Pillow
- Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
- Franz Conrad von Hotzendorf
- Lewis Brereton
- George A. Custer
- Marcus Licinius Crassus
- Nikias
- Raymond VI, Count of Toulouse
- Nogi Maresuke
- Romanus IV Diogenes
- Lord Wolseley

Villella Offers New Insights on Mexico Under the Spanish

The editors of [*Caciccas: The Indigenous Women Leaders of Spanish America, 1492-1825*](#), published by the University of Oklahoma Press, included an article by DFH Associate Professor **Peter Villella**, Director of Academics and the Department’s Latin America specialist in the volume. In “Founding Mothers: The Tapias of Queretaro, 1571-1663,”



he expanded understanding of adaptation to Spanish rule by women from the indigenous nobility in a town north of Mexico City. Another Villella essay published in [*Nuevos Asedios a la Conquista de Mexico*](#) reframes the Spanish conquest as a multilateral conflict.

Menath on Teaching When Students Don’t Read Texts

“Modern society searches for information primarily through handheld internet devices. Universities, on the other hand, traditionally rely on printed textbooks.” This was the issue explored by Lieutenant Colonel **Ryan Menath** of DFH in a recent article, “[Infusing Twenty-First-Century Research Activities into Traditional Classrooms](#),” published by *Innovation in Higher Education Teaching and Learning*. Menath discussed a “technique to eliminate required textbooks and nightly assigned readings. Instead of daily pages for students to read, each assignment is based on the ability to answer historical questions through whatever research methods most interest the student.”

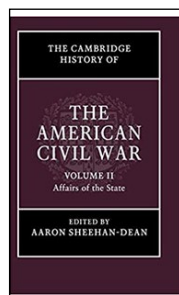
Leonard and Ayers Examine Student Research Papers and DFH

In an article, “[Experiencing Course-Based Undergraduate History Research in a Technically Intensive Curriculum](#),” retired Lieutenant Colonel **Douglas Leonard**, now Deputy Head of the Department, and a Class of 2021 history major, Second Lieutenant **Jackson Ayers**, examined the role of term papers in history courses and how to better link papers with course goals. (The article’s summary of current scholarship on term papers is quite revealing.) The article, however, offers more.

The authors describe the current USAFA curriculum and the ins and outs of the history major experience, reviewing strengths and potential good practices in growing history majors in an institution like the Academy.

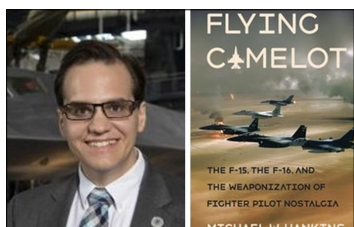


Weber's Research in Award-Winning Title on the Civil War



"Peace and Dissent in the North" by **Jennifer L. Weber**, DFH's Civil War expert, was included in the [*Cambridge History of the American Civil War, vol. 2, Affairs of the State*](#), which won the Society for Military History's 2021 Distinguished Book Award - Reference. The piece discusses the surprising amount of dissent in the North during the Civil War. Conservative Democrats challenged Lincoln at every turn, accusing him of all manner of unconstitutional actions. As a result, the war was far more difficult for the Union than it might have been without such persistent and loud resistance.

Fighter Pilot Culture



Mike Hankins, who taught in DFH from 2017 to 2018, is now the Curator for USAF, Navy, and Marine Corps post-World War II Aircraft at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. The Cornell University Press recently published his [*Flying Camelot: The F-15, the F-16, and the Weaponization of Fighter Pilot Nostalgia*](#).

Lawrence Freedman, reviewing the book in *Foreign Affairs*, provided this summary: "the design and production of two fighter aircraft—the F-15 and the F-16—were initially shaped by a group of purists, including engineers and pilots, who wanted simple, agile aircraft that would prevail in dogfights and that would not be saddled with superfluous roles, such as attacking ground positions."

In this lively, absorbing account, Hankins demonstrates the influence of a specific culture that celebrated the fighter pilot as a "knight of the air" who "thrilled to aerial combat."

Brian Laslie of NORAD wrote, "Forget 'The Right Stuff,' this is the Real Stuff. Equal parts cultural, technological, societal, and military history, *Flying Camelot* is a brilliant and illuminating account of fighter pilot culture and the development of governmental weapons systems."

John Norvell F-4 WSO/GIB

Fighter 'Gator is the newly published memoir of **John Norvell**. He flew bombing missions into Cambodia from Udorn in rear cockpit of the F-4, and he spent several years flying missions in Alaska. His descriptions of navigation and survival training also teach lessons about professionalism. A forthcoming review notes the book is "the ideal book to give to a cadet or student considering a flying career in the armed forces." He has good things to say

about his time in DFH from 1978 to 1981. "I enjoyed teaching and working with men of the highest caliber." After he retired, John spent many years as director of admissions at his alma mater, Hobart College. Look for the book on [Amazon](#).



Looking Back at the AEF's Balloons



At St. Mihiel in 1918, **Don Bishop**'s grandfather was an Air Service private in the 10th Balloon Company. Following SLA Marshall's advice to keep notebooks of material on professional subjects, over the years Don collected documents on the Balloon Service of the AEF. Actually writing an article was, however, always on his list to do "sometime," "maybe after I retire." At a demonstration of in-the-back-of-a-pickup hydrogen generation at Quantico, Don met Eric Limpaecher of MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, and they collaborated on an article that drew lessons and contrasts between

the AEF observation balloons and today's high altitude and stratospheric balloons and aerostats. "[Looking Back from the Age of ISR: U.S. Observation Balloons in the First World War](#)" ran in the September 2021 issue of *Air Power History*.

Clodfelter in *Æther*

The Air University has reconfigured and rebranded its professional journals. Old hands will remember the yesteryear *Air University Review*; among its editors were three former members of DFH – **Eldon Downs**, **Joe Guilmartin**, and **Earl Tilford**. In more recent years AU has published two successors -- *Air & Space Power Journal* and *Strategic Studies Quarterly*. Those two journals are now *Air & Space Operations Review* and *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower*.

The inaugural issue of *Æther* includes an article by former DFH'er **Mark Clodfelter**, "[Rethinking 'Airpower Versus Asymmetric Enemies'](#)." It looks back at his 2002 article and offers fresh frameworks to think about airpower's effectiveness – touching on such themes as air superiority, war aims, application, and variables.



Alumni Spotlights

Since the first cadets entered the Academy in 1955, more than 450 individuals, military or civilian, have taught in the Department of History. A few less than 100 have now passed away. Some brought distinctive or unusual experiences with them to Fairchild Hall. Many others have had distinguished careers in the Air Force, in other government agencies, and in education. In The Falcon Footnote we plan to highlight many of these stories.

Caine Named AOG Honorary Member

Retired Brigadier General **Philip Caine**, who taught history during four tours in DFH (1963-64, 66-69, 70-77, 78-80) before becoming the first Permanent Professor under the commandant as the deputy commandant for Military Instruction, recently received a rare honor.

The USAFA Association of Graduates named the University of Denver and Stan-

ford University alumnus as an Honorary Member, recognizing "outstanding and conspicuous service to the Air Force and/or the Air Force Academy." Faculty colleagues and students of General Caine will want to watch the [video](#) of the ceremony, which included a slide show, a fine tribute by Phil's daughter Virginia Caine '80, the award, and his own remarks – a capsule history of the Academy.



Juanita Walton, DFH Trailblazer



When Juanita Walton graduated from the University of Utah in 1960, she taught school for six years and then heeded the recruiter's promise of travel and adventure as an Air Force officer. At that time, women in the ranks were still called "WAF's," a gesture to the Women's Army Corps ("WAC's") first formed in World War II. WAF's were assigned to only a few non-flying Air Force specialties, and after attending Officer Training School, she began her career as an "administrative officer," the new Air Force designation for adjutants. No one deploys and fights, of

course, without orders and paperwork! No aircraft flies a mission without the lubrication of manuals and tech orders!

She was assigned to McCoy AFB, Florida, Westover AFB, Massachusetts, and Kadena AB, Okinawa. This was the most demanding and stressful environment of the Strategic Air Command in the heyday of deterrence. SAC's comprehensive checklists and inspections embraced administration and personnel as strictly as they did operational readiness. Stints commanding the base's WAF Squadron and serving as a wing's Staff Director for Women came with the territory.

It was at this time that she came to the attention of Captain Reddel and Colonel Hurley, who asked her to join the USAFA Department of History. She would be the first woman officer assigned to DFH. After earning a master's

degree in history from her alma mater, she taught American and World history courses from 1974 to 1976. That last year saw some major changes in the status of women. The Air Force ended the WAF program, and the first women were admitted to the Academy. She was on hand to see the first women -- in the Class of 1980 -- become cadets.

She subsequently became the wing director of administration at Little Rock AFB, followed by an assignment to Osan AB, Korea, as the chief of administration for the Air Component Command of the ROK-US Combined Forces Command. She returned to Little Rock for her final assignment, and she retired as a Major in 1987. Her decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

What does she recall as the highlights of her career? Helping other women succeed in the mostly male Air Force. Assuring that the commanders of four different wings need not worry about administration; they had more important things to focus on. Leading an American and Korean staff in a combined command. And a special memory and thrill – a back-seat ride in an F-16 with some moments at the controls.

Afterwards she settled down in Arkansas, focused on activities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and traveled throughout the United States and the world.

Looking back, the acceptance of women in the Air Force was needlessly slow, but outstanding officers like Juanita Walton helped break the paths to the future. [DMB]



Due to changes in American society, the background of one early member of the Department is unlikely to be duplicated. The story of his early years helps illuminate one of our country's most dramatic periods, the Great Depression, and the entertainment industry that helped Americans get through the hard times.

Retired Colonel **Tom Julian**, a Naval Academy graduate (Class of 1952) taught in the Department from 1959 to 1963. During a tour in Vietnam he won a Distinguished Flying Cross, and after finishing his doctoral dissertation, he again served in DFH from 1967 to 1970 as Colonel Al Hurley's deputy before leaving to attend the National War College.

Tom was the son of recent immigrants. Although he was an Armenian, his paternal grandfather had been a surgeon in the Ottoman Army. Coming to America in 1913, the family lived in Hollywood, California in the 1930's. This was Hollywood's "Golden Age," and while Tom attended school, he could also work as an extra or bit player in films.

In 1943, when Tom was thirteen, 60 percent of the U.S. population went to the movies weekly. Before there was television, the internet, social security, and unemployment insurance, going to movies was one way to escape, for a few hours, the economic realities of the Great Depression.

Tom Julian and Hollywood's Golden Age

The busy studios needed more than the "stars" who attracted people to their theaters. Non-speaking "extras" filled out scenes of all sorts. If you were at home when Central Casting called, you had a welcome source of income for a short period, usually a day or two. Tom's extra work made a welcome contribution to his family's income.

In the 1930s the Hollywood studios produced large numbers of films with English settings. They provided employment for a very numerous colony of British expats led by C. Aubrey Smith. A world class cricketer before arriving in Hollywood, he was the very stereotype of a British army colonel. Prominent actors of the time -- Ronald Colman, Basil Rathbone, Herbert Marshall, Cedric Hardwicke, and Claude Rains -- had all been members of the London Scottish Regiment, and Colman still carried a troublesome leg wound suffered at the first battle of Ypres.

This trend benefited Tom. Central casting listed him as "an English type" and he used a stage name, "Tommy Martin," borrowing the surname from his Irish mother, born Margaret Martin of Carrackmacross, County Monaghan.

Tom, quite anonymously, appeared in the celebrated John Ford film, *How Green Was My Valley* (1941), which won the Oscar as Best Picture. During several weeks of work, Tom appeared in scenes as a "pit boy" marching down a hill from the colliery with other "Welsh" miners after their

shift. Like the others, his face was covered with simulated "coal dust," produced by lampblack patted on top of mineral oil.

You can catch a glimpse of him, depending on the print, as Ronald Colman's dying son in *Clive of India* (1935), one of Horatio Nelson's siblings in *Lloyd's of London* (1936), as a young museum visitor in *Raffles* starring David Niven (1939), and as one of five English children being evacuated from London by truck under Diana Barrymore's control in *Eagle Squadron* (1942).

He also played one of the students in the memorable *This Land is Mine* (1943). Set in German-occupied France, Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara are school-teachers as the Nazis seek to shape students for their new order by ripping pages that celebrate French history out of their textbooks. In the face of bombings and German police, Laughton is a coward, and his students -- "Tommy Martin" among them -- run roughshod in the classroom. But German cruelty gradually stiffens Laughton's resolve, and in the last few moments before his arrest, "Tommy Martin" and the other students stand in respect, and their teacher delivers one last lesson on the rights of man. It's deeply moving.

Young Tom was also heard on the radio. Cecil B. DeMille was the host of Lux Radio Theater, broadcasting from Hollywood. Tom had lines in the productions of "The Sidewalks of London" starring Charles Laughton (November 19, 1939) and "Goodbye Mr. Chips" with Lawrence Olivier (February 12, 1940). For a season in 1936, he was also a cast member of "The British Players Present" that broadcast a weekly original drama.

Jack Schlight, another early member of the Department, told Tom that while he was finishing his Ph.D. at Princeton, he heard that *Clive of India* would be screened on late night television. He set aside his research and watched the program with his wife. Cuts had reduced the view of Tom to a quick view through an open door of an unidentifiable figure in bed.

That marked the end of Tom's brief career that moved on to more serious pursuits. Tom was an airlifter in both French Indo-China and Vietnam, DCO and Vice Commander of the largest wing in the Military Airlift Command, and Air Force Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. In Europe he was chief of the SHAPE Nuclear Policy Section and the senior Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff under General Alexander Haig. He was also director of the Air Staff's NATO Initiatives and Action Division, one of the founding cadre for the NATO Staff Officers' Orientation Course at National Defense University, and NDU's Director of Command and Control Research. [DMB]



"Tommy Martin" in the classroom



George Wayne Thinks About the Declaration of Independence



When **George Wayne** enlisted in the Air Force in 1954, right out of high school, he was assigned as a radio operator in the B-29. Yes, some of those World War II birds were still flying, but their days soon came to an end, and George was “retrained” into the nuclear weapons career field. After tours in France and Germany, he cross trained as a Ballistic Missile System Analyst Technician. He was at Moses Lake AFB in California during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and facing the prospect of a nuclear exchange, he recalls, “there were lots of tense moments in the silo.”

When the Atlas-D ICBMs were deployed to Plattsburgh AFB, New York, it was winter, and the missiles were driven to the new, remote silo over icy roads. George remembers how the missile, leaking green glycol, was unloaded off the flatbed and muscled upright before it could be lowered into the silo.

In these early assignments, George earned enough college credits to qualify for the Airman Education and Commissioning Program. After earn-

ing a BA from the University of Nebraska in history and government, he went to OTS. Graduating as the wing commander of his class, he received a regular commission. With experience in nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, he was assigned to intelligence school at Lowry AFB, followed immediately by a tour at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, providing briefings for the Commander of the Strategic Air Command's 15th Air Force. He then returned to the Air Intelligence Training Center in Denver, and he earned an MPA from the University of Colorado.

At Lowry George was contacted by DFH. He became the first African American in the Department. He attended the University of Denver to complete an MA in American social history and then began his assignment to the Academy. He taught the core courses in American, World, and Military History, as well as a course on American Institutions and Ideas. He became DFH's Advisor-in-Charge, and credits his teaching for setting the stage for his future academic career.

When George speaks frankly, however, he recalls that “my time in the Department of History included discouraging moments. It was the most negative of my 26 years of military service. Yes, I could feel backward racial attitudes, and it was disappointing to find such attitudes among the best and brightest officers in the Air Force. Almost daily I was reminded by someone that I was the token black, not just in subtle ways, but overtly too.”

“These memories are balanced, of course, by memories of Department colleagues who

believed in equality and inclusion, and the Department included two of the officers – **Alan Gropman** and **Alan Osur** – who wrote foundational books on race relations in the Air Force.”

George continued at the Academy in the Dean's office (counseling and scheduling), and he taught psychology courses in the Department of Behavioral Sciences. He completed a doctorate in educational administration at the University of Denver.

He finished up his Air Force career in Intelligence at NORAD and retired in 1980 as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1982 he became the first Dean of Student Academic Services at the University of Colorado in Denver. In 1986 he became a dean at California State University at Sacramento. He served there eight years and retired as University Vice President. After 9/11, he came out of retirement and taught American history at Metropolitan State University for twelve years.

George and his wife Juanita are the parents of three, and they have seven grandchildren. One daughter is President of the National Association of Public Defenders. Her sister is an administrator with the Denver Public Schools. Son George attended the Colorado School of Mines and has worked in the energy field; he is an executive with Kinder Morgan.

George is philosophical. “I only pray that this great American experiment will work. Sometimes I think otherwise! If only we had followed our initial sense of justice and the statement in the Declaration of Independence: ‘We hold

these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.’ If our new nation had followed this simple but profound declaration there would have been no slavery, no Civil War, and no necessity to amend the Constitution. I am not a proponent of Critical Race Theory, or BLM and Antifa, nor do I agree with all this recent focus on ‘white guilt.’ But as Jefferson stated, ‘I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.’” [DMB]

“When George speaks frankly, however, he recalls that “my time in the Department of History included discouraging moments. It was the most negative of my 26 years of military service.”

Gone But Not Forgotten

As noted previously, nearly one hundred officers and historians who taught in the Department of History since 1955 have now passed away. Mindful that these individuals influenced so many Air Force officers, the alumni association is gathering obituaries. Here are some reports of recent deaths. A more complete list, with links to obituaries, is on the new alumni association website, <https://usafadfh.alumniassociation.com/> Even so, there are many missing notices. If you know of any former members of the Department now among the "missing from the mess tables," pass any details to Dr. Larry Weaver at laweaver-phd@gmail.com.

Jon A. Reynolds 1937-2022



Retired Brigadier General **Jon A. Reynolds**, who taught in DFH from 1975 to 1979, passed away in Maryland on April 16. He brought to the Academy his experiences flying the F-100 Super Sabre, the L-19 Bird Dog, and the F-105 Thunderchief, followed by seven years as a POW in North Vietnam. After his release in 1973, he studied military history and earned a PhD at Duke University. After his tour on the USAFA faculty, he was assigned to the Air Staff and the National War College faculty. In DIA he became Air Attaché and then Defense Attaché at the American Embassy in Beijing. In retirement he joined Raytheon Corporation, first overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons on Johnston Atoll, and then returning to Beijing as head of the corporation's sales and operations in China. More details are provided in his obituaries in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) and the [Super Saber Society](#).

Jon recently shared some of his memories. Political and military disorder in China after World War II had pre-

vented the recovery of the remains of an American P-51 pilot downed in the war's last months. Forty years later, Jon joined officials of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a visit to a remote village near the crash site. Jon's story of hope and disappointment – "[An Attempt to Bring Home Flt Off Bruce F. Jepson](#)" – was published in *Air Power History* in 2019. *MiG Sweep* recently published a short [article](#) recalling when USAF Chief of Staff Charles Gabriel met the Commander of the People's Liberation Army Air Force, General Wang Hai, in 1985. They had met once before, in the skies over "MiG Alley."

The news of his death prompted many recollections by former DFH colleagues. Among them: "Jon epitomized the professional in every way," "a superb teacher, officer, and gentleman," "a personal hero to me," "remember him fondly as a mentor," "as fine a man as I've known. His integrity can't be topped, and he was direct in a tactful way."

Jim Titus wrote "Jon was an extraordinary human being: highly courageous and high achieving, but always unpretentious and approachable. A copy of Jon's Duke PhD dissertation on the early career of General Vandenburg is available in the Special Collections branch of the cadet library. I would commend it

to any of your cadets interested in a systematic approach to military biography."

"A big loss of a special man. The country lost another hero -- brave in what he went through and wise in the lessons he took from it and then lived for us all to see," wrote **Chuck Specht**.

"Here's a story unlikely to be known by many of you," wrote **Bruce Grossetta**: "I spent my last year at USAFA as an AOC (while still teaching). My cadets bought a small pig as a squadron mascot, and Jon volunteered to keep it out at their Monument ranch. The pig made appearances at all home football games, but over the winter and spring it grew to an enormous size. The cadets bought the food for it, but the Reynolds cared for it. Just prior to the end of the school year, the cadets had a big party out at the Reynolds' place.

And the main course was roasted pig on a spit. Took all night to roast it."

Phil Meilinger recalled a visit by Vice Admiral James Stockdale to the Academy. In a lecture, Jon introduced the Medal of Honor winner to the cadets. "Stockdale then tells a story. 'I'm in a prison cell and hear the door open next to me and a new prisoner is thrown in the next cell. We begin whispering. This goes on for a couple of days as we exchange information, and he gives me the latest news on the war and Stateside. And then I notice that several times a day his door is opened and guards go

in. Why? What's going on? They never come into my cell. So I asked him, and he responds, "Well, on ejection I broke both my arms and I can't much move. So they have to come in to feed me." For three days he talked to me and yet never once did he ever mention that he was so injured and could barely move. As a result of that, I've always thought Jon Reynolds is one of the bravest men I've ever known."

Jack Cole 1942-2022



Retired Brigadier General **James L. "Jack" Cole**, who taught in the Department of History from 1970 to 1974, was laid to rest in the USAFA cemetery on March 4. He passed away in Virginia on January 24. Colonel **Margaret Martin**, Permanent Professor and Head of DFH, presented the flag to Jack's widow Carie. Among the mourners were many members of the Class of 1964, as well as former DFHers **Rich Porter**, **Tom Menza**, **Elliott Converse**, and **Donald Bishop**. Jack flew the EC-121, the AC-47, and C-141; twice received the Distinguished Flying Cross in Vietnam; commanded the 89th Military Airlift

Wing; and was the Air Force's Chief of Safety when he retired. Afterwards, he was President and CEO of the National Aeronautic Association, Executive Director of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and then Senior Director, Safety, of the Air Transport Association. In the Falcon Club after the burial, Jack's daughter Carol recalled how much history meant to him. Whenever the family crossed the country, Jack would stop at and read all the historical markers, and "he told us all the events and famous people that occurred in the towns that we drove through." [More.](#)

Bynum Weathers, Jr
1924-2022



Dr. Weathers went to the University of Michigan on a scholarship playing Tuba in the Marching Band before serving during WWII in the Army Air Forces as a B-29 radar specialist. After the war, he received BA and MA degrees from the University of North Carolina and his PHD from the University of Denver. He served at Maxwell AFB and in Puerto Rico, and he taught history at the Air Force Academy (1964-68) where he retired as a Major. Afterwards he was a professor at Northeast Louisiana State University and St. Mary's University. He served in a civilian research

position at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB for many more years. Weathers played Tuba in the Montgomery Symphony later in life. He played multiple instruments and composed marches. The Montgomery Youth Orchestra performed ten of his original compositions including "The Thunderbird March." [More.](#)

Peter Lane
1939-2021



Retired Colonel **Peter Lane** died on Thanksgiving Day 2021. After graduating from USAFA and pilot training, he flew 104 combat missions over North Vietnam in the F-105, receiving the Silver Star and six awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the Vietnam War, he attended the University of Washington and earned an MA and PhD in history, then teaching in DFH from 1967 to 1970. He attended and taught at the National War College. He was Vice Wing Commander at Howard AFB in Panama, and he was Chief of the Western Hemisphere Division of the Air Staff. After retiring from the Air Force in 1984, he began his second career at the University of North Texas where he worked from 1984 to 2009. He was Assistant to the Chancellor, Special Assistant for Athletics, Vice President for Development, and a member of the History Department facul-

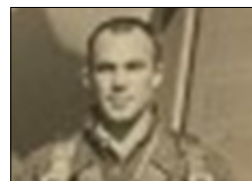
ty. Colonel Lane's passion for education, guidance and genuine care for young people shaped and changed the lives of many students. [More.](#)

John W. Huston
1925-2021



A B-17 navigator in the European Theatre of Operations, **John Huston** remained in the USAF Reserve after the war, serving in increasingly important policy positions and rising to the rank of Major General. He earned his PhD in history from the University of Pittsburg. He was chair of the Department of History at the Naval Academy, Chief of Air Force History, and Distinguished Visiting Professor in DFH from 1994-95. [More.](#)

Thomas A. Fabyanic
1934-2021



The oldest of thirteen children, Tom left college to work in a mill after his father's death in order to support his mother and the family. Joining the Air Force, he became a pilot and flew the F-4 during two tours in

Vietnam. He taught in DFH from 1966 to 1969, and he earned a PhD in history at the University of St. Louis. Later he taught at the Air War College, Columbia University, and the University of South Florida. "He was a natural-born teacher who loved imparting his knowledge and wisdom of history, religion, and antique cars. He was a willing tour guide throughout the sites of Washington, DC, during which it was best to pay attention as there was always a quiz given at the end!" [More.](#)

Timothy E. Kline,
1942-2020



Tim Kline retired as a Colonel after a career that included tours in Vietnam flying the O-2 and F-4, teaching in DFH from 1973-77, and the National War College. On the Air Staff, he was known for unorthodox but effective briefings. After retirement, he attended seminary, was ordained, served as a pastor in parishes in Oklahoma, and became Dean of Episcopal Christ Cathedral in Salina, Kansas. [More.](#)

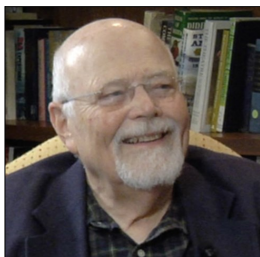


Russell W. Mank, Jr.
1940-2020



During two assignments to DFH in 1968-73 and 1976-83, **Russ Mank** became Tenure Professor of History. Subsequently he served on the Air Staff and JCS. Soon after his promotion to Colonel, he was made a quadriplegic when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver while he was jogging near his home in 1988. "His courage and determination enabled him to overcome his injuries and fashion a new life for himself." He occupied senior positions at the Paralyzed Veterans of America, often testifying before Congress. ([More.](#))

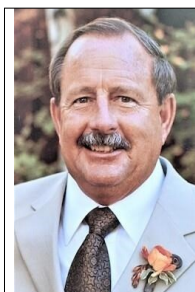
Edward "Mac" Coffman
1931-2020



A Korean War infantry officer who went on to earn his PhD in military history from the University of Kentucky, "**Mac**" **Coffman** taught at the University of Wisconsin in Madison for 31 years. "An early practitioner of the 'New' Military history, Coffman's lectures moved away from the old-fashioned 'battle a day' and offered insights into the lives of soldiers and their fam-

ilies and how soldiers reflected the society from which they came." "His classes in military history were among the most popular on campus." He was Distinguished Visiting Professor in DFH from 1982 to 1983, and he also taught at West Point, the Army War College, and the Command and General Staff College. Past President of the Society for Military History, he was noted for his friendliness and generosity." ([More.](#))

Steve Chiabotti
1950-2020



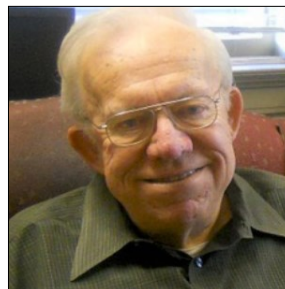
Retired Colonel **Steve Chiabotti** died unexpectedly in Montgomery, Alabama, in October, 2020. He was a Distinguished Graduate of the Academy in 1972 and later earned a doctorate in History from Duke University. Colonel Chiabotti's 30 years in the USAF included teaching history in DFH from 1992 to 1997. He was Commandant of the Air Force's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies until his retirement in 2002; afterwards he spent sixteen more years at the School in various roles. Colonel Chiabotti's passion was teaching. He taught a generation of Air Force pilots to fly, and at USAFA he taught thousands of cadets to be good officers and historians. He was generous with his time and will be missed by his family and a wide orbit of friends. ([More.](#))

Victor D. Sutch
1921-2019



Growing up in Depression-era Indiana, **Victor Sutch** "went to Olivet Nazarene College with fifty dollars and some faith." In the USAAF during World War II, he flew transport aircraft in Europe and North Africa, where "God was gracious to protect him and provide him with the wonderful experience of flying, along with the sheer terror of landing." He joined the faculty while the Academy was located at Lowry AFB, and he taught in DFH in 1958-60 and 1961-70. He contributed many chapters to History Department coursebooks. His obituary noted that "His last spoken words were while his granddaughters were hugging him and he said 'Thank you for coming, Goodbye, and I'll see you in heaven.'" ([More.](#))

Dennis Showalter
1942-2019



The Minnesota state spelling champion of 1954 became a military historian, earning his PhD at St. John's

University in Minnesota. His teaching career was at Colorado College, but he was Distinguished Visiting Professor of History at USAFA (1991-93), and he also taught at USMA, Marine Corps University, and Norwich. Past president of the Society for Military History, he died while writing his 28th book. ([More.](#))

Charles Frazee
1929-2019



Dr. Charles Frazee died in 2019 in his home in California. As a scholar of Church and Byzantine History, he taught at Marian College, California State University at Fullerton, and the Episcopal Theological Seminary. He was Distinguished Visiting Professor in DFH from 1992-93. He wrote eleven books and many articles and cared deeply about ecumenism. Dr. Frazee spent twelve years in the seminary and spent fifteen years in the priesthood teaching. Although he opposed the war in Vietnam and spoke out against it, he was sought after for his expertise in East Europe and the Balkans. When he died, Dr. Frazee was Professor Emeritus of History at California State University at Fullerton where he served for 22 years. ([More.](#))



Impressions of an Old Hand

Donald M. Bishop

After my 31 years in the Foreign Service, some time on Capitol Hill and five years at Quantico, I needed a change of scenery, a change of pace, and a change of subject. I volunteered to rejoin DFH for the Spring 2022 semester, teaching two sections of the core course in World History, now taught to Second Class cadets.

After four decades away from the Academy, some things have changed, and some have not.

The old cubicles have long been removed, and each member of the Department now has an office. The Department's hallways are corridors of Air Force history with paintings, posters, photos, and memorabilia of Air Force greats.

When a cadet declares a history major, the faculty assemble for the ringing of a bell

and congratulating the cadet. These are happy ceremonies. This summer, 35 majors in History and Foreign Area Studies-History will graduate.

The Academy has an even more intense STEM focus than I recall "back in the day." Many cadets who were history major prospects a generation ago now choose the Department of Military and Strategic Studies. Currently, the Department with the largest number of majors is Management.

The Department now has a different faculty profile. Air Force officers are just over half of the Department, and as I write, all of them are in the field grades. The civilian members of the faculty are teaching in the core as well as offering challenging upper division courses. They naturally have longer and deeper academic backgrounds; the

history majors are learning history from them at a very high level.

Some other impressions? Members of the faculty teach a generation of cadets that have grown up with laptops and smartphones. Adjusting teaching to this new reality is a work in progress. For me, another surprise has been how poorly the high schools have prepared cadets in history . . . and geography!

All that said, the cadets are smart and eager. The Department has a different profile, but morale is high. And the zeal to teach history for the profession of arms is unabated. There are two slogans at an entrance to DFH: "Know the past, shape the future" and "Teaching history today to those who will make history tomorrow."

Don Bishop is a volunteer instructor in DFH for the 2022 spring term. He finished his USAF assignment to DFH in 1979, and then spent 31 years in the Foreign Service. Most of his tours were in East Asia, and he was sent by State to the Pentagon as Foreign Policy Advisor to CSAF General Norton Schwartz. In Kabul, his final assignment, he led U.S. Public Diplomacy at the front end of the civilian surge. He was Donald Bren Chair of Strategic Communication at Marine Corps University for five years.

Summer Holocaust Education Trip

Eight handpicked cadets and their escorts will be traveling to Poland and Germany this summer engaged in Holocaust Studies. Led by Professor **Merideth Scott**, the excursion is being monetarily supported by generous donations from Ms. Cheryl Halpern, her family, along with the Academy's Research and Development Institute. After detailed academic preparation before departure, the cadets will visit Jewish historic sites, synagogues, museums, former ghettos, and as many as four concentration camps across the two coun-

tries. Already having completed the 3-semester hour course offering *Humanities 430, "The Holocaust,"* they will further benefit from true on-site learning.

Apart from grappling with several related learning outcomes -- knowing the origins, development, conduct, and results of mass industrialized murder during WWII -- the cadets will doubtless become especially sensitized to issues relating to antisemitism, veiled hate speech, bigotry, populism, and super nationalism leading to virulent radicalism of any kind. They will see firsthand

the physical evidence of horrific crimes carried out by Nazi perpetrators and those crimes' impact on victims. The cadets will also come to understand the heroic resistance, both passive and active, of millions of the threatened and enslaved. Additionally, they will weigh the role of bystanders and rescuers. Finally, by coming to grips with German military and civilian resistance to Hitler, they will ponder their legal, moral, and ethical roles as future military officers in a democracy.





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Join the LinkedIn Group

There's a LinkedIn group for "USAF Academy Department of History Alumni" including current and former faculty and cadets who majored in or studied history. Here's the link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4576731/>



We Are On The Web

Alumni:

<https://usafadfalumniassociation.com/>

Or

USAFA History Department

<https://www.usafa.edu/academic/history/>



The Falcon Footnote Crew

Permanent Professor

Colonel Meg Martin

Editors:

Brenda Roth
Larry Weaver
Larry Skogen
Don Bishop

Contributing Writers:

Mostly Don

DFHer Running for Congress

Dan Moy who served in the Department in the early 2000s is running for Congress in Central Virginia. For more information, go to his website:

<https://www.danmoyforcongress.com/>

Guy Gibson and Luke Skywalker

Airpower historians all know the 1955 British film, *The Dam Busters*, that portrayed the famous attack by RAF 617 Squadron against the Ruhr Dams in 1943. Bob Wettemann shares how 1977's *Star Wars* – a film that inspired many young Americans to become USAFA cadets – drew on the cinema portrayal of *The Dam Busters*. Enjoy the parallel scenes in this [Youtube video](#):

Faculty Alumni Reunion. Mark Your Calendars

Our inherited and shared history significantly defines our identities as officers, historians, and human beings. To further the goals of a growing DFH alumni association, we are assembling a reunion for DFH faculty, history majors, family members, and "true believers."

Keep your calendar open in October 2023 as we "home in" on a date for this auspicious occasion!

Final date selection will not be possible for several months as we negotiate the decision matrix with one another, the Association of Graduates' reunion plans, and USAFA/DFH. Though the specific agenda of the reunion is still in the malleable stage, one thing is certain: the reunion purpose is to have fun!

Planned activities will include a memorial ceremony, opportunities to teach in

the classrooms, a home football game, tasty tailgate food, good natured pranks, and abundant social times and meals. Might there appear a "Best DFH Story-teller" in the crowd? We may even have a rousing game of Diplomacy over the course of the days. Inevitably, sharing and learning with one another will be a common theme throughout the event!

This may be one of the

most unique and entertaining reunions you have ever attended, so plan to join the shenanigans. Have an idea to add to the event? Contact tavenner@hotmail.com. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information in the coming year. Stay in touch with the latest DFH alumni news on the websites and by talking to each other. See you soon!