



USMMA COLORADO

May 2004

Volume 1, Number 4

Members of the 2004-2005 ASAB Committee meet to plan this year's event at the Broadmoor Resort.



Mark your calendars for this year's ball! December 28, 2004, at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs!



In Service to Our Country

The United States is at war in 2004. We are fighting terrorism at home and abroad. The nightly newscasts have bombarded us this year with gruesome images from Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Israel and Spain. Throughout it all, the U.S. military valiantly continues to fight on, protecting the freedoms that we take for granted. Colorado's sons and daughters are training right now in the United States service academies to join in this fight some day. But once a year, when they are home on holiday leave, we, their parents, want to show them a good time. That's why we work so hard all year to make the annual All Service Academy Ball (ASAB) a success.

There are five service academies in the U.S. – the Military Academy at West Point, NY; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD; the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO; the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT; and the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Cadets and Midshipmen from these academies will be honored at the All Service Academy Ball to be held at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, CO, on December 28, 2004.

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the event in Colorado. The formal ball is organized by parents from all five academies and is funded completely by donations and ticket sales. Governor Owens traditionally declares the day of the event "All Service Academy Day." Planning for the upcoming annual event begins in February – right after the ball is over. Anyone wishing to help out with this event in the way of donations or sponsorships is asked to contact this

year's co-chairs: Ann Hall, USMMA, 719-590-8819; Judy Cramer, USMMA, 303-530-5556; Cathy Dixon, USCGA, 719-282-0901; or Kathy Scarbalis, USCGA, 719-528-2545.

This marks the first year that either the USMMA or the USCGA have undertaken the task of planning the ASAB. Co-President Ann Hall has sent an invitation to Admiral Stewart, USMMA Superintendent, and his wife on behalf of the Colorado Parent's Club.

Annual USMMA Picnic

The USMMA Parent's Club Picnic will be held at the home of Nelson and Ann Hall, 1370 Dancing Horse Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Sunday, June 27, 2004, from 3 to 6 p.m.

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for the incoming class of 2008 and their parents to have their questions answered and concerns addressed by the current Midshipmen and their parents. It's also a great time for the class of 2008 to meet one another prior to Indoctrination. It appears that we have a very large turnout from Colorado this year: 15 plebe candidates!

Please plan to bring a dish to share. Judy Cramer will be coordinating the side dishes, so that we don't end up with too many of the same things. Please contact Judy at 303-530-5556. Also, Ann has requested that we RSVP to her with how many from each family will attend. This will help greatly with food and beverage planning!

Look for your invitation in the mail soon!

Parent's Club Meeting

A Parent's Club meeting will be held just prior to the picnic. Minutes of the February Parent's Meeting will be available. If you plan to attend the meeting, please be at the Hall's house by 2 p.m. The USMMA Officers for 2004-2005 will be confirmed at this meeting. Please contact Ann Hall (719-590-8819) if you are interested in any of the offices. We strongly encourage our 2007 parents to sign up!

Officers include Co-President (coordinates yearly activities and represents Colorado at academy meetings); Secretary (Parent's Club meeting minutes, general communications, roster of midshipmen/parents/alumni, sends birthday, Christmas, and graduation cards); Treasurer (manage Parent's Club finances and report at each Club meeting); Newsletter (collect information, publish and send newsletter every 3 months); Boodle Bags (coordinate preparation of goodie bags for midshipmen during finals 3 times per year); Activities Coordinator (fundraisers and ornament for USMMA Christmas tree); Historian (Maintains records of events of the Parent's Club and students); and Alumni Liaison Coordinator (represent alumni and encourage continued participation at Parent's Club Meetings). There may be more than one person in these positions. Give it some thought, possibly buddy-up with some one and sign up to participate!

Your Parent's Club can be a great resource for you as well as your Midshipmen. Knowledgeable parents can keep their midshipmen on the track to success with the help and information that others who have been there before can share. The Parent's Club can help you keep up with the new set of challenges you will face each year at King's Point. The **PLEBE EXPERIENCE** is an obvious area



for first year families. There are so many questions during this phase. Look for some pointers to plebes and a plethora of information on Parent's Weekend in this next newsletter. For the plebes, this year may seem endless. Keep them focused on the next short-term goal...a holiday or special event they are looking forward to. Remind them that they were selected because they are the right person for the job and that nothing worthwhile is ever easy. Each faces his or her own challenges. For some it may be the regiment, discipline or sacrifices. For others it may be the academic or physical pressures or the lack of sleep. We are so proud of our Colorado class of 2007, as reports are they are hanging tough and grades are strong. **THIRD CLASS** families need to know about the sea year experience. Little things like ensuring that your midshipman has a credit card for emergencies and a means to call home while overseas can be invaluable. It's also good to know exactly what the sea project consists of and to make sure your midshipman stays on top of it! It's been noted that getting at least 100 days on the first voyage will make the 2nd class year sea term a little less stressful. Our third classmen are learning a lot in just a short period of time...not only professionally but personally as well. People skills can play an important role on board ship, as sometimes it can be rough dealing with the various personalities of the mates and engineers. Internship is an important topic for the **SECOND CLASS** year. Networking with alumni and the academy offices in charge of internships can be critical at this stage. The second class year is the most challenging for the individuals as far as learning to rely on themselves. Some go out right as summer begins and the third class year ends. When they return, they will have 200+ sea days, and a 2-6 week internship completed. All will be on at least two types of ships, which will probably include a tanker and a steamship. The **FIRST CLASS** year is all about staying focused and passing the licensing exams. During this year, the midshipmen are having a lot of fun in anticipation of getting out, but that will not happen if they fall short of requirements and fail to pass the exam. Parents of first classmen see that their child has now evolved into a man or woman ready for action and a career. As they count the days to graduation, they contemplate their choices. No other service academy can offer so much. Some may go to sea and others to the Coast Guard. Some may fly for the Navy or Marines, and others may take a career shore side in a maritime related industry. The choices are endless as the Academy extended their approval to include some foreign flag ships and liners.

Our Parent's Club strives to make the Kings Point experience a lasting and positive memory for both parents and students.

Military Sealift Command Info

There is a great toll-free source of information available to assist family members in tracking the status of Deck and Engine Cadets serving on Military Sealift Command ships. Call MSC at (888) SEALIFT (732-5438) and press "2". You'll be put in contact with an MSC employee who can tell you (in general terms) where the ship is operating and its general status. This is a great tool to keep family members informed, and lessen some anxiety.

Midshipmen Activities

David Youngman, 2007, has been part of the Color Guard all year, and recently participated in a competition for Color Guard teams at Villanova University. There were teams from about a dozen military academies and



ROTC programs. The two USMMA Color Guard teams placed 2nd and 3rd.

On February 5-6, 2004, a team of USMMA midshipmen competed in the College Student Logistics Debate Competition that is part of the annual Operation Stimulus Transportation Forum in Denver, Colorado. I am pleased to report that our Logistic and Intermodal Transportation majors took second place against teams of students from top-flight logistics programs around the country. Members of the KP team were M/N Joshua Hunt, 2004; M/N Hugh Grandstaff, 2004; and **M/N Peter Dusenbury, 2004 (Colorado)**.

Students were given a written case study and one hour in which to prepare their analysis and a stand-up presentation for a panel of judges. The USMMA team put on a very effective and polished performance, which drew favorable comments from industry and academic personnel in attendance. The analysis by the Academy team clearly had the most operational "real-world" focus of all. Congratulations to our midshipmen on their success in this national competition!

Where in the World is Waldo?

A Report on our Colorado Midshipmen at Sea

Mike Mikulak (2006) is sailing the Gulf of Mexico and the eastern seaboard on a petroleum tanker until mid-June. His plans are being finalized for his next sea assignment and internship.

Nathan Stabile (2005) trained aboard a Military Sealift Command vessel in Norfolk, then boarded the oil tanker, USNS Guadalupe out of Singapore, visiting ports at Perth, Australia and Guam. As a Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management major, he has fewer required sea days, but a much longer internship. He reported to the Continental Maritime Shipyard in San Diego in April and will be there until June 10. Following that, he is hoping to join the offshore sailing team for the Newport, Rhode Island to Bermuda race.

Adam VandenBoogaard (2006) had a two-week internship with a Navy Test Flight Squadron in Patuxent River, MD, in April, where he was able to participate in 3 FA-18 flights, actually taking control of the aircraft during flight. From there he reported to an LHA vessel based at Norfolk Naval Station. He will depart Norfolk for Charleston on May 28, and will spend the remainder of his sea time on the Sealand Developer on a Northern European route.

Our Academic Stars!

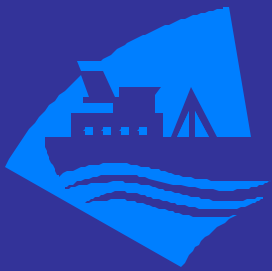
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2004 GRADUATES: **Peter Dusenbury, Benjamin Earnest, John Gustine and Peter Myers!**

Adam VandenBoogaard (2006) received a gold star for the second trimester.

David Youngman (2007) received a silver star for his second trimester GPA.

USMMA Campus News – 5/20/04

Memorial Day Events – The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Fanfare Trumpets, a unit of the Regimental Band, will perform on May 31 at historic Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, along with the famous Goldman



Memorial Band, at the Sixth Annual Memorial Day Concert there. Also on May 31, the Academy Band, Color Guard and the members of the plebe class will march in the annual Village of Great Neck Memorial Day Parade.

License Exams Underway – The Deck, Engine and Ship's Officer majors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Class of 2004 will take their U.S. Coast Guard-administered Merchant Marine License Examinations at Kings Point, June 1-4.

Sailing Team Will Compete – The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Sailing Team will compete for the 2004 Intercollegiate Sailing Association's Coed Dinghy National Championship. The competition will be held in Cascade Locks, OR, June 2-4. This is the fourth year in a row and the eighth time in the last ten years that the team has earned the right to compete for the Henry A. Morss Memorial Trophy, the pinnacle of college sailing.

Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club newsletter will be published in August 2004, just in time to provide information and pointers for Parent's Weekend. If you have any ideas for articles, pictures to include, or any information that would be beneficial to parents or midshipmen, please forward them to Lea VandenBoogaard via email (leav22@qwest.net) or regular mail (1127 Venice Street, Longmont, CO 80501) any time between now and August 1.

Commandant's Notice 04-7

Following is a brief synopsis of the Commandant's notice regarding third term finals and graduation.

All Midshipmen are required to attend Kings Point Weekend and Graduation, June 18-June 21, 2004, unless special liberty has been granted or orders have been issued by the Shipboard Training Department.

Special liberty requests must be submitted to the CO two weeks prior to the requested date, and may not begin prior to the last final, except in emergencies. Midshipmen (except Band Company members) returning to school to participate in Indoc training for EMS's, waterfront and drill instructors may be granted special liberty. Midshipmen participating in an immediate family wedding, graduation, or significant wedding anniversary celebration may be granted special liberty on a case-by-case basis. Midshipmen in receipt of orders from the Shipboard Training Department and returning to the academy for Indoctrination training may be granted special liberty on a case by case basis. Any liberty requests not covered here will not be approved unless the CO's submit the request to the Commandant/Deputy for resolution.

USMMA Memory Book

The Lake Michigan Parent's Club is selling a USMMA Memory Book as a fundraiser. These photo albums are designed for the midshipmen to keep all their pictures and mementos from King's Point, and particularly from sea year. You can view and order these items from the Parent's Page of the Academy website (www.usmma.edu).

