



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

West Point, New York 10996

March 19, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Department of Social Sciences

Dear Friends,

Greetings from West Point! Cadets returned from Spring Break today and it seems like winter has simply flown by. The lack of snow at West Point—with our biggest snowfall of the year consisting of the one-day snowstorm we had in October—has made it seem as though there was hardly a winter season at all. Fortunately, the West Point garrison has taken all the effort that ordinarily would have gone into snow removal and applied it to enhanced parking enforcement, giving a record number of parking tickets during January and February. So, many of the experienced staff and faculty will recognize that the perennial problem of parking is one of the West Point traditions that will probably never change!

We have a few news items to share with you since our New Year's letter, but I will keep this update relatively brief. The most important information is a reminder—especially for those of you in the Washington, DC, area. As announced in January, the Department Spring Reunion will be held on Friday, April 20, from 6:00-8:30 p.m., at the Spates Community Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. More details are in the attached flyer – please RSVP by 10 April.

Back at West Point, we continue to enjoy the use of West Point's new library, Jefferson Hall (otherwise known as the house BG Dan Kaufman built). Since its dedication six years ago, the Academy has been renovating the “old library,” which has the inauspicious new name of “Bartlett Hall-North.” It is a state of the art science center that meets all of the most modern laboratory and classroom needs for physics, chemistry, and life sciences. Over the next three years, the rest of Bartlett Hall will undergo a complete renovation. So, if you left any specimens in one of the old labs when you were there as a cadet, you better claim them pretty quickly!

As many of you have experienced, teaching Social Sciences in the midst of an election year gives us a great opportunity to use what happens in Washington, in political campaigns, and throughout the world to enhance classroom instruction. We focus on ensuring cadets are exposed to and can critically analyze issues from different perspectives and relate what they observe to the underlying political science and economic concepts and theories. A good example was last month when we had an exceptional panel for our American Politics and Domestic Affairs Forum cadets. Dr. Meena Bose, who previously taught American Politics in the Department and is now the Kalikow Chair of Political Science at Hofstra University, moderated a discussion with Mr. Ed Rollins and Governor Howard Dean. You cannot get much more diversity in perspectives than Mr. Rollins (a Republican strategist who ran Ronald Reagan's 1984 campaign) and Governor Dean (a 2004 Democrat presidential candidate and former Democratic National Committee Chair). We used this event and all of our supporting instruction to teach cadets that rigorous thinking and rational discussion about political issues is an important skill for them to develop as professional military officers.

And with regard to speakers, we are extremely happy to announce that the class of 1952 is making a gift at their 60th reunion to permanently endow the Class of 1952 Guest Speaker series. This will fill the gap left as Olin Foundation guest speaker funding was exhausted with the liquidation of the Olin Fund a few years ago. The lecture series will include at least one annual keynote; this year we are privileged to have Dr. Henry Kissinger provide his insights on April 5 as the inaugural Class of 1952 lecture.

We are gearing up for another busy summer with a record number of faculty members (15) supporting the Commandant at Camp Buckner and in other summer training. For those who are here at West Point, the main effort in early summer will be Senior Conference, which will focus on “America’s Prosperity and Security in a Networked World: Challenges and Prospects.” As the world of cyber has increasingly become a concern from a security, economic, and policy perspective, we think that a focused discussion on the fundamental issues stemming from America’s dependence on cyberspace is appropriate. I will report in my August letter the results from that conference.

We are in the process of assisting our recently-selected faculty members to begin graduate school in September 2013 with a scheduled arrival to teach beginning in 2015. The bulk of the officers in this most recent cohort were commissioned in 2006 and 2007. We are glad to report that our record of bringing exceptional talent back to the Department remains strong. For example, on the most recent promotion list to Major, not only were all of our officers in the primary zone selected, but we were fortunate to have five officers selected below the zone (out of nine total), which substantially exceeds the average Army early selection rate of six percent. We think this reflects both the talents of our officers as well as the validity of our (and the Army’s) selection process! As always if you have talented officers working with you, especially those who are about to take company command, please encourage them to open a file for next year’s selection board via the Sosh website (<http://www.dean.usma.edu/departments/sosh/>).

Earlier this month, there was a mini-Sosh reunion in Utah. BG(R) Joe Jordan invited John Nagl and COLs Suzanne Nielsen and Cindy Jebb to the Wheatley Institute’s SCUSA-like conference on human security. Closer to home, after placing 2nd at the World Conference in Vancouver, Model UN will host the second West Point Security Conference with Sosh alum COL(P) Kim Field as the keynote. Finally, we will celebrate the official start of spring with our annual Newbie Party (with an “Animal House” theme) and look forward to continued volleyball success in the noon staff and faculty league.

We hope to see many of you on Friday, April 20, 2012, at the Spates Club at Fort Myer. Thanks to a very kind donation from an anonymous alum, we are able to keep the price at an exceptionally reasonable \$10 per person. The registration information is on the attached form, but if you have any questions, please contact me at michael.meese@us.army.mil, Cindy Jebb, the Not Head at cindy.jebb@usma.edu or the XO, MAJ Andy Gallo at andrew.gallo@usma.edu.



Mike Meese
Professor and Head
Department of Social Sciences

2012 Department of Social Sciences Spring Reunion

Friday, April 20, 2012

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



Fort Myer Spates Club

214 McNair Road

Fort Myer, VA 22211

(703) 527-1300

Hors d'oeuvres, Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks

\$10 per person*

*Thanks to a generous donation by a Social Sciences alumn, we can underwrite much of the expense of the Spring Reunion. We hope that everyone will be able to join us.

To RSVP, **complete and send** the form below **prior to April 10th** via email or US Mail to carlton.smith@usma.edu

Department of Social Sciences

Attn: **Mr. Carlton Smith**

607 Cullum Road

West Point, New York 10996

Phone: **(845) 938-6401**

Attire: Business Casual

Kindly help us keep our Alum Roster accurate. The Department sends newsletters via email and regular mail. If you are not receiving one of the versions, please provide your email or mailing address to Mr. Carlton Smith.

Name (include rank/title):			
Years in SOSH (from-to):			
Address:			
Email address:			
Telephone number:			
Number of people attending:			
Names on Name Tags (Please include alumnus/alumna and all guests):			
\$ Amount enclosed		\$ Amount I will pay at the door	

*** Please be kind – Payment will be required for reservations that are not cancelled by April 13th to meet catering costs.**

Fort Albert J. Myer Virginia

