



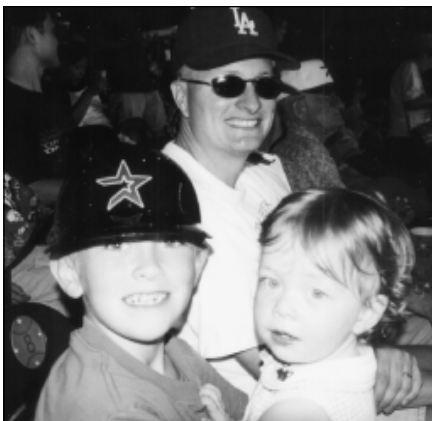
1987—After dinner in Honolulu, May 2001: Ted & Donna McAleer, Holly Olson, Hayley & Mike Mathes.

postal mailings. The URL for the class web site is <<http://www.west-point.org/class/usma1987/>>. Webmaster **Mike Lyman** recently changed the look of the website, so check it out. Also please check out the lists of classmates who do not have a good e-mail address. If you know any, encourage them to update their contact information on-line.

We also encourage everyone to get involved with the class gift campaign. We are just over 50% of the way to the amount we pledged to raise. However, this 50% had been contributed or pledged by just 21% of the class! Details about the campaign also are on the website.

Jim Yacone passed through town the other day, or should we say he passed over town. Jim was doing some aerial reconnaissance over the 2002 Olympic venues and decided to buzz the house in his helicopter. He touched down in Salt Lake City long enough to catch up with **Ted** for lunch. Jim continues to enjoy his time with “the Bureau” and recently added flight commander to his list of duties. **Becky (Troster)** & **Jim** now have three kids, Zachary (7), Marie (5), and Mark (5 mo.) and enjoy life in Virginia.

We had occasion to exchange e-mail with **Randy Bachman**. Randy is still in the info security business. He is moving from USPS contractor to FAA where he’ll be the lead information security technical advisor to the head security guy.



1987—Bryan DeCoster with Kevin and Jamie Lynn at a Houston Astros game.

A few classmates have decided to try their feet at marathoning. **Dan Williams** is running in the National Aids Marathon in Hawaii in December. He is looking for people to help sponsor him through financial pledges. If you are interested in helping him out, e-mail Dan <dewwp87@email.msn.com>.

Mike Gajewski had so much crew rest working for United, he too decided to pursue marathoning in between practicing for the PGA tour. During the spring and early summer, Mike had the arduous route of L.A. to Hawaii, so he figured golf and marathoning were activities to which he could fully dedicate himself. He writes, “Well, I finally got in running shape (sort of) and ran my first marathon. Rock-n-roll marathon here in San Diego. It was a perfect day to run—the high was about 68 degrees and we got a little sun, but mostly overcast throughout the race. I’ll have to wait for my official time, but my watch had me finishing in 4:36:01. For 26.2 miles, that’s a pace of 10:32 per mile—it won’t win any Olympic medals, but I ran every step of the way and did not walk any part of the course. So I can check that block off on my life accomplishments. Been there, done that, T-shirt to be mailed out sometime this week. Aloha, Mike Gajewski.” Just before the column deadline, we received another update from Mike. He will not be back to Hawaii anytime soon. He is based out of LAX and flying domestic. I am shedding tears right now for you, Mike.

Dan Evans has done a great job of leading the charge to erect a memorial to **Rob Olson** in his hometown of Big Falls, MN. Sounds like the finishing touches are being put into place. According to Dan, the final wording on the plaque will be:

Olson Pavilion

Named in honor of **Robert Leslie Olson**

Major, Field Artillery

United States Army

United States Military Academy

Class of 1987

Born 12 May 1965

Big Falls, Minnesota

Died 12 February 2001

while serving his nation from injuries sustained at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

“I can honestly say that I can think of no other line of work that would give me so much satisfaction and sense of accomplishment. I have grown to love the Army life more every day. The Army may be my chosen profession, but my God and my family define my life.” Robert L. Olson

“Well done: Be thou at peace.”

—Your classmates and friends

Thanks for taking charge of this memorial project, Dan!

Clint & Tawdra Kandle welcomed their fourth child, son David Clinton, on 12 Sep 00. David joins big sisters Devyn (12), Haley

(9), and Catie (5). Clint, who works for Ace Hardware, was promoted to Retail Project Manager, and was honored at the Spring Ace Show as Retail Consultant of the Year for the company. Congratulations, Clint.

Valarie Austin, is stationed in DC in the Georgetown University ROTC program as an assistant professor of military science. She lives in Burtonsville, MD. Because she is closer to West Point than any other time in her career, she hopes to visit more often.

Send news, updates, and sound bites. We want to hear from everyone and everyone wants to hear about you. Go Army!

1988

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Hello all. **Donna (Miller) Sweeney** sent an e-mail update on the exciting birth of her new son. **Sean Patrick Sweeney** was born on 11 Nov 00 at Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Ft. Belvoir, VA. Sean weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz., and measured 19½ inches. Donna reports that getting to Ft. Belvoir was an adventure in itself. She & **Brian** live in Stafford, VA, —about 30 miles from the post hospital. Labor progressed quickly and by the time she & Brian reached the I-95 Ft. Belvoir exit her contractions were only two minutes apart. They were only a few miles from the hospital when Brian hit a red light, which, after looking both ways, he subsequently blew off. Unfortunately, this hasty decision attracted the attention of one of Virginia’s finest, who initiated pursuit with lights a flashin’. Rather than execute the birthing task in the back seat of the Buick, Brian opted for the low speed chase to the hospital. Brian’s actions had the problematic affect of proving one of Murphy’s corollaries—radio waves travel faster than wheeled vehicles and the other guy’s radio will work perfectly at the most inopportune time. Well, Brian did manage to talk his way through the MP road block, with some well-timed, labor-induced screams provided by Donna, and all arrived in a timely manner sans “moving vehicle violation.” Congratulations to the Sweeneys.

Jack Amberg sent another update. He received a special CFD consideration and now is a public affairs officer. Jack had the regrettable decision of either remaining combat arms and have both knees replaced within ten years or change specialties. Because God gave Jack the gift of gab, public affairs was the logical conclusion. If that wasn’t enough, he is as-



1988—Pre-Africa invasion party: Rob Webster, Gary Duncan, “Arthur Conan” Doyle, Dan Negron, Andy Backus, Brian Mahoney, Mark Hreczuck, and Tim Doran.

signed at Ft. Leavenworth as permanent party and will be the SGS for the college. Jack is singing hosannas as he still gets to play with his kids and play golf and do the 3-D machines in the gym. Didn't Greg Kinnear get his start in Hollywood that way?

Scott Snair—he is the class president for you hermits in '88—sent his annual anniversary e-mail in May. I enclose the message in its entirety, for those of us who enjoy the feel of dead trees.

“To the members of the West Point Class of '88: On this day, the 13th anniversary of our graduation from USMA, please accept my warm wishes and heartfelt thoughts for many continued successes. More so than usual, West Point has been making its way into my daily course. Here are some examples. A few months ago, I had some documentation concerns over a paper I was writing. Whom did I find myself calling? Why, our beloved Vice President, **Dave Clonts**—an instructor at USMA—who put my honor worries to rest with some great advice. Also along the lines of honor, a few days ago, I read that a prominent former CEO, and a relatively well-known West Pointer, was being sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission for—of all things—allegedly lying about his company's earnings and costing stockholders millions of dollars. He is adamantly denying the SEC's charges. Some years ago, as a cannon platoon leader, I helped a soldier of mine apply to USMA. Last week, I got a call out of the blue from that soldier. He's stationed in Europe now, wearing the ring proudly, and about to begin a battery command. (He's still cursing me for convincing him to stay a red-leg.) Did he say battery command?! My, the time has flown. And finally, my nephew recently indicated an interest in attending West Point. That's great except that he's only five years old. My sister is throwing an Army-style birthday party, and it turns out that I have been selected as the entertainment for the day. Having lost 25lbs. this year, at least I can fit into my old set of BDUs. I have no idea what the entertainment will be, but considering that young children are being suspended from school these days for playing cowboys and indians, I guess I won't be teaching them how to dismantle and reassemble an M-16

rifle. Many thanks to those classmates who continue to contribute their valuable time to class business. **Lyle & Cathy Caddell** carry on with the “Class Notes” in ASSEMBLY. **Craig Borchelt** recently took a lot of his personal time to

locate more than 100 lost classmates. **Matt Sebenoler** has infused a dose of vigor into the class' fund-raising campaign, getting us back on track toward presenting the balance of a club sports endowment of \$198,800.00 to USMA at our 15-year reunion. And **Greg Louks** and **Lisa Strine** continue to be a great presence and important sources of inspiration at the AOG. Usually, I begin planning the class reunion about two years out, which is now. If anyone wishes to contribute their time—in large or small doses—or their input (i.e., opinions), by all means, drop me an e-mail at <Snair88@aol.com>. The dates for the 15-year reunion are sketchy right now, due to Army's relatively young membership in an NCAA football conference and its implications on the Homecoming football game. I'll keep you posted.”

Brian Mahoney sent a photo and brief update of **Pat (Patrick) Doyle's** next grand adventure. Seems eight members from A-1, (that's the company, not the steak sauce) recently got together in Richmond, VA, to wish Patrick Doyle good luck and safe travel to his new assignment in the Congo. Pat heads to the embassy there as a FAO. Those in attendance included: Patrick Doyle, **Rob Webster**, **Tim Doran**, **Dan Negron**, **Gary Duncan**, **Mark Hreczuck**, **Andy Backus**, and **Brian Mahoney**. The party included six lovely wives and 13 children. Pat has offered free tours of the jungle to anyone who treks to Africa for a visit!

Finally, **Tom Mathers**, a.k.a. “the Beav,” sent in his change of address, so to speak. Tom has left Genzyme to become the GM for a bio-tech company called Cardion. Good luck, Tom. God bless, and keep writing.

1989

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Greetings to all who Strengthen the Line. I hope this column finds everyone healthy and

doing well in life. I received e-mail from **Jim “Quill” Walton** who has brought up some news on the G-4 Guppies. Jim is the XO of the Aviation battalion in Honduras, following ten months as the battalion S-3 (became a pilot after 6+ years in the Infantry). Jim recently spoke to 1st Reg, USCC, and CDT Jeremy Scott '03, E-1, whose father was shot down in El Salvador in 1991. The battalion commander, at that time, was LTC Pickett '72. LTC Pickett survived being shot down, but was executed by FMLN rebels within an hour of the crash. Jim presented the family with much memorabilia, as well as historical documents that chronicle the entire event. Sounds like it was an important, but somber, event.

Meanwhile, **Jim** ran into **Bill & Martha Lynch**. Bill still teaches at USMA. **Joel & Patty Bosco** live in Michigan where Joel is doing extremely well in the real estate business (and has apparently learned nothing from “Whitewater”). **John & Yelitzia Burgess** live in Pittsburgh, PA, where Burg is the senior engineer in a TSBn for 1st Army, as part of the AC/RC program. Burg also reports he ran into **Chuck & Stace Schretzmann** and **Gregg & Kim Gadsen** on a recent house-hunting trip to Ft. Leavenworth, KS, in May. They were making a racket at a local Mexican restaurant and Burg had to settle them down. Both just finished CGSC and head to new assignments. Schretz heads to Ft. Benning where he will be the Regt S-1/Adj for 75th Ranger Regt. (He tracked CF 43 Personnel Management.) Gregg heads to Hawaii where he will get some BQ time in an FA Bn/25th ID. **Bruce** (a.k.a. “Ewok . . . the half-body . . . Founder of the Order of the Sacred Pipes”) & **Carrie Estok** married in 1997 and are at Ft. Campbell, where Bruce is Military Resident Engineer for the Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They are doing great and getting ready for their pending move to Maxwell AFB in Alabama (Bruce is going to USAF CGSC). If any other Guppies want to contact Jim with company news, please e-mail him at <QUILL30@aol.com>. Thanks for the update, Jim.

Back in 2ID land, I ran into **Dave Danikowski**, who now works in the Bunker as the A/FSCOORD Planner. **Dave & Sumi**

CATCH THE SPIRIT OF
WEST POINT'S
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

go to page 9 for details.