



The Kablegram



Staunton Military Academy Alumni Newsletter

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First Quarter — February 2003

Annual Reunion 2003

VWIL to honor SMA, alumni with review; President Tyson to speak at banquet

By Tom Phillips, SMA '74

What if you held a parade – and everybody came?

The *Farmer's Almanac* predicts warmer than normal weather for the Shenandoah Valley in April, a good sign considering that one of the highlights of the SMA Annual Reunion 2003 weekend will be a review on Friday afternoon, April 4, on Kable Field. Mary Baldwin College President Virginia Tyson has been invited to address SMA alumni and guests at the annual banquet on Saturday evening, April 5.

The theme for this year's reunion is "Pass in Review."

"For several years now, we've tried to offer some sort of special event that would encourage alumni to attend the SMA reunion, and this year it's the parade," said Tom Phillips, SMA '74, chair-

Turn to page 6 for a complete schedule of events and to page 8 for a reunion reservation form.

man of the reunion committee. "It's flattering that the VWIL and its Corps of Cadets offered to honor us this way. For the members of the SMA Corps who haven't seen the SMA colors flying in a color guard or heard "The Blue and Gold" played since they graduated from the academy, they're going to be in for a real treat."

The parade will begin at 4:00 p.m., followed by a reception at the SMA-VWIL Museum, at which time the names of the three SMA alumni and/or faculty and administrators who were voted to have a plaque placed on the SMA Memorial Wall will be dedicated in their honor.

The Corps will then be "on leave" for the remainder of the evening.

Saturday events begin at 9:00 a.m. with the annual meeting chaired by SMA Alum-

ni Association President Bill Kearns, SMA '74. Following that a wreath-laying ceremony has been scheduled for 12:30 p.m. at Thornrose Cemetery. The event, held the past two years at the reunion, pays tribute to SMA's founder, Captain William H. Kable.

The Corps is then free for the afternoon to roam old haunts in Staunton, visit the SMA-VWIL museum, go shopping or, perhaps for some, pay a sentimental visit to the legendary Marino's.

Saturday evening events start at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar reception, followed by another highlight event, the annual banquet.

The invited speaker for the annual banquet is Dr. Cynthia H. Tyson, Mary Baldwin College's longest-serving president, who also is a friend of SMA and an honorary alumnus of the academy.

Dr. Tyson will retire next June after 18 years as chief executive of the private Staunton-based institution. She was honored in January by The Daughters of the American Revolution, who presented her with one of the organization's highest awards: the Americanism Medal, which is given to naturalized citizens who have shown extraordinary leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism.

During Dr. Tyson's tenure at the college, Mary Baldwin has grown and prospered, adding new campuses and distinctive programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, creating partnerships, constructing and renovating buildings, enlarging and diversifying its student body, setting fund-raising records, achieving high rankings and drawing national publicity.

This fall, Mary Baldwin welcomed a record 905 students in on-campus undergraduate programs, maintaining its status as the largest women's college in Virginia. Enrollments in two programs -

Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership and the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted - are at record levels. *U.S. News and World Report* named Mary Baldwin in the South's top tier of master's-level universities, reflecting the institution's evolution after being listed among the region's Top 10 liberal arts colleges for many years.

Before coming to Mary Baldwin College, Tyson was vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer at Queens University of Charlotte. Tyson earned a Ph.D. in English Language and Medieval English Literature from the University of Leeds, where she also completed her bachelor's and master's degrees. Born and raised in England, Dr. Tyson first came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar/Lecturer and went on to a distinguished career in higher education in this country, becoming a U.S. citizen.

Sunday is reserved as free time for breakfasts and departures for home.

"We're trying something new this year with the parade and the April time frame," Phillips said. "Early spring is a beautiful time in the Shenandoah Valley, and we're hoping for a great turnout this year!"

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The Kablegram

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The Kablegram is published four times each year by the SMA Alumni Association. Editorial and photographic submissions are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time to get involved!

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The April reunion is rapidly approaching and I am looking forward to this year's format of a VWIL parade with SMA alumni participation. This new opportunity will open the door to re-establishing the bond between our association and VWIL, and strengthen our memories of life on "The Hill".

I want to encourage every alumnus to plan now to attend this year's reunion. The events of the past few years have been excellent and this one promises to be even better. You'll find a reunion reservation form in this issue as well as on our website.



Bill Kearns

We are recognizing three former cadets and faculty for their dedicated service to Staunton Military Academy by placing plaques on the Memorial Wall at the SMA/VWIL Museum. I am honored to be able to participate in this moment. I continue to be amazed at the quality of cadets and faculty we had at SMA. First Sergeant Charles O. Graham was one of these faculty when I attended. I and many of our alumni were saddened by his passing several months ago. His obituary is published in this issue of the *Kablegram*. When I recently became aware of his life history I was extremely proud. First Sergeant Graham set an example and standard for me at SMA and throughout my life. I think of him frequently.

It continues to be important that you, our alumni, become involved in *The* association. The internet has been a tremendous tool in our goal to establish communication with alumni. That tool has yielded new association members and enabled old friends to reunite and communicate.

I want to remind all alumni that the association is both quite active and eager to be of assistance. If you have questions or comments, contact any member of the Board of Directors or our office manager, Arlene Nicely. We will respond as promptly as possible and do everything we can to help or answer your inquiry.

Help us continue the legacy of Staunton Military Academy. Get involved!

Bill

Bill Kearns
 President, SMA Alumni Association

To contact Bill by e-mail: President@sma-alumni.org
 or wkearns1@aol.com

NEWSNOTES

Museum is searching for specific items to be displayed

Brocky Nicely, SMA '65, curator of the SMA/VWIL Museum, has announced a list of needs for display in the facility.

At the top of the list are mannequins such as those used in department stores, as well as issues of *The Kablegram* (Volumes 1 and 2) and issues of *The Kablegram* from the spring of 1971 through 1976.

Brocky is also looking for blue scarfs for the 1970s overcoat, grey pants and shirts from the 1950s and 1960s day uniform, first issues of the alumni newsletter, and 1890 to 1905 catalogs.

Videos of parades and cadet life are also on the list, as is a McKeever cartridge box, 1858 Enfield with bayonet and cartridge box, a copy of the print entitled "29 Let's Go", blue and gold parade guideons from 1965 and from 1968 through 1974.

Brocky is also seeking a grey drill guideon from 1975-76.

Brocky is working on a display entitled "Tempered Steele — The Men of the SMA Faculty 1883-1976", targeted for completion in 2004. Future displays will include "Second to None — The Story of SMA Athletics", "Blood, Sweat and Tears — The SMA Vietnam Experience", "They Changed The World — Staunton Men in the 1940s", and "The Edge of the Sword — SMA Tac Officers."

Any alumni who believes he can help in these endeavors or who may have items listed that can be donated, please contact the SMA Alumni Association by mail at P. O. Box 958, Woodrum Station, Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958 or by telephone at (540) 885-1309.

Dale Spitzer named Coach of the Year

Dale Spitzer, SMA '74, coach of the Fort Defiance (Virginia) Indians was recently named Staunton *News-Leader* City/County Coach of the Year.

For Spitzer, last year's 11-2 season was the best for a Fort Defiance team since 1992. The team's record over the two-year period was 20-5.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILL

He was a hero to us all!

Mark,

I'm watching Band of Brothers again and I can't help but see the humanity and heroism of people like Charlie Graham. After doing over 45 interviews, one thing has continually struck me is that those who have done astounding things in their lives seldom look upon them as being so. They consider it all in a day's work and are somewhat surprised when anyone mentions them. Such was the case with Charlie Graham.

I got to his apartment on a cold, stormy day and hauled the camera equipment cases up the stairs. I set up the camera and lights before a man I had remembered as larger than life some 29 years earlier. Sitting in front of me was a man many of us truly respected and we knew he truly cared about all of us as cadets.

As I looked in his eyes, asking the questions, it was as if I was a cadet again. It was hard to concentrate because he was telling me his life's story and it was a life that was rich and full. It was a life I didn't know, as he never talked about his battles and didn't consider himself a hero.

His family told me that this was one of the few times he'd told all about what had happened with him in the war. I had heard so many war stories from lesser men, people who out of their insecurity wanted to be considered great, when in reality some of what they were saying never happened. With Graham, the simplicity of his story, the things he did and lived through were incredible...and like the true hero he was, he never casually mentioned them.

He had seen things we can only imagine, and did things he hoped others may never do. He had seen war for what it is, and gave me an opportunity to try and understand.

You know, I don't know if I can write what would mean anything to others, to allow them to understand what I saw that day when I was there. For me personally, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know him and for the chance to see and talk with him once again.

I know that there are the men we herald as heroes, yet we never knew them. I've been to St. Lo, walked the battlefields and talked with the French citizens who were there. Howie has his place, this is true...but the man I knew was Charlie Graham, and his life enriched mine. SMA, knowingly or not, has a hero on its hands...an unassuming, humble, and deeply caring individual who passed before us almost without notice.

Let me know the parameters of what you want me to write. I, like many, consider it an honor to have known him.

My very best to you both!

Marty Cooke

Editor's Note: The preceding is the content of an e-mail sent to Mark Orr, SMA '73 by John Martin Cooke, Jr., SMA '75, shortly after the death of First Sergeant Charles O. Graham. Mark Orr has asked Mr. Cooke to write an article on "Sarge" Graham. However, the Kablegram read this e-mail and immediately recognized a fitting tribute to a soldier, mentor, instructor and friend who touched the lives of many alumni.



Your SMAAA dues make *The Kablegram* possible!
....and the publication of stories like the one above and those on other pages of this issue.

Help make things happen! Send your \$50.00 dues today to
SMA Alumni Association
P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

Thompsons retired in 2002



Doris and Fred Thompson, pictured here in the SMA-VWIL Museum in June 2002, retired shortly thereafter.

Doris and Fred Thompson, fixtures in the SMA Alumni Association for almost three decades, retired in July 2002. Doris first began managing the SMA Alumni Office in 1974 under the leadership of Ike Kivlighan, SMA '29. Fred joined her efforts in 1990 and continued until their retirement last year.

Prior to her association with the SMA Alumni Office, Doris was Chairperson of Patient Services and Rehabilitation for 28 years with the American Cancer Society, and also worked with the American Lung Association and the March of Dimes.

Fred served in the U.S. Navy for three years in the Pacific, and retired from C&P Telephone Company after 38 years. He was chairman of the March of Dimes for many years, and also served as chairman of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Commission representing his district. An avid golfer, he is also past president of the Men's Golf's Association for the Augusta County Country Club.

In retirement, Doris is involved in their church, in three choral groups, participates in several bible studies, chairing one of them, and continues to answer e-mails and correspondence from many SMA alumni who contact them.

Fred is a member of the Prayer and Healing Group of their church and continues his golf association activities.

Doris and Fred have been married 55 years. They have two children — a son, Michael, and a daughter, Pamela. Michael's wife, Donna, provided database management services to the SMA Alumni Association for a number of years.

Any alumni wishing to contact Doris and Fred Thompson may do so by mail at P. O. Box 633, Verona, Virginia 24482-0163 or by e-mail at fredthompson@aol.com.

CORRECTIONS

In the November issue of *The Kablgram*, Bob DiGiacomo was listed in the text of a speech given at the July reunion by Mark Orr, SMA '73.

Mr. DiGiacomo's year of graduation was incorrectly listed as 1969, when in fact he graduated in 1944.

On page 8 of the November issue, the photograph of a group of six alumni at the bottom left of that page was misidentified. The caption should have read — FRONT: Mike Miller, '74, Tom Phillips, '74, Mark Orr, '73; BACK: Tad Hall, '73, Ed Smith, '76, Bill Bissett, '74.

Who would have guessed?

Arlene Nicely named SMA office manager

Arlene Nicely has been associated in one way or another with the SMA Alumni Association since 1963. She married Brocky Nicely, SMA '65, a member of the Board of Directors and chairman of the SMA/VWIL Museum Committee.

Mrs. Nicely was asked to assume the duties of Alumni Secretary in July 2002 following the retirement of Doris and Fred Thompson.

"In accepting the position," Mrs. Nicely said, "it was just one of the many times my life has been intertwined with Staunton Military Academy."

Arlene and Brocky were childhood sweethearts. Arlene was "devastated" in 1963 when Brocky enrolled at SMA and left her behind in Lexington, Virginia.

However, fortune smiled on the Nicelys. Arlene was able to visit Brocky at SMA by staying with her aunt in Staunton. She recalls attending several dances at SMA and "keeping Major Dodge busy making sure we danced with a proper distance between us."

Upon graduation, Brocky planned to attend college, but had to serve during the Vietnam conflict. He served in the Military Police in Germany until his discharge in 1968.

Not long after, Brocky took Arlene to Flagpole Hill and proposed. They married and in 1972 they returned to Staunton. In 2001 Brocky accepted the challenge of establishing the SMA/VWIL Museum "for the school which had been so much a part of our lives."

"On my desk," Mrs. Nicely said, "I now have a double frame which holds a picture of Brocky as a young cadet, standing at the gates of SMA. On the other side, there is a picture of me on my great aunt's porch on one of the many occasions I came to visit."

"Life sometimes comes full circle," she says of the events that have brought her to be the new Alumni Secretary.

Mrs. Nicely added that she would like to express appreciation for all the support and patience she has been shown while trying to learn the responsibilities of the office.

"The best part of the job," Mrs. Nicely said, "is being able to talk with those who are so proud of 'from which they came' — Staunton Military Academy."



Arlene Nicely

SMA flag carried by VWIL, continuing the legacy

The VWIL Class of 2003 was the first class to have the history of SMA included in their Book of Knowledge. These cadets were quizzed all year on the history of SMA, including memorization of the "Truth, Duty, Honor" motto. The motto was incorporated into their class ring design, signifying the 2003 class's link to SMA along with part of their VWIL experience. On October 10, 1999,

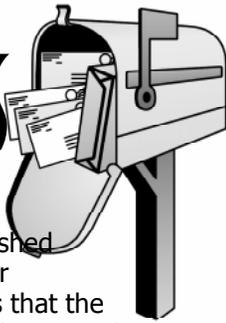


VWIL began carrying the SMA flag in its Color Guard. The Class of 2003 is the first to carry the SMA colors throughout all four years. The SMA flag will be carried in the April 4 VWIL SMA Alumni parade. That parade is the first such event held by VWIL to honor the legacy of SMA.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Letters will be published unless the originator specifically requests that the communication not be printed.



OPINION & COMMENTARY

It's reunion time again!

Our annual reunion is being held earlier than normal this year to allow alumni to be honored and participate in a special Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) parade, to be held Friday, April 4th, at 4:00 p.m. on Kable Field

Not only will returning alumni see the SMA flag carried in the VWIL Color Guard, but they will, for the first time in many years, hear "The Blue and Gold" played. This promises to be a nostalgic event that will bring forth many memories.

We encourage you to plan now to attend. Use the convenient form in this issue of *The Kablegram* to make your reservations, reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center, and practice "Right Face, Forward March!"

There will be plenty of activities Friday and Saturday, April 4-5. We hope you will take the time to come to Staunton, visit old friends, tour the SMA/VWIL Museum, and help make this another memorable reunion.

Your dues

Alumni who have not yet paid their 2002-2003 membership dues should by now have received a reminder letter, card and self-addressed postage-paid envelope. The dues you pay help support the operation of the SMA Alumni Office and the various activities SMAAA provides for our membership. In fact, your involvement and your support is instrumental in fostering the legacy of Staunton Military Academy. Please respond to the letter and send in your 2002-2003 dues.

Keeping in touch

The Kablegram is your line of communication with SMA, the association, and the many friends you made on The Hill. Many of you should have stories to tell about your experiences at SMA. You may know of other alumni who deserve recognition for their accomplishments, and sadly, some who have passed on. We need this information, these stories, old photos, and your feedback.

Take a few moments and communicate! Send us an e-mail at cdlsma58@aol.com or kablegram@sma-alumni-org. Write to us at SMA Alumni Association, P. O. Box 958, Woodrum Station, Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958. Fax to the SMA Alumni Office at (540) 885-1366.

An old soldier

General Douglas MacArthur, addressing the Corps of Cadets at West Point following his retirement, remarked "An old soldier never dies, he just fades away."

Last month, an old soldier, First Sergeant Charles O. Graham, faded away. "Sarge" Graham was a mentor, instructor and friend to many of us. On page three of this issue of *The Kablegram* is a moving tribute to this true American hero. His obituary appears on page 9. "Sarge" Graham may be gone but he will not be forgotten.

Wake up call

Thomas W. Nistico, SMA '69 (PG) contacted the SMA Alumni Office just prior to this issue going to press. Mr. Nistico asked that a note be inserted into this issue encouraging all 1969 graduates — and all graduates in general — return to SMA for this year's reunion. Here is the text of his message to *The Kablegram*:

"I was a football player and ended up getting a scholarship to Memphis State along with Ronnie Masincup, also a teammate of mine from SMA. I responded to the opportunity of getting into the SMA alumni directory this past summer and was overwhelmed with the response from everyone else who got in also. After calling classmates Ron Masincup, Justin Roberts, Charlie Myers and Jim Grassi it was decided to get to this year's reunion. It makes no sense to wait anymore. Let's get this reunion going!!

By the way I still owe Charlie Myers \$5.00 from the Super Bowl that year and he is not getting it until I see him at this reunion. Even though we all drifted apart after SMA I thought we were a special group and the time is now, so everybody needs to contact somebody and let's go."

Articles, news items or items of interest are accepted electronically at Kablegram@sma-alumni.org or by mail to the SMA Alumni Association office. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or text document format (Netscape and other internet browsers). Photos should be submitted as attachments (ZIP files, if possible) as .JPG images.

January 31 by e-mail:

Through a generous donation provided by Hunter W. Henry, Jr., an alumnus of Staunton Military Academy, Mary Baldwin College is able to offer a special scholarship to the descendants of Staunton Military Academy alumni, faculty and staff. Up to two scholarships are awarded annually to traditional-age, female students at the College based on the following criteria:

- Student must be an enrolled full-time undergraduate at MBC.
- Student must be a descendant of a Staunton Military Academy alumnus, faculty or staff member.
- Student must have at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA).
- If all other criteria are met, financial need and academic standing will be given priority.

For additional information on this unique opportunity for your daughters, granddaughters and nieces, contact:

—Kathy McDaniel

Assistant to the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
Mary Baldwin College
Staunton, Virginia 24401
1-800-468-2262
finaid@mbc.edu

Editor's note: Mary Baldwin College asked that our alumni be reminded of the scholarships available through the generosity of Hunter W. Henry, Jr.

January 9 by e-mail:

Dear Registrar:

My husband, Milton Spencer, was a student in the Junior School for just one year (1955-56). His time at SMA is something he thinks of as the best of his life. Sadly his father chose to move him to a different school the following year, but he often speaks of his classmates and experiences at SMA.



Would you please list this e-mail as a place to contact him and write. I know it would mean a lot to him if someone would.

We stopped on our way through Staunton — Continued to page 6 —

SMA ring from class of 1957 found; search is on for the owner

In October 2002, the association office received an e-mail from Astrid Poell of Germany, an event that was followed within weeks by a sequence of letters and the eventual return of a 1957 class ring.

The ring, which carries the initials "GG", was apparently found in Holland some 35 years ago by Poell's father, who held onto it in hopes of someday finding its owner.

SMA Alumni Secretary Arlene Nicely maintained a dialog with Poell, and in November received the ring by mail wrapped in tissue.

Mrs. Nicely checked SMA records and found that only one 1957 graduate had the initials "G.G." — Guillermo Gonzales of Usauguen D.E. in Colombia.

Efforts to locate Mr. Gonzalez through the graduate's last known address and the college where he intended to enroll have been unsuccessful. The only remaining hope for reuniting this ring with the owner is that someone from the class of 1957 will have information on Gonzalez that can be used to



contact him and determine if the ring is indeed his.

Any alumnus with information that might aid in this search for Guillermo Gonzalez should contact the SMA Alumni Office by e-mail at smaalumni@msn.com or by telephone at (540) 885-1309.

If Mr. Gonzalez cannot be found, the ring will become part of the SMA/VWIL Museum displays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Letters will be published unless the originator specifically requests that the communication not be printed.

— Continued from page 5 —
ton several years ago and he showed me where the school buildings were. It was a very bittersweet time for him. I can only imagine. It is certainly a beautiful spot at the top of "the hill". It must have been wonderful to spend your school years there.

Milt has seven children, five from his first marriage and two with me. We have been married for nearly 28 years. We have 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren were born this past spring and summer.

Milt spent several years working in the family business (mobile home parks) but after his father passed on he left it and now works at the local hospital.

— Bonnie Spencer
E-mail: ravens717@hotmail.com
159-1/2 Eagle Street
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 663-5482

Editor's note: I encourage anyone who knew Milt Spencer to send an e-mail or give him a phone call.

Major Howie inducted into S.C. Hall of Fame

Major Thomas D. Howie, an SMA teacher who distinguished himself in World War II as commander of the Third Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame on February 10. Howie was born in Abbeville, South Carolina.

The 116th was the spearhead unit on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was mortally wounded on July 18, 1944, in Normandy. Just before his death, he had ordered the attack at Martinsville Ridge which led to the liberation of the City of St. Lo, where he is still celebrated as the "Major of St. Lo".

Major Howie is memorialized at SMA by a bronze bust. National Guard armories in Greenwood, South Carolina and Staunton bear his name. A memorial to Major Howie was dedicated in 1969 in the Town of St. Lo, France. For three decades, the famed "Howie Rifles" precision drill team at SMA bore his name.

REUNION 2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Reunion 2003 Headquarters
Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center
Staunton, Virginia • Telephone: (540) 248-6020
Reservations: 1-800-932-9061 • E-mail: higcc@cfw.com

Schedule of Events

(to be held at the Holiday Inn unless otherwise noted)

Friday, April 4

- 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration
Supply Room Annex open
- 4:00 p.m. Review in honor of SMA and alumni
by Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership
(Kable Field on the old SMA campus)
- 5:15 p.m. Reception and Memorial Wall Plaque Dedication
SMA/VWIL Museum

Saturday, April 5

- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. Kable wreath-laying ceremony
at Thornrose Cemetery
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet Reception (cash bar)
Supply Room Annex open
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet (dinner, awards, speech)

Sunday, April 6

Free time — no events scheduled

Editor's Note: This article is the first in a series of personal stories about SMA alumni, faculty and staff, intended to profile those who have distinguished themselves throughout their lives and their professions and whose names are synonymous with the academy.

When the SMA Alumni Association needed an "angel" a few years ago, one stepped forward from San Marcos, Texas. He knew SMA intimately, since he graduated in 1946. Over the course of a few years, his name has become synonymous with generosity to the association and instrumental in the completion of a number of projects.



Hunter W. Henry, Jr.

Hunter W. Henry, Jr. was born in 1928 in McComb, Mississippi, attended school in Canton Mississippi through the tenth grade and then attended SMA. After graduating, he attended The Citadel in Charleston, South

Carolina and Mississippi State College, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering.

Hunter took a position with Gulf Oil Corporation, and in 1951 he moved to the Dow Chemical Company, where the remainder of his career would be spent. Hunter climbed the corporate ladder from Project Engineer to Project Manager, then to Vice President of Manufacturing, Engineering and Construction and several other vice presidential positions before being appointed General Manager of the Michigan Division of the company.

In 1977 he was appointed President of Dow Brazil, and in 1982 became President of Dow Chemical USA, followed in 1983 as Executive Vice President of Dow and Company. He retired in 1993 after serving as Senior Consultant for five years.

Hunter served on a variety of Dow Chemical committees, including the Executive Committee, Finance, Investment Policy, Compensation and Environmental, Health and Safety committees. He also served on the board of directors of Commercial Bank (Midland, Michigan), Mid-Michigan Regional Hospital (Midland, Michigan), National Association of Manufacturers (Washington, D.C.), American Industrial Health Council (Washington, D.C.), Institute for Technology Development (Jackson, Mississippi), and the Texas Petrochemical Corporation (Houston, Texas).

Hunter is currently a member of the board of directors of the Mississippi State Foundation, Inc. (Mississippi State University — MSU) and serves on the Executive

PROFILE

mittee and the Investment Policy Committee. In the mid-1980s, Hunter was chairman of an ad hoc Advisory Board to the Dean of Engineering and served as chairman for two fund drives. He is involved in the Leo Seal Distinguished Speaker Series in the MSU College of Business.

In 1989, Hunter was selected as one of the ten outstanding graduates from MSU over the 100 years since the beginning of the Land Grant College program, and was chosen *Alumnus of the Year* in 1988. He is a charter member of the MSU Chemical Engineering Hall of Fame. In 1993, Hunter initiated the Henry Scholarship Program at MSU, a step that over the years has expanded to 22 scholars. He takes pride in noting that in 2002 one of those students was named the most outstanding Chemical Engineering Graduate for that year and is now pursuing her Ph.D.

Hunter also established and funded the MSU Henry Fund for Applied Sciences, which has been instrumental in develop-



ing computer laboratories — one in the MSU Business School and one in Electrical Engineering and a third, an Advanced Physics Lab in the Physics Department. This fund has also been used to support the activities of the Henry Chair professor in the development of students at MSU. He also established the Henry Chair in Chemical Engineering.

Hunter and his wife established the Lila and Hunter Henry Presidential Endowed Scholarship Fund at MSU, and were lead donors for the MSU Foundation and the Alumni Association Building, scheduled for dedication in April this year.

Known as The Henry Center, it is a welcome center for the university's alumni and friends, and will be one of a select few joint alumni/foundation centers around the country. The facility will allow the Alumni Association and the Foundation to provide the university with opportunities to extend its outreach, strengthen its mission and serve alumni, friends and prospective students.

Hunter's generosity has expanded well beyond MSU. He has provided financial

funding for six scholarships in engineering, nursing and pre-veterinarian studies at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and has funded an annual Kappa Alpha Order scholarship.

Hunter established and maintains two scholarships at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton. These scholarships are for the descendants of SMA alumni, faculty and staff. He funds an additional scholarship for the Outstanding ROTC Senior Cadet enrolled in the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL), the military program within Mary Baldwin College.

According to Hunter, the scholarships established at Mary Baldwin College "were developed for the primary purpose of perpetuating the memory of SMA."

In May 2001, Hunter was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Science from MSU. Also in 2001, the MSU Chemical Engineering School established the Hunter Henry Lectureship in Chemical Engineering.

Hunter's generosity touched SMA and the SMA Alumni Association in a number of ways in recent years. The SMA/VWIL



The SMA eagle display, part of the Memorial Wall outside the SMA/VWIL Museum.

Museum is a product of a commitment of \$75,000 by Hunter which was matched by contributions from SMA alumni, and an additional \$50,000 from Hunter was instrumental in establishing the Memorial Wall outside the museum.

When asked why he had funded so many scholarships, Hunter said:

"The joy and satisfaction I get out of seeing these young folks succeed as individuals is immeasurable."

In January this year, Hunter received an e-mail from one of his scholarship recipients, providing her grades and again expressing her appreciation to Hunter for his support of her education.

"Every now and then," Hunter told *The Kablegram* in response to a question about the e-mail's author, "people come along that reach into one's heart because they seem to have heart and a certain flair. That is why I had the desire to help."

During the 2001 reunion in Staunton, a plaque honoring the generosity and work of Hunter W. Henry, Jr. was dedicated and installed on the Memorial Wall at the SMA/VWIL Museum.

A side trip you'll never regret:

While you're traveling, consider a detour

While we look forward to seeing many alumni at the annual reunion in April, we understand that not everyone can be there. However, late Spring and Summer is vacation and travel time for many alumni, providing an opportunity for a brief detour into the Shenandoah Valley and to Staunton.

We encourage all alumni to take the detour; drive into Staunton and up to "The Hill", and visit the place that was your home for a few years. Once there, you will see the campus has changed. The Mess Hall, Superintendent's Home, Memorial Hall and Kable Hall are still there. South Barracks and North Barracks are gone.

Most important of all, the former Supply Room has been transformed into the SMA/VWIL Museum and SMA Alumni Office. Outside the museum is the Memorial Wall and the Walk of Honor.

The office and the museum are normally open Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call ahead if you wish to make special arrangements to visit during other than normal hours.

SMA/VWIL VISITORS

- Michael Hughes, SMA '69 Bethesda, MD
- Mark Ewing, SMA'64 (PG'65) Hedgesville, West Virginia
- Nolan S. Cutler, III, SMA '68 Hampton, Virginia
- Cdr. and Mrs. Richard Rumbaugh Newland, North Carolina
- Edward A. Latham Bridgewater, Virginia
- Pamela L. Anderson, MBC '84 Jefferson, Georgia
- Robert Parrino, SMA '75 Austin, Texas
- John Clements Virginia
- Michael Garcia, SMA '74 Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Emory H. Campbell Lexington, Virginia
- Mr. and Mrs. James Backus Harrisville, North Carolina
- Roger C. Pike, SMA '60 Tazwell, Virginia
- Bob "Baldy" Martin, SMA '47 Venice, Florida
- Emogene Easton (widow of Read C. Easton, SMA '38) California
- Ralph Lang, SMA '66 Raleigh, North Carolina
- Virginia Rose Hagee Baltimore, Maryland
- Thomas D. Hill, SMA '66 Pleasantville, New York
- Luis A. Arauz, SMA '76 Miami, Florida
- Douglas F. Ford, SMA '51 Baltimore, Maryland
- Helen S. Smith Mechanicsville, Virginia
- Kim McLean New Kent, Virginia
- Donald Wilcox, SMA '63 West Chester, Pennsylvania
- Marie Sobers Bristow, Virginia
- Stacey C. Berg, VWIL '03 Rocklin, California
- Mel Berg Rocklin, California
- Allison Chappel Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
- Robert F. Remaley Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
- Rita M. Remaley Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
- Dorothy C. Thacker Staunton, Virginia
- Conrad B. Zimmerman, SMA '46 Oakland, Maryland
- Jeff Mindham New Jersey
- Dean Anderson, SMA '64 Lima, Peru
- Tim Harrington, *Staunton News Leader* Staunton, Virginia
- Robert Wease Staunton, Virginia
- Allan B. Painter, III Alexandria, Virginia
- Allan B. Painter, SMA '58 Staunton, Virginia
- Kit Regone, SMA '64 Laurel, Maryland
- Andy Platt (and son) Yorktown, Virginia
- David Gorwitz, SMA '73 (and son) Yorktown, Virginia

SMA 2003 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT!

LAST NAME: _____
 FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE INITIAL: _____
 SMA YEAR: _____
 ADDRESS (1): _____
 ADDRESS (2): _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 TEL: () _____
 EMAIL: _____

ALUMNI GUEST REGISTER

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____
 GUEST'S NAME: _____
 GUEST'S NAME: _____
 GUEST'S NAME: _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FEE COMPUTATION

Deadline for advanced registration is March 26, 2003. This computation form is for ADVANCED REGISTRATION ONLY. If you elect to register at the door, a similar form with the "at door" fees will be available.

_____ ADULTS (Friday-Saturday) x \$80.00/person \$ _____
 _____ ADULTS (Friday only) x \$40.00/person \$ _____
 _____ ADULTS (Saturday only) x \$60.00/person \$ _____
 _____ TEENAGER (Friday-Saturday) x \$45.00/person \$ _____
 _____ TEENAGER (Friday only) x \$25.00/person \$ _____
 _____ TEENAGER (Saturday only) x \$35.00/person \$ _____
 _____ 12 & UNDER (Friday-Saturday) x \$25.00/child \$ _____
 _____ 12 & UNDER (Friday only) x \$10.00/child \$ _____
 _____ 12 & UNDER (Saturday only) x \$15.00/child \$ _____
 TOTAL COST: \$ _____

**Please make your check payable to
 "SMA Alumni Association"
 and mail this form and your check to
 SMA Alumni Association
 P.O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
 Staunton, Virginia 24401-0958**

TAPS

Charles O. "Sarge" Graham

Charles O. "Sarge" Graham, 82, died November 21, 2003 at Augusta Medical Center near Staunton, Virginia. He had been in declining health for two years.



First Sergeant Graham served in the U.S. Army for 23 years, receiving the Combat Infantry Badge, two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and the Army Commendation Medal, First Oak Leaf Cluster, five Korean Medals and the Armor Leadership Award in 1963 and 1964.

First Sergeant Graham retired from the Army at Fort Riley, Kansas and returned to Staunton Military Academy where he served as First Sergeant of all the military personnel until the academy closed in 1976.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Shelton Cole Graham; a son Jerry and his wife, Bobbie; a daughter, Barbara and her husband Ronnie; a daughter, Linda; a brother, Clyde Graham of Flat Top, West Virginia; a sister Vera Reeden of Columbus, Ohio; and a sister-in-law, Christine

Hawks of Florida. Graham was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Helen Graham, who died a week prior.

"Sarge" Graham was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on August 25, 1944 during an attack on the city of Troyes, France. While crossing the open, flat terrain between the line of departure and the outskirts of the city, Graham's platoon leader was wounded by machine gun fire. The same fire disabled the vehicle in which they were riding. "Sarge" Graham immediately took over the vehicle's machine gun and wiped out the enemy position. He assumed command, reorganized the platoon and transferred himself to the leading tank and led his platoon to completion of the mission.

"Sarge" Graham was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star for his actions on September 25, 1944 in the vicinity of Juvelize, Franch, when under observed enemy fire he went forward to a disabled tank, removed the injured soldier and carried him 500 yards to get him to medical aid and a safe position.

"Sarge" Graham was subsequently awarded the Silver Star for "gallant and courageous action while part of Task Force Baum."

SMA/VWIL Museum on April 26 Augusta Garden Club Tour

Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Augusta Garden Club will sponsor a house and garden tour in Staunton as part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 70th annual Historic Garden Week. The tour will feature five outstanding private homes and gardens, the SMA/VWIL Museum and the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace. Historic Garden Week tours benefit the restoration of historic gardens and grounds throughout Virginia.

Letter campaign mounted to legislators to restore funding for VWIL

SMA alumni became involved during January in a letter writing campaign designed to lobby the Virginia Legislature to restore state funding for the operation of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL).

Funding for VWIL was dramatically reduced in budget cuts instituted by Governor Mark Warner. The letter campaign was initiated by Tom Phillips, SMA '74, and carried out by a number of members of the Board of Directors and alumni.

While there has been no decision made by the legislature, the responses to the letters was for the most part positive and favored restoration.

Order your "Walk of Honor" bricks today!

As part of the SMA Legacy Projects, a paved brick "Walk of Honor" has been added in front of the SMA Memorial Wall. The purchase of individually inscribed commemorative bricks is a way to not only support your association but also to honor and recognize SMA alumni, former faculty members, teachers, coaches, staff, graduating classes and SMA friends and supporters. The blank bricks on the existing walkway will be replaced with each 100 orders of inscribed bricks. Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$50.00 and can be purchased with a tax-deductible contribution to the SMA Foundation, Inc.

Name: _____ SMA Class Year: _____
 Address: _____ City, _____ State _____
 ZIP: _____
 Telephone: Home: (_____) _____ Work: (_____) _____
 E-mail: _____

Inscription information (please print)

Line 1: _____
 Line 2: _____
 Line 3: _____

Inscriptions may be up to three lines (maximum of 20 characters per line). Punctuation marks count as characters. If multiple bricks are being purchased, please make copies of this form to submit orders for the additional bricks.

Mail this order form and your check (payable to **SMA Foundation, Inc./Brick Paver**) to:
 SMA Foundation, Inc. • Attn: SMA Walk of Honor • P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station • Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

C. Peter Blouin, SMA '47

of Augusta, Maine and Naples, Florida died January 2, 2003 at his home on Cobbossee Lake. The cause of death was complications from leukemia.

While attending SMA, Mr. Blouin enlisted in the Marine Corps, in which, as a sergeant, he served as a night fighter radar operator for Squadron 521 on Okinawa, Ryukyu, and other Pacific islands. He was a rifle marksman and sharpshooter.

Following World War II, he returned to SMA and graduated and subsequently attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Mr. Blouin owned and operated Blouin Motors, a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in Augusta, Maine for almost 50 years. In 1991, he acquired a Hyundai franchise.

Mr. Blouin's longtime love of flying was made possible when he acquired his pilot's license under the G.I. Bill. He became a Captain at Northeast Airlines, and after 32 years of service he retired as a captain of an L1011 jumbo jet based in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Blouin was chairman of the Maine Aeronautics Commission and was on the board of directors of the Augusta General Hospital.

Otto E. Dreikorn, SMA '31

Otto E. Dreikorn, SMA '31, of Jupiter Island, Mass. died August 24, 2002 at his residence. Born in Holyoke, Mass., he had been a resident of Jupiter Island for 35 years.

Following his graduation from SMA, Mr. Dreikorn attended Dunwoodie College in Minnesota.

He was president and CEO of Dreikorn's Bakery in Holyoke, a family business for more than a century.

Mr. Dreikorn served on the board of directors of the Park West Bank in Holyoke. At the time of his appointment, he was the youngest director of a federally chartered bank in the country.

He was a founder and lifelong member of the Jupiter Hills Club in Tequesta, a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist, and a lifetime member of Melha Shriners in Springfield, Massachusetts.

John P. Damon, Jr., SMA '71

of Media, Pennsylvania, died September 21, 2002. He is survived by his parents, John P. and Jean L. Damon of Wallingford, Pennsylvania, a sister, Virginia P. Damon Craft of Calabass, California, and a brother, James L. Damon, of Wallingford.

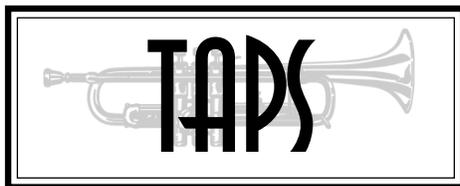
Milton S. Kronheim, SMA '30

of Washington, D.C., died in 1997.

Thomas J. Newbolt, SMA '65

of Lake Worth, Florida, died recently.

Joseph E. McWreath, SMA '42



The SMA Alumni Association regrets to announce the passing of these alumni. SMAAA and its members extend their sincere condolences.

Robert (Rick) Richters, SMA '66

died October 21, 2002 at age 55. He was predeceased by his father, Col. Robert Lee Richters and his mother, Norma June Richters, and is survived by his wife, Virginia Richters of Pensacola, Florida and his sister, Linda Richters Warnick of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

In an e-mail to the SMA Alumni Office, Mrs. Richters said:

"His father, Colonel Richters, taught at SMA. SMA was such an important part of the Richter's family."

Colonel Richters died nine years prior to his son, Robert.

Mark W. Niedermayer, SMA '71

of Garden Grove, California, died suddenly August 3, 1998 at the University of California Irvine Medical Center.

Mr. Niedermayer attended SMA for one year. He subsequently earned bachelors and masters degrees in Public and Business Administration from Long Island University in New York. He went on to receive a law degree from Western State University in California.



Mr. Niedermayer was employed by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Laguna Beach, California.

He was preceded in death by his father, U.S. Army (Ret.) Lt. Col. Walter T. Niedermayer. He is survived by his mother, Ilse Harlfinger Niedermayer of Colonial Beach, Virginia, and a sister and brother-in-law.

In advising the SMA Alumni Association of his passing, Mrs. Niedermayer noted that "he lives on through the humanitarian donation of his organs, tissues and bones to the Southern California Organ Procurement Center, in hopes of helping others obtain a second chance at a higher quality of life."

Editor's Note: Mrs. Niedermayer recently presented SMAAA with a \$1,000 contribution in memory of her son, Mark. An engraved brick is being placed in the SMAAA Walk of Honor. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Niedermayer for her generosity.

Paul R. Guild, SMA '44

died in July 2002.

Dr. Wilson F. Wetzler, SMA '31

died August 27, 2002.

Tom Roth, SMA '27

At an age when most people retire, Tom Roth began a second civilian career. By the time he called it quits as a carpenter shop foreman at 85, he was the Marine Corps Recruit Depot's (MCRD) oldest civilian employee. "He's from a generation of people with a work ethic that we're losing in this country," Marine Corps Maj. Lloyd Evans told an MCRD publication upon Mr. Roth's retirement in 1995.

Mr. Roth, a former lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Forces, died of heart failure January 15, 2003 at Pacific Regent health care center. He was 92.

Attracted by San Diego's balmy climate in 1977, Mr. Roth left a career as a builder of custom homes in Washington, D.C. Finding work in the construction industry hard to come by at age 67, he applied for a job in facilities maintenance at MCRD.

When he retired, he refused a ceremony acknowledging his longevity, opting instead for a low-key luncheon at a Mexican restaurant in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Roth, a Chicago, Illinois native, moved to Washington, D.C. with his family as a youth. He attended **Staunton Military Academy** in Virginia, graduating after four years, and worked summers as a carpenter apprentice. Later, he studied mechanical engineering at Purdue University and agriculture at the University of Maryland.

During World War II, as an officer in the Army Air Forces, he served as assistant chief of maintenance for the 8th Air Force Bomber Group. Stationed in England, he helped establish and operate an aircraft depot to repair, maintain and modify B-24 Liberators.

When an aircraft was beyond repair, Mr. Roth would salvage various parts before sending it to the scrap yard. "In two years we chopped up 1,500 planes that couldn't be repaired," he said.

Retiring from the military after 20 years, he began a civilian career in custom home construction in the Washington, D.C., area. Building the homes from start to finish, he took pride in handling every detail and varying the styles of each home he built. When he wasn't working, Mr. Roth enjoyed gardening, building items for himself and his family and visiting his grandchildren.

"He was passionate about politics and loved the little things in life," said his daughter, Sylvia Cavaiola of La Jolla. "He lived life to the fullest."

— San Diego (CA) Union Tribune



Baseball Caps

Several items have been added to the Cadet Store inventory and others have been replenished. Pictured here are a few items that have become available since the last issue of *The Kablegram*. Use the convenient order form on this page to request items and mail it to the SMA/VWIL Museum at the address shown below. Be sure to enclose your check with your order. You may also contact the store by e-mail, as shown below.



Golf Shirts



Sweat Shirts



Belt Buckles and Shoulder Patches

Mail to:
 SMA-VWIL Museum
 P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
 Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958
 or FAX this order form to (540) 885-1366
 or e-mail your order to
 SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org

Cadet Store Order Form

QUAN.	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
_____	Baseball Cap	\$10.00	\$_____
	Navy blue with gold "Staunton Military Academy"		
_____	Baseball Cap	\$10.00	\$_____
	Blue with green bill with "SMA-VWIL Museum" in gold lettering with crossed rifles.		
_____	SMA-VWIL Video	\$50.00	\$_____
_____	T-Shirt with shield	\$15.00	\$_____
	Sizes M to XXL		
_____	Sweatshirt (blue with gold hat shield)		
	M to XXL	\$25.00	\$_____
	XXXL	\$30.00	\$_____
_____	Golf Shirts	\$30.00	\$_____
	(Not a stock item. To be filled on request.) Blue with maze color and sleeve trim with "Staunton Military Academy" in gold lettering, or optional lettering of "SMA/VWIL Museum."		
_____	Belt Buckle (gold)	\$20.00	\$_____
_____	Old Boys buckle (silver)	\$20.00	\$_____
_____	Leather Belt	\$15.00	\$_____
	Sizes 28, 32, 36 and 38 available		
_____	Car Window Decal	\$ 3.50	\$_____
	"SMA Alumni"		
_____	Postcards	\$ 2.00	\$_____
_____	SMA Shoulder Patches	\$ 2.00	\$_____
_____	Coffee Mugs	\$ 5.00	\$_____
_____	Rank Insignia	\$ 1.00	\$_____
	S/Sgt. and PFC available		
_____	Blue Book (reprint)	\$10.00	\$_____
_____	Artist Sketch	\$ 5.00	\$_____
	(Asphalt with South and North Barracks, Mess Hall)		
_____	Artist Sketch	\$ 5.00	\$_____
	Two available: [1] a 17" x 7 1/4" sketch of South Barracks, Administration Building, Mess Hall, Kable Hall and North Barracks, or [2] a 14" x 9" sketch of the Asphalt, Memorial Hall, Kable Hall and North Barracks.		
	Shipping charges must be added:		
	\$ 0.00 to \$30.00	\$ 5.25	\$_____
	\$31.00 to \$70.00	\$ 6.75	\$_____
	\$71.00 and above	\$ 7.95	\$_____
		Total:	\$_____

Please print!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 ZIP: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____
 E-mail: _____

Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated

P. O. Box 958, Woodrum Station, Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

Telephone: (540) 885-1309 • Fax: (540) 885-1366

E-mail: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org • Website: <http://www.sma-alumni.org>



SMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- Dues (\$50.00) are credited for fiscal year September 1, 2002 - August 31, 2003)
- Dues are not tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: SMA Alumni Assn., Inc.
- Funds are used to maintain the office, publish newsletters, and help support the annual Reunion.

SMA FOUNDATION, INC. ANNUAL FUND

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to SMA Foundation, Inc./Annual Fund
- Donations are used for the SMA museum and scholarships, and related expenses.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ E-mail: _____



Complete this form, include your check(s) and mail to SMAAA. Your support and involvement are critical to the continued success of the association and the activities and programs that have been developed and implemented in the memory of Staunton Military Academy, the Corps of Cadets and staff.



SMA Alumni Association

P. O. Box 958

Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

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