



February, 2009 Newsletter

2008 Colorado All Service Academy Ball

The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs was the beautiful setting for the 26th Annual Colorado All Service Academy Ball on 27 December. Approximately 550 guests, including 115 Midshipmen and Cadets from Colorado attended this formal social event, complete with military traditions and festivities. Looking most comfortable behind the microphone and with his unique style was Colonel Dick Sargent, USMCR (ret), who served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening's program. Our own Larry Svoboda had the honor of introducing every Midshipman and Cadet in attendance from the five service academies.

As they have done in the past, our Midshipmen did an admirable job MARCHING into the ballroom spotlight, executing crisp left/right face turns, standing at attention, and looking sharp! Those KP Midshipmen who attended the ball included First Classmen Benjamin Arnett, Kalyn Badger, Darin Coleman, Ben Crom, Jonathan Dufault, and Christopher Messaros; Second Classmen Jerry Coleman-Dodson and Aaron VanDenBerg; Third Classmen Nicholas Halbach, Robert Mussler, and Jacob Schirber; and Plebes Aaron Brunhofer, Kimberly Glore, Josh Johnston, Kendall Lloyd, Christopher Manzi, Glenn Neil, Preston Nicholl, Kacey Rohloff, Sarah Smith, Steven Thatcher, David Tucker, and Andrew Tulenko. Their families and several Colorado KP alumni were part of the 140 USMMA guest list.

Unable to attend this year's ball because they were on sea tours were Midshipmen David Svoboda, 2/C and Molly King, 3/C. Because their proud families were present at the ball in support of their absent Midshipmen, David's and Molly's names were read along with the other Colorado

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Above, Colorado midshipmen gather for a group photo at the 2008 Ball. At right, Plebes Sarah Smith and Kacey Rohloff light up the 2008 All-Academy Ball in their red holiday formals.



2008 All-Academy Ball



Poudre High School alumni celebrate together at the All-Academy Ball event.



Plebe Kacey Rohloff and her younger sister Jamie Rohloff enjoy the ball.

(continued from page 1)

Kings Point Midshipmen.

Representing the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy with confidence and poise in the evening's special ceremonies were: MIDN Sarah Smith, 4/C (Color Guard); MIDN LTJg Darin Coleman, 1/C (Toast to the U.S. Merchant Marines); MIDN Kacey Rohloff, 4/C (Narrator, POW/MIA Presentation); MIDN David Tucker, 4/C (POW/MIA Presentation); MIDN ENS Kalyn Badger, 1/C (Narrator, Cake-Cutting Ceremony); MIDN LTJg Jonathan Dufault, 1/C (Cake-Cutting Ceremony). As co-hosts for this year's ball, parent volunteers from the USMMA Colorado Parents' Association served proudly to plan and present this annual event. Their commitment of time and hard work combined with generous donations from our current families and KP alumni contributed to the success of the ball. Thanks to Robyn Coleman-Dodson (Jerry '10), Momi Dufault (Jonathan '09), Jan Mussler (Robert '11), Jill Svoboda (David '10), Carole Tucker (David '12), Judy Tumblin (Dylan '08), Carla VanDenBerg (Aaron '10), and John and Tracy Manzi (Christopher '12) for a fun and memorable evening! We hope to see you at the 27th CASAB!

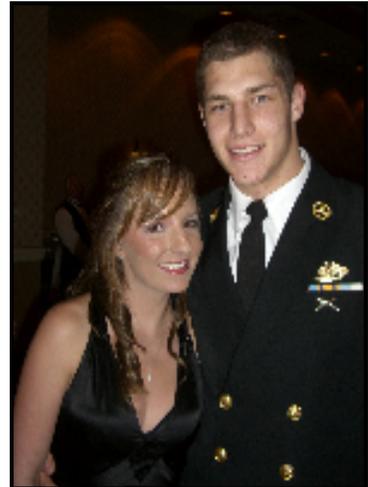
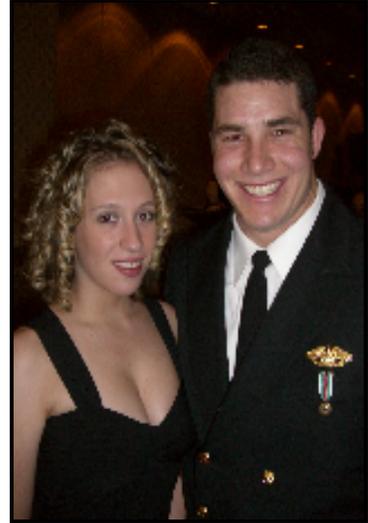
Meeting
February
28th!



Cadets and midshipmen line up to begin the ceremonial cake cutting at the 2008 Colorado All-Academy Ball held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

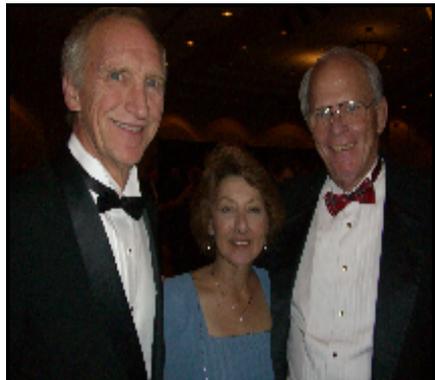
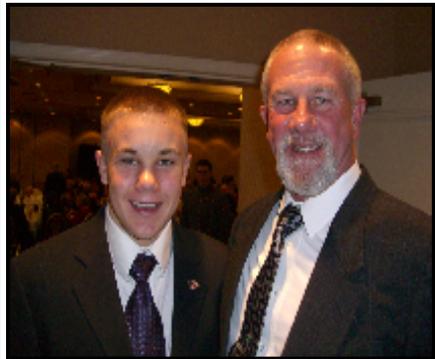
2008 All-Academy Ball

Thanks to all who supplied photos of the 2008 All-Academy Ball: Russ and Julie Rohloff, Momi Dufault, Tracy Manzi, The family of Midshipman Benjamin Arnett and Dr. P.D. Sargent





**Colorado
2008
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Naval Captain Michael Mc Grath and wife, Marleen. Although Mike was terribly injured, he survived 5 1/2 years in the Hanoi Hilton. During his incarceration, despite broken bones and other brutal injuries, he wrote and illustrated a book that describes those terrible years.



Proud mentors, Colonel Dick Sargent and Dr. Patricia Sargent, who have mentored over 70 midshipmen and facilitated over \$12,000,000 worth of Academy scholarships for Colorado students in the past seven years.



Colorado Bakers Sponsor "Cookie Café"



Colorado's own Sarah Smith (2012) enjoys some cookies furnished by the Colorado USMMA Parents who sponsored the Cookie Café Jan. 29th.



A sign lets the midshipmen know that this week's tasty goodies were supplied by the good cooks from Colorado.



On January 29th, many of our Colorado King's Point moms and some grandmothers supplied the home baked cookies for the 'Cookie Café' held weekly at Land Hall for the entire regiment of midshipmen. This is a Thursday night event filled with the smell and taste of homemade cookies along with milk and cocoa. It is a wonderful respite from studying and the gloomy winter weather.

We want to thank Christine Neil (Glenn, 2012) for coordinating this project and for her bakers: Kerry Reul (Tamra, 2009), Julie Rohloff (Kacey, 2012), Julie Tulenko (Andrew, 2012), Suzy Coleman (Darin, 2009), Tamra Glore (Kimberly, 2012), Shannon O'Connell (Dan Gamito, 2010, Derien Jastrzebski, 2011), Susan Brunhofer (Aaron, 2012), Tracy Manzi (Christopher, 2012) Robyn Coleman-Dodson, (Jerry, 2010), Carol Smith (Sarah, 2012), and Christine Neil (Glenn, 2012).

We have another baking date in March so if you would like to join the fun please email Christine at sew4th@juno.com.

Below and left, hungry midshipmen from throughout the regiment line up to enjoy the homemade cookies sent from Colorado.



Alumni Foundation responds to concerns about changes at USMMA

The Alumni Foundation is pleased to provide the following information about some issues that have created concern among the Alumni and Parents.

Superintendent RADM Allen Worley and Chief of Staff Capt. Eric Wallischeck confirmed in this month's regularly scheduled meeting with the Alumni Foundation that Colors Formation is still intact and will be moved to 0730 from 0745. The move to an earlier time is required due to the expansion of the academic schedule which now has the first classes of the day beginning at 0745. There will be four periods before lunch which adds an academic period to the schedule as well as fitting in an extra lab period.

The Superintendent is well aware of the tradition and importance of Colors to the Academy and the elimination of Colors was not an issue. In addition, the Regiment will still muster for Lunch.

The Superintendent expressed his support for the Regimental Band and knows how important the Band is to the Academy and to the Alumni. The Regimental Band is recognized as a symbol of the Academy and is a very effective way of getting the name of the United States Merchant Marine Academy out into the public. Admiral Worley indicated that future Academy budgets will have a separate line item for the Band. The Academy administration is hoping to keep the Band strong well into the future and to strengthen the overall music program. However, the Band and other midshipmen activities will continue to depend upon monetary support from the Alumni Foundation for various parts of their programs and to meet unexpected and unbudgeted expenses. The Academy's ability to meet such unexpected expenses requires unrestricted donations from you.

A video of the Band marching in the Inaugural Parade was sent previously and hopefully you were able to view it. They looked great!

Thank you for your continuing support.

Ivy B. Suter '78
Chairwoman
USMMA Alumni Foundation

The President's Corner

By Larry and Jill Svoboda

Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day!!! We hope that you all are having a great Colorado winter which is very mild compared to what the Svoboda children are reporting from Minnesota. Of course, David ('10) just returned from two months of sea duty on a steam ship traveling from L.A. to Honolulu. Tough duty but somebody has to do it.

Our next parents' association meeting is coming right up and you won't want to miss it. It will be at Scott and Susie Jerlow's home on Saturday, Feb. 28th from 1-4 PM. Please bring an appetizer to share and let them know if you are coming. Their e-mail address is edifyllc@comcast.net and phone number is 303-961-3166. The agenda for this meeting includes: 1) updates on our plebes/midshipmen, 2) information from Col. Dick Sargent regarding his efforts to get congressional support for the academy, 3) valuable Sea Year information, 4) committee reports, 5) an update on changes at the academy since the arrival of Rear Admiral Worley, and 6) the election of officers for the academic year 2009-2010.

For those of you who went to the All Service Academy Ball in December, please bring a few pictures to the meeting to show us. Our family had a marvelous time and it was so neat to see so many plebes/midshipmen from USMMA represented. Our son, David, has never been to the ball because it was cancelled due to weather his plebe year and the last 2 Christmases he has been at sea. Next year we will all be there with bells on!

We hope to see you all in a few weeks. Please do not hesitate to call (303-431-7745) or email ljsvoboda@msn.com if you have any questions or concerns about your son/daughter or the academy. We are here to offer support and encouragement.

Jill and Larry Svoboda

Plebe Report

By Adam Jerlow

Having completed my first trimester and being well entrenched in the second, Mom asked me to write an article for the newsletter published by the Colorado parents' association. She suggested I comment on physical, academic and relational aspects and how my experiences at Kings Point have impacted me.

Since July I have gained fifteen pounds due mostly to working out every day. Regimentally, being a plebe is not that difficult. For me, the trick is to do what's expected of you as a plebe and you're left alone. The only time I have to PT is with the whole company as I have not been singled out. Our new RTO and RTOA are PT enthusiasts and are constantly making people suffer "the 'Howse' of pain" and "the full Nelson". Rumor has it that it's a rather terrible experience but I don't plan on trying it anytime soon. Better to not be noticed; true to the advice offered by those Coloradoans who've come before me.

Academics by themselves are not incredibly difficult. Piling athletics and regimental aspects on top of academics and properly prioritizing is the hard part. The first 3 months I was here all I heard was "time management" and - it's true. If you can't prioritize then you won't make it long. The first trimester went well for me. I had a couple teachers that either bored me to sleep or that I couldn't fully understand. For instance my physics teacher is ex KGB scientist. He worked on the micro chip- that is what makes laser guided missiles possible or something intense like that. He has a very thick Russian accent and doesn't speak like a US born and raised person does. My KP 100 deck side instructor was the most boring teacher I have ever had. CDR Hunt managed to put me to sleep while I was standing in the back of the room trying to stay awake. Other fellow plebes suffered the same plight. On the other hand, many people think that they are still children and complain to the Commandant when they are stressed about a test and the CTO takes 15-20 minutes away from their study time for tattoo. I fear for those that do that. What will they do when they go out to sea and they don't have anyone to go crying to? When the 1st mate or chief engineer tell them to work more than they want, who will protect them and make sure they do their sea projects? No one. Enough plebes have complained now that it has drastically changed our plebe training and has greatly restricted our training officers from doing what is necessary to develop us to our fullest potential. It's sad.

At the academy you become very close with a few people: either your room mate or people in your section or plebes from your Indoc platoon. You come to a quick realization of who you will get along with shortly after Indoc. I have been very fortunate to have been friends with all of my roommates. My roommate for first tri was Erik Schott. Erik is from Ohio and is a pretty good wrestler and overall athlete. We had a lot in common and it was easy to get along. We had very similar habits. We went to bed around the same time because we had the same classes so we helped each other with the homework which meant we didn't have to stay up late. Having a compatible roommate like that made the first tri easy to cope with and succeed regimentally and academically. As more and more time elapsed since my arrival at the academy, new relationships were formed and old ones were rekindled. The one that I'm most thankful for is my relationship with my father. The months leading up to my departure were high strung for many reasons and I was not on the best terms with my dad for the most part. We didn't speak much and when we did it was usually me getting a lecture or being told to come home. Things with my dad were always intense; that's just how he is. I hated it while I was home but now that I am no longer around the house all the time I understand why he raised me the way he did and I wouldn't change a thing. He knew what I was capable of and always expected me to do my best. He harped on finishing what I started. Honesty and respect are very important to him as well and he made sure that I respected adults and told the truth. I can't tell you how much I appreciate him raising me this way. I was his only son, so fortunately for me, all of his focus was on me. I didn't get away with anything! ALL of my friends were scared of him and most still are. Now that I have a new appreciation for everything he did for me, I can talk to him without a chip on my shoulder. We talk all the time. I do my best to call him as often as I can and we exchange emails frequently. This place makes you evaluate all aspects of your life and I'm glad that it has drawn my father and I together the way it has.

USMMA Around the World



Colorado M/N 2C Tyler Hathcote, of Aurora, son of Jeff and Joan Hathcote, is seen here in New York leaving for his ship. He sailed on the steam ship Horizon Trader until Jan 30 and then reported to the APL President Jackson on January 31.

National Association News

National Parent Association Co-Chairs Ann Hall and Mary Silva have been holding teleconference calls in past weeks with the National Constitutional By-Laws Committee to prepare changes to the Parent Association By-laws that will have to be considered by the membership at the next National President's Conference in Sept. 2009 at Kings Point. The changes in the by-laws are required to comply with the new directives from MARAD regarding the methods of funding and influencing academy business.

By-laws under consideration for change include the method of choosing a National Co-chair, membership extensions for alumni parents who wish to stay active in the association for a longer time than currently allowed, the formation of a national advisory board, and clarification of wording regarding the National Co-Chairs' automatic membership in each state and local Parent's Association Chapter.

A national newsletter will also soon be sent to all state presidents and regional vice-presidents to facilitate communication with the academy and national association and to explain by-law changes and other changes being made by the new administration.

In other business Hall and Silva announced this week that the new National Co-Chairs for 2009-2011 will be Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto, of Swink, Colorado. They will assume their duties at the upcoming President's Conference held just before Parent's Weekend in September.

Shirley Anthony will remain at the Academy as a liaison to the USMMA Parent's Association.



USMMA was well-represented in China recently when 28 members of the Dr. Rocco Fuschetto family traveled to Chongqing, China for their son's wedding on Nov. 1. From left are Janie Fuschetto Jenkins, holding daughter Grace, Jim Fuschetto, Ana Fuschetto, (USMMA 2011,) Angelina Fuschetto, (USMMA 2001,) USMMA Parent Club Regional Vice Presidents Rocco Fuschetto and Mary Jane Fuschetto on either side of their son Joseph, seen here in his traditional Chinese wedding garb, grandson Andrew Jenkins in front, and partially hidden, LCDR Randy Jenkins, (USMMA 1998.)

Colorado USMMA Mom goes to sea



After seven years of begging, in September Swink, Colorado USMMA Mom Mary Jane Fuschetto finally got permission from officials of Exxon-Mobil and SeaRiver to sail from Anacortes, Washington to Valdez, Alaska, and back aboard her daughter Angelina's ship, the SeaRiver Sierra. Angelina, a 2001 USMMA grad, sails as Chief Mate for SeaRiver, the tanker division of Exxon-Mobil. The 1,000 feet long S/R Sierra is a double-hull crude oil tanker that is ten decks high and sails with a crew of 25.

Receiving permission just days before the trip, Fuschetto had to fax stacks of legal waivers to Houston and meet the ship in Anacortes. However, simply boarding the ship became a memorable and dangerous experience. Although Fuschetto was listed as a supernumerary crew

member, legal technicalities prevented her from simply driving onto the ship from the dock. Instead, at 2 a.m., in a driving and frigid rain, as the Sierra moved away from the dock, Fuschetto boarded a moving launch that kept pace with the Sierra as Fuschetto reached across the dark to climb a 90 foot vertical ladder that stretched up the side of the ship to the main deck where crew members waved flashlights.

The crew also welcomed the first-ever "Mommy" to sail aboard the Sierra with a cabin sign reading, "Chief Mate's Mommy" and a hard hat with the same designation. A private officer's cabin was also provided on the top deck next to the Captain and Chief Mate's cabins. Steel-toed boots, safety goggles and a survival suit were also provided. Safety training followed and "Mommy" learned survival suits are hard to put on and even harder to take off, fire gear weighs a lot, emergency medical stretchers are hard to get out of, ten decks of stairs are hard to climb in a 15 degree roll and high seas washing over the deck on a daily basis is not a cause for panic. During the 16 trip Fuschetto participated in radio calls to the Coast Guard, learned how to chart, learned all about galley cooking methods, was allowed to manually drive the ship for about 20 minutes (under very careful supervision,) was taught how to open and close cargo valves and pumps, was given complete tours of all areas of the ship, including the engine room, the cargo control room and all the outside decks, and spent a lot of time on the bridge sitting in the captain's chair watching Angelina work. One day in high seas, she was enlisted to help crew members remove loose life rings from the main deck to keep them from washing overboard. (See above photo.)

While the trip included a three hour stay on Alaskan soil in Valdez, by far the highlight of the trip was simply being on the Sierra and watching the awesome responsibility our USMMA grads have when they sail. That point was clearly emphasized one night at 2 a.m. as Angelina carefully guided the Sierra through the darkness past the buoy marking the spot where the Exxon-Valdez ran aground.

Roster of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs for 2008-09

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Larry and Jill Svoboda (David '10) 303.431.7745

Co-Vice Presidents: Mike and Janice Mussler (Robert '11) 303.258.7952 and Mike and Alesia Schirber (Jacob '11) 970.493.3935; **Secretary:** Robyn Dodson-Coleman (Jerry '10) 303.772.7785; **Treasurer:** Jeanna Ambrose (Patrick '10) 719.836.9333; **NATIONAL OFFICERS:** **National Co-Chairs:** Ann Hall, ann_hall42@q.com and Mary Silva; **National Regional**

Vice-Presidents: Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto (Ana '11) 719-383.0797

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: **Class 2010 Parents:** Open; **Class 2011 Parents:** Linda Anderson (Andrew '11) 970.568.9258; **News-letter:** Mary Jane Fuschetto (Ana '11) 719.383.0797; **ASAB:** Momi Dufault (Jonathan '09) 719.591.9533; **Fundraising:** Bev Halbach (Brennen '08, Nicholas '11) 303.403.9292; **Webmaster:** Bob Rossi (Brittany '08) 970.270.5162; **Boodle Bags:** Bonnie and Paul Diamond (Philip '11), 303.681.3322; **Alumnae Liaison:** Judy Tumblin (Dylan '08) 303.678.1181; **Hospitality:** Kerry Reul (Tamera '09) 303.425.6452; **Cards:** Shannon O'Connell 303-665-2969 Derien, 2011 & Dan, 2010; **Senior Gift:** Mussler and Schirber (listed above); **Membership:** Open; **Cookie Café:** Christine Neil