

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
May 2001**

About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "whenever we get around to it." Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information. Because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, some items from our class notes section in The Bulletin may be repeated here. Send items for The Bulletin and this Newsletter to: Wee Smith, 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 -- Tel/FAX 860-464-8425 or e-mail JDSBRIDGE@AOL.COM.

A note from the "Editor":

I'm writing this on Wednesday morning (5/23) and there are a lot of things going on in Jane's and my lives: it's "June Week" at the the Academy; yesterday at the Awards Ceremony I had the honor of presenting the Nelson W. Nitchman Award on behalf of our class to Blake McKinney '01; Graduation is today and it's raining so the ceremony will be indoors; next week is the 8th Annual Jay Flanagan-Wee Smith Men's Invitational Golf Tournament (Tues. to Thurs., 5/29 - 5/31) with 52 players including Bob Benson, Gene Bowers, Rick Cueroni, Jim Grabb, Rin Keyzer, Bill Kohl, Gerry Lipsett, Dick Littlefield, Roger Madson, Graeme Mann, and me.

Just as soon as the JF-WS tournament ends on Thursday, (5/31), Jane and I will be driving to Towson, Md. to celebrate her 50th high school reunion (we have been deeply involved in the preparation and planning it).

We get home from Jane's reunion on Sunday evening, (6/3). On Thursday, (6/7), Jane and I will fly to Munich, Germany to visit our daughter, Beth, for a week, and then we will fly to Istanbul, Turkey to take an 11 day Mediterranean cruise of the Ancient World with some Stanford alumni, (re-tracing the path of Odysseus from Homer's *Odyssey*) . (Jane's cousin, Marsh, is a professor of classics at Stanford, and is one of the co-leaders on this cruise). To take this trip has always been at the top of Jane's priority list, so we are doing it while we are able to. My only regrets are that I didn't pay better attention in Al Lawrence's and "Froggy" Buron's classes about ancient Greece and Rome during "swab" year!! Thank heavens for Cliff Notes, now!!

My purpose in mentioning all this is to let you know that if you contact us and don't get an answer until July, you'll understand why.

Our Fall Mini-Reunion for Fun, Foliage, and Fellowship!

We've had an excellent response for our Mini-Reunion Sept. 24th to 27th at *The Beacon Resort* in Lincoln, N.H. and it looks like it could potentially be "over-subscribed". We only have 23 accommodation units and there are only 46 seats on the bus!! We have asked The Beacon Resort about getting more rooms but because this is "fall foliage season", they do NOT anticipate having any additional accommodations available and even if they do have some, we will still be limited to 46 seats on the bus!

As of today, (5/23), we have received 17 registrations for 33 people. There are 11 others who have indicated they are planning (hoping) to attend.

For those who have indicated they are planning (hoping) to attend, but from whom we have not yet received their registration form, an additional questionnaire is enclosed.

For those who have not already conveyed your intentions to attend, but you think that you may want to attend, please let Wee Smith know ASAP.

As we indicated on the registration form, "accommodations will be assigned in the order of the date your registration form is received."

As of today (5/22) we have received registration forms from: Roger Bascom, Mike Boggs, Dan Briganti, Ed Cope, Bud Grader, Hap Hazard, Ralph Hill, Dave Howland, Clay Hughes, Jim Irwin, Bill Lehr, Graeme Mann, Hal Olson, Wee Smith, Ray Stevens, Gene Trainor, and Bob West.

The following have also indicated they are planning (or hoping) to attend: Bob Benson, Dick Bowers, Bill Clark, Rick Cueroni, Hank Fisher, Jimmy Hiteshew, Roger Holmes, Gerry Lipsett, Roger Madson, Keith Schumacher, Al Stirling, and Ted Smith.

Our Class Donates \$10,000 to help the Academy's Football Program

This fall will be the 50th anniversary of the Academy's first undefeated football team on which a number of our classmates played major key roles. To mark the occasion, President Jim Irwin, (with the concurrence of V.P. Bill King, Treasurer Cal Crouch, and Secretary Wee Smith), authorized the Alumni Association to expend up to \$10,000 from our Class of '53 Endowment Fund to hire an intern-level assistant football coach for the 2001 season.

Football is still the most visible sport at the Academy, but in recent years, it has been an embarrassment. Last year, the Academy hired a new coach, Bill George. He appears to be doing an outstanding job of re-building the program so hopefully, we will see a winning football team in 2003 when we celebrate our 50th reunion.

As of December 31, 2000 our endowment fund had about \$414,000 in it. In accordance with the resolution adopted by our class in 1997, up to 5% of the endowment's total value at year-end may be expended the next year, (i.e., \$20,700 for 2001). Our endowment fund is also being used to maintain the Hall of Graduates plaques in Hamilton Hall and to present the Nelson W. Nitchman Intramural Award at graduation, and there are several other potential projects at the Academy that our class officers will be considering in the coming months.

News From Our Classmates

Deane Andrews sent his regrets about attending our mini-reunion. He and Carol will be back in Texas after spending the summer in Vermont. Their telephone number is now 972-245-7513.

In January, **Eve Barrett** slipped on the ice and fractured her wrist. It was in a cast for eight weeks, but it didn't keep her and Ken from taking a long planned cruise along the coast of Brazil in March. They sailed on a small ship (less than 100 passengers) and Ken said, "the Brazilian summer was a nice change from our Maine winter". The Barretts have changed their e-mail address to: *barret1719@aol.com*.

Roger Bascom reported that Shirley sold her Management Recruiters office and retired on March 1st. "This means that both of us get to really retire. Our first excursion will be a Mediterranean cruise from Athens to Barcelona with stops in Malta, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice and Marseille. We have a tour to the Pacific Northwest in August, and then plan to attend the Mini-Reunion in New Hampshire this fall!" Their e-mail address is now *rbascom@neo.rr.com*.

In response to the question, "What do you do with all your time?", **Bill Bruinsma** said he's been retired for five years now and finds that his activities and interests vary from time to time. "There are more interests than activities. That means I sit a lot and think rather than going out and doing something. I enjoy reading. For a while I did a lot of hiking. Then it was bicycling. Now it's aerobics. I attend aerobic classes at the local community college. Most of the students are young ladies so it is rather enjoyable for this old guy. And I seem to travel quite a bit. I was away from home for a total of about three and a half months last year. No real exotic travel. Visiting my children, relatives in Michigan and Indiana, and Romy's relatives in Germany. Of course there are the lawn and the garden at home which always seem to need attention. One thing, I spend very little time doing is watching television. It may seem I'm doing a lot but I really did much more when I was working full time. That's why lately I find myself looking at the 'Help Wanted' ads in the Sunday paper."

Mike and Kaye Boggs telephone number is now 321-777-2700 and their e-mail address is *mwboggs@cfl.rr.com*.

Dan Colussy sent his regrets about not being able to play in this year's Flanagan-Smith golf tournament. He said, Iridium Satellite LLC has him very occupied at the present but he plans to play in 2002. He and Helene also will be unable to attend our mini-reunion in N.H.

Following an MRI on Friday (5/18), **Cal Crouch's** oncologist told him that "his brain tumor is moving in the right direction; part of it may be receding; and none of it is advancing!!" Cal and Sandy were ecstatic!! The next treatment will be two more sets of chemotherapy treatments (by pill) -- seven days per week; two weeks on; two weeks off. Cal said, "Sandy and I popped the 'cork' on some vanilla ice cream to celebrate!!" Sandy's reaction was "We could not have hoped for anything more!!" Prayers can do amazing things, such as being answered.

Earlier this month, **Rick and Beth Cueroni** made a short cruise (Key West, Fla. and Cozumel, Mexico) with some Florida TROA ("The Retired Officers Association") members. Rick said, Beth did well on the trip. She's eating a little better but still no saliva or taste. When her oconologist read her latest CT scan, he said it looked "fantastic"!! Their e-mail address is now *cue53@earthlink.net*.

Ed and Becky Daniels are flying to Misawa, Japan on 3 July to visit their their daughter Amy and will return 25 July; they have a family reunion in the mountains the first weekend of August; and then will be in Wilmington, NC when their son, Eddie assumes command of the CGC DILIGENCE, the same ship that Ed commanded from 1969 to 1971 when she was homeported in Key West, FL. Ed is the second father in our class to have his son command the same unit as his father -- Darryl Nelson is C.O. of Kodiak, Alaska Air Station which Ed Nelson had also commanded. Ed and Becky may also try to visit their daughter Amy when she is deployed to Aviano, Italy for three months in September. Hence, they will not be attending our mini-reunion.

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers will not be attending our mini-reunion. During September they'll be on a USAA tour of 14 European countries.

Frank Frauenfelder said he is "going a little more slowly these days, but is fine." He added, "I just wish I could get something simple like a cold instead of having a cerebral hemorrhage, cellulitis, and Parkinson's disease." He and Jan will not be at our mini-reunion -- they are going to Hawaii to make up for the trip they missed when he got sick with cellulitis. Can you imagine? Going to Hawaii instead of N.H.??

Jane and I enjoyed a delightful dinner and evening with Bud Grader and his lady friend, Rita, at the Griswold Inn in Essex. Since returning from Afghanistan, Bud has been keeping busy with a variety of activities including doing some substitute teaching (Spanish) at the High School level, and doing some creative, interesting and challenging foreign travel.

Travel plans to Greece, Turkey and Egypt will keep Kirk Greiner from attending our mini-reunion. In addition, he will also be moving into a new home in Edmonds, Wash., which is currently under construction.

On June 30th, "Hap" Hazard will be retiring as President of Urbana University in Urbana, Ohio. As a cadet, "Hap" was a "victim" of the single tract engineering curriculum of our day. He originally entered the Academy in 1947 with the Class of '51 but "bilged" out at the end of his "swab year". He took and passed the Academy entrance exam again in 1949 and started over with our class. In June 1951, at the end of our third class year, "Hap" again was felled by the primarily engineering curriculum. Disappointed, but not deterred, he went on to find success and happiness elsewhere. His "post-CGA" activities and accomplishments included: completing his formal education culminating in two degrees from Kent State University and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University; graduating from USAF pilot training; serving on active duty as a fighter pilot during the "cold war"; being promoted to Major General in the Ohio Air National Guard; helping to start a bank and chairing its Board of Directors; becoming a Dean at Ohio State University and then President of Urbana University; marrying Virginia and raising a great family. We're mighty proud of you "Hap" and wish you and Virginia a long, happy, and healthy retirement!

In February, Ralph and Diane Hill made a three week trip to Mesa, Ariz. and had a great time seeing the sights around Phoenix, going to musical concerts and recitals at Arizona State University which are free and held almost daily, a day trip to Sedona with a walk through Red Rock State Park, and a drive along the Apache Trail near Phoenix. They advised that "sensei" in their new e-mail address, (*Hillsensei@aol.com*), is the honorific for teacher in Japan and they were both addressed in this way while they taught in Moka, Japan.

Jim and Billie Hiteshew are enjoying their new 40' Holiday Rambler, which Harry Oldford described as a "palace on wheels". The Hiteshews spent three days with Harry and Barbara back in February.

Bernie and Peggy Hoyland said they're sorry they will miss our mini-reunion, "We'll be in Boston the second week of October -- too bad we can't make both!"

Clay and Jan Hughes had an interesting fall and winter. In September Clay suffered a heart attack and had bypass surgery which postponed a scheduled hip replacement until this summer. Otherwise, Clay said they are fine and enjoyed the winter in Tucson. While there, they visited Al and Sharon Cousins in Mesa, AZ, and they were visited by Dick and Jan Bowers. The Hughes have also entered the world of e-mail and can be reached at *jhughes@uakron.edu*.

Jim Kearney said it's been over two months since he was last in the hospital and Pat tries to keep him on the "straight and narrow"!! In addition to battling his respiratory problems which keep him tethered to oxygen, he has a heart problem which his cardiologists are not sure how to treat. Jim still has his great sense of humor -- he said his cardiologist "tried to scare me to death" with the "good news" that some of the possible treatments for his heart condition could either cause him to have a massive stroke or kill him with a heart attack. Jim's response was, "I think I'd rather let God take me when it's time."

Bill and Andree Kohl are now on e-mail: *wkohl@logicon.com*.

"Steamboat" and Adele Lewis have a new e-mail address: *ajlmush@aol.com*.

Gerry Lipsett's new e-mail address is: *byglip@mediaone.net*.

Bob and Iris Lynch are now settled in Arizona, 8752 E. Mustang Trail, Hereford, AZ 85615 - phone/fax 520-366-5874, e-mail: *rblynch@starband.net*. They will not be attending our mini-reunion, but said "We're thinking of organizing a "Southwest Getaway" in Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca, an active U.S. Army facility."

For a Christmas present, Graeme Mann gave Barbara a trip to accompany their daughter on a business trip. They were supposed to go to Turkey, but had to go to India instead. Barbara said "It was WONDERFUL".

John McKenna included a note on his post card about missing our mini-reunion. He said he hasn't forgotten us and that God willing he'll make our 50th reunion in 2003.

Heartiest congratulations to Bill Markle on being awarded membership in Kiwanis International's prestigious George F. Hixson Fellowship (see the attached article from the May 11th issue of the *Virginian-Pilot* which Pat Kearney sent). Unfortunately, Bill spent the week of May 11th to 18th in Mary View Hospital in Portsmouth, VA with a blood clot in his head. He's having trouble making his left arm and hand do what he wants them to do and his doctors are trying to get his blood pressure down from 199/95. His daughter, Cathy Carlson, (*Cmcarlson100@aol.com*)

who has been taking care of Bill, said his oncologist advised that Bill should travel and that his pancreatic cancer is not aggressive. He doesn't know when it will become aggressive. Cathy said that her Dad "spends most of the day sleeping". He does eat but his appetite is decreasing. He is down to 219, from 275 in October. When he eats the pain is worse. His spirits are good, he enjoys a good laugh and receiving telephone calls (757-484-4129). Most of all he has been enjoying her dog Percy who has adopted him. Percy likes to climb in bed with Dad and sits at his feet at meals". Bill will be having some outpatient therapy on his left hand and that they are trying to fit in a trip to New Jersey.

In reporting on the earthquake in the Northwest back in March, Ed Nelson said, "We did well in the earthquake. Felt the earth move a bit, but that's not abnormal. Joyce and I were standing at the open front door (an unusual place for us to feel the earth move) when we heard the rumbling and felt the swaying and rolling. We had a few paintings missplaced and a couple of vases fell over but they didn't break. The wierd cat slept through it all. He is either really losing it or knew something the rest of us didn't."

Harry and Barbara Oldford also will miss our mini-reunion. "We'll be in Charleston, SC for DUANE reunion and then at our time-share in New Bern, NC, September 12th through September 24th.

Hal Olson has been working on a project to scan selected slides from his collection of 35,000 (more or less) onto computer disks. He e-mailed one to me of our classmates in a Coast Guard Day skit during our third class cruise. It's too fuzzy to include here, but it brought back a lot of fond memories. Those in the photo appear to be: Stryffeler, Hoyland, Hazard, Sing, Mowell, Lengel, Dorr, Gilkey, Kohl, Fox, Ted Smith, Sponholz, and Flanagan. If you're interested in seeing some of Hal's slides, send him an e-mail (mdlandolsons@earthlink.net).

Bill and Margie Russell will miss our mini-reunion. They'll be on a time-share golf vacation with their family.

Jim Shelton had to pass on this year's Flanagan-Smith golf tournament -- he said "Although my health continues to improve remarkably. I now endure a problem with my balance caused by destruction of hair cells in my inner ears, which are essential to good balance. The good news is that although the damage is permanent, the situation can be improved through specific physical therapy that trains the brain to work with the loss of normal signals. However, it's not a quick fix -- progresss is pains-taking, and that's what I'm working on now. And so, a decent golf game is not out of the question in the future. I'm just not ready for three days of golf plus the travel to and from. In February, Irene and I visited friends in Arizona, and I played two rounds of golf - the first time in about 18 months! The results were better than expected, but far from my usual game (which is quite erratic anyway). I'm looking forward to working on my game and especially joining you in May 2002!" Jim's telephone number is now 856-234-5516.

Earlier this year, Ray and Liz Stevens advised, they have had their second Russian visitor from World Boston, an organization which provides internships for Russian entrepreneurs -- "It's lots of fun and we meet interesting people."

Ted Smith sent the enclosed clipping from the March 25th issue of the *Washington Post* entitled, "Which College Is the Most Selective?" To it, he added, "Well, we always knew that!"

Wade "Humpy" Smith's directory listing has changed, his telephone number is now 337-233-8774 and his e-mail address is capipapa@bellsouth.net. On February 27th, he sent, "Today is Mardi Gras in southern Louisiana and it's a holiday. I'm on holiday every day so it doesn't matter to me except no garbage collection, no mail and some stores are closed. Edith and I quit going to the parades years ago."

Al and Pat Stirling are planning to attend our mini-reunion. Their e-mail address is now agstirling53@hotmail.com.

Dave and Teresa Stryffeler now have e-mail (DStryffeler@earthlink.net) and their telephone number is now 330-792-5773. Dave said they had a trip to Williamsburg in March, "but we haven't been doing much travelling since our youngest daughter had triplets".

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD PRESENTED TO WILLIAM D. MARKLE

William (Bill) Markle was awarded membership in the prestigious George F. Hixson Fellowship at its meeting on Tuesday, April 24, at Coleman's Nursery in recognition of his "substantial contribution to the Kiwanis International Foundation for the international organization's Worldwide Service Project."

The Hixson Fellowship was adopted by Kiwanis with the goal of virtually eliminating iodine deficiency disorders, the world's leading cause of preventable mental retardation in children.

A contribution of \$1,000 "to touch the lives of 20,000 children" was made by Merrimac Kiwanis in Markle's name, bringing that club's total exceeding \$10,000 toward the international organization's 75 million dollar goal.

Announcement of Markle's selection was made by Jack Lyons, chairman of the Merrimac's selection committee and former recipient of the Hixson award. He noted that Markle had served as "past president, many times a director of the club and its foundation boards and several committees as chair or member."

He added: "Bill was president of this club in 1987-88, the year that Zeigler Hall at Holiday House was dedicated and a bronze plaque hung acknowledging the help of Merrimac Kiwanis. That year we served lunch at OASIS, directed traffic for the first Fire Department 10K Run, transported seniors to Day-To-Share, manned a booth at Tower Mall supporting the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, worked a concession at Portside's Wednesday on the Water, entertained guests at the Coast Guard facility with Windley and his magic show, and netted \$8,600 for the Christmas project."

"The following year Bill was Chairman of the Merrimac Kiwanis Foundation."

"I went through the history for the past decade-and-a-half looking for things Bill might have involved in. Short answer: everything!"

He also praised Markle and his wife, Joyce, for their efforts over the years on the Christmas fund-raising work.

Markle is a retired captain of the United States Coast Guard.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT - FRI., MAY 11, 2001

CLASS STRUGGLE

Which College Is the Most Selective?

By JAY MATHEWS
Washington Post Staff Writer

College acceptance and rejection letters are arriving this week, so it's time for an instructive quiz. Which college is hardest to get into?

Easy question, right? Harvard, you say. Nope. Georgetown? A fine school, but not the most selective. Princeton? Close, but wrong again.

Perhaps you think this is a silly game. Who cares which school accepts the lowest percentage of applicants? There are plenty of good colleges. The one that best suits a student's needs is the one to attend, no matter what the ease of admission.

You are right, of course. That is the healthy and sensible attitude. Yet deep in the hearts of many applicants and their parents is the nagging feeling that the best schools are the famous ones most likely to reject them, and that going to a lesser-known school means they are in some way inadequate. People denied entry to the hottest new dance club feel the same way.

This belief is based on the assumption that the choosiest schools are the brand-name universities whose graduates include Nobel laureates, Supreme Court justices and big winners on Jeopardy. But what if that was not entirely true? Applicants and their families might then be able to toss the Ivy U. rejection letter into the trash with shrug and a smile.

So here is the answer to the quiz. The most selective college in the country, accepting only 9.6 percent of its applicants is . . . drum roll please, and in this case a toot on the boatswain's pipe . . . the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. According to the Kaplan/Newsweek How to Get Into College Guide 2001 Edition, the nation's most selective school is 1,000 young saltwater fanatics on a New London, Conn., campus full of ropes and charts and faculty members who have made their reputations busting drug runners.

Capt. Robert W. Thorne, director of admissions at the academy, appears pleased with his school's No. 1 status. The academy's free tuition, room and board is a major draw, he says, but the students know how hard it is to get in and that adds to the *esprit de corps*.

College acceptance rates are full of surprises. For a look at Kaplan/Newsweek's list of the Choosiest 20 schools, go to <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/education/tables/0327struggle.htm>. Some of the big brand names are there. Harvard, with a 11.4

percent acceptance rate, is No. 3. Princeton is No. 4, Columbia No. 6, Stanford No. 8, Yale No. 10, Amherst No. 14 and Georgetown, with a 22.8 percent rate, is No. 20.

But also on the list are the military academies and three schools most Americans have never heard of: Cooper Union (No. 5), a tuition-free art, architecture and engineering school in Manhattan; Talladega College (No. 18), a historically black liberal arts school near Birmingham, Ala., and the Mason Gross School of the Arts (No. 19), part of Rutgers University.

Brand name identification and exclusivity among colleges may not be as closely related as assumed. Many Washington area residents will be surprised to learn it is harder to get into Middlebury College (26 percent acceptance rate) in Vermont than the University of Virginia (34 percent). Claremont McKenna College, a small school in the smoggy eastern edges of Los Angeles County, is more selective (28 percent) than Ivy League member Cornell (33 percent).

And Wellesley, a mecca for ambitious young women, alma mater of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright, is easier to get into (46 percent) than two California schools, Pepperdine (35 percent) and USC (37 percent), long thought to be open to any young person with money and a love for surfing, football or parties.

Some will quibble that entry standards differ, but the important thing is how difficult it is to get into the school you want. So if no one has heard of your school, or what they have heard is embarrassing, take heart. It may turn out it is just as choosy as the Ivy League.

And a word to those lucky few who this August will be crossing San Pasqual Street in a new Caltech sweatshirt, or sipping a milkshake at the Peninsula Fountain and Grill near Stanford, or catching a band at Toad's Place just off the Yale campus.

You are to be congratulated for being admitted to such fine schools. But since you are not being soaked to the skin as you ride a stormy wave on the U.S. Coast Guard three-masted barque Eagle, you have not, for what it's worth, reached the most selective collegiate environment.

Class Struggle appears once a week at washingtonpost.com, which originally published this column Tuesday. Jay Mathews e-mail address is mathewsj@washpost.com.