

# THE RED DRAGON



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*Scenes  
From  
Campus*

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### WMA Alumni Association Elected Officers

**President**

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**Vice President**

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## Board Talk

Regis McDonald, '64, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

I want to share some important achievements that have happened over the past few months at Wentworth. Each is significant, but together they represent examples of forward movement that is essential for Wentworth today and in the days, months, and years ahead!

First, the Board of Trustees approved at its Dec. 15, 2016, meeting to proceed without delay, the Capital Campaign. That includes 100 percent Trustee commitments to support financially the campaign. With the board giving the “green light” to move forward with this ambitious and much needed undertaking, Col. Michael Lierman and Lt. Col. Marnie Morgan, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Relations, Kent Stroman of Stroman & Associates, and members of the Board of Trustees Capital Campaign Steering Committee are now reaching out to potential donors across the country as well as internationally. These are exciting times at Wentworth.

Second, the 2016 End-of-Year Campaign was very successful. Giving increased by 52 percent over 2015 with 25 percent of the gifts coming from new or lapsed donors! Eleven percent of Wentworth donors gave more than last year. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am particularly gratified to see a number of gifts made by alumni who attended Wentworth in the 1940s and 1950s. This speaks loudly to the enduring, positive impact over the decades that Wentworth has had on its “sons and daughters.” As I wrote a thank-you note to each donor, I was mindful that they had made a decision to contribute to Wentworth. I included that observation in my notes to them.

Third, I would like to acknowledge the good work being done by Col. Rick Cottrell and Wentworth’s Enrollment Management Staff. Mid-year enrollment in the college is above prior years. In comparison, last year there six cadets enrolled. However, in 2017, twenty college and seven high school cadets were admitted. Ensuring full enrollment in the high school remains an ongoing focus of the board, Col. Lierman, and the President’s Cabinet. Wentworth launched its new Academic Success Academy. The program is for a semester, a one-time introductory offer, that allows the students and parents to check out Wentworth’s program. Many years ago, Wentworth had a large Day Cadet Program. That program was re-established beginning in January 2017.

Lastly, I attended the Association of Military Colleges & Schools in the United States (AMCSUS) Annual Conference in Alexandria, Va. Feb. 26-28 with Wentworth executive staff. On February 28, Wentworth alumni in Washington, D.C., were invited to a Meet & Greet After-Hours Social at the Union Street Public House in Alexandria’s historic district. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Wentworth Trustee Luke Coffey for helping to identify such a great location for the Alumni Gathering.

Thank you for your continued support of Wentworth. Achieve the Honorable!



Taken at Homecoming 1998

How many do you recognize?

- Row 1: Christie Butler, James W. Harris, Wendall Cobleigh, Dennis Bastron, George Hittner, Harry Knickerbocker, Jay Johnson, Norma Maring
- Row 2: Mark Chitwood, Kenny Maib, Hank Taylor, Al McCormick, Will Hammond, Mark Hedrick, Scott Hefner
- Row 3: Bob Stegner, Tom Vale, Dick Amos, David Adams, Robert Maddox, Robert Long, Mark Mullenieux
- Row 4: Thad Tucker, Carl Stempel, Charles Wright, John Wade, Judson Douglas
- Row 5: Anteco Cross, Robert Collins, David Tannan, J.B. Meyer, Bill Heltzel, Marion Ratliff

(according to information on the back of the picture)



Dear Fellow Dragons:

It is very hard to believe that it is already 2017 and we are more than halfway through the school year! It has been exciting to have the 137<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets back on campus and, as always, I am grateful for the opportunity to watch young people pursue their dreams.

As many of you know, Tom Hughes, retired WMA Athletic Director, has joined our Alumni and Advancement team. Over the past few months, Tom and I have been very busy traveling around the country visiting with alumni and updating them on the exciting work we are doing on campus. Our travels have taken us from California to Washington, D.C. and we aren't finished yet! If we haven't been in your area yet, chances are we will be soon. We would love the opportunity to hear your Wentworth stories and to share our excitement about the future of the Wentworth that we all

“love so well!” Keep your eyes open for our travel plans or send us an email to learn more!

I am also happy to let you know about another classroom renovation in the academic building. Our newest renovation was made possible by Mrs. Lou Whitaker in honor of her late husband Brown Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker was a 1945 graduate of Wentworth. He passed away in January of 2016. I am honored that Mrs. Whitaker chose to honor his life in this way and look forward to welcoming his family for a classroom dedication at Homecoming 2017. As I have said before, these classroom renovations are amazing and would not be possible without the leadership and generosity of our alumni family. This latest renovation puts us very close to having the entire first floor of the academic building updated and I can't wait to finish it! If you are on campus, please stop by and tour the classrooms. I am always eager to show them off!

In closing, I hope to see many of you this spring either on campus or during my travels! We are in the process of planning some rallies so I would encourage you to contact our office if you are interested in planning something in your area. Hope to see all of you again soon! In the meantime, GO RED DRAGONS!



2017 Homecoming  
Oct. 6, 7, 8  
Stay tuned for details!

**WMA Alumni Staff**

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and Alumni Relations**

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## State of the School



**Col. Michael Lierman, President/Superintendent**

As the days are getting longer and the temperature struggles to rise, we are hard at work getting prepared for spring at Wentworth. While the cadets are ready for spring break, faculty and staff are looking ahead and planning for Military Ball, Commencement and Commissioning. It is amazing how fast the school year seems to fly by, especially second semester. One of the things we are focusing on for second semester is retention of the cadet corps. What does that mean? It means we try to look at things that we can do that will allow us to improve the overall experience for each cadet on campus. Retention is a major factor in our enrollment each year. Some of you remember, during your years that the cadets, for the most part, once they enrolled at whatever grade level, they continued to return each year until graduation. That is not the case in today's Corps. Thus, the retention factor is huge for our overall enrollment. Many of our everyday decisions are made with the cadet experience in mind. We have hired a new activities director and she has brought a new look at our activity opportunities and has worked with the cadets to plan some on and off-campus events. The cadets have been enthusiastic about helping with the planning of these events. This time of year it is hard to keep the cadets in good spirits as the weather is not at a point where they can get outside and have some fun.

We are in the planning phase for Military Ball. Military Ball this year is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are excited for that date to arrive because we hope that spring has also arrived. As many of you remember Military Ball weekend is the highlight of the spring semester and brings a lot of parents and dates to the campus. That weekend for me signifies that we have about 20 days and a wake-up before graduation. I am sure you all remember when we counted down the days before the wake-up and graduation ceremony . . . then off for the summer, wherever that took us.

This week I had the opportunity to meet with some members of the college volleyball team. I enjoyed the opportunity to hear directly from the cadets what is working and what could use improvement on campus. Many opportunities have been made available this year for the students and cadets to meet with members of the cabinet as well as myself. The Academic Advisory Program for the high school was put into place this year to allow every high school student to have one faculty member, one staff member along with his/her TAC officer limitless access to discuss academics as well as campus life. We have found this program to be very beneficial to the cadets as well as to the staff who would not normally get a chance to make a connection with the cadets. It is important that there be an open and responsive dialogue between members of the Corps of Cadets, Battalion Staff, and members of the President's Cabinet as well as myself to address concerns of the cadets. Cadet success is everyone's responsibility. Sometimes the things they share with me I have to say, "No we can't do that" . . . but sometimes it is a very simple request and we make the change immediately. Today's cadets/students want to be involved in decisions and I believe if they have a buy-in, then, with privileges come responsibility. It gives me a chance to see how things are going from their eyes.

We hosted a career day on campus recently. We have not had career day for several years, so we decided that we would offer this for the cadets this year. We are excited to have some of our alumni to come back and talk about their career path as well as tell a couple of stories about their days at Wentworth.

We are excited that this summer will open an opportunity for our cadets who enroll for our summer programs. Camp LEAD will have some expanded programs this summer. The cadet will have the opportunity to enroll in an academic class in addition to an extensive line up of sports camps. We will offer a Spanish immersion program, computer camp and band camp. Early interest in these programs has been greater than anticipated. We believe that offering the various camps along with the academic class will enhance our summer programs.

We have recently entered into some specific advertising mainly for our high school cadets. We are finding that many of our referrals today come from social media and the internet searches. We are using Facebook Advertising to promote our high school program with a specific targeted market. I would ask that if any of you have a family or friend you feel might benefit from the educational experience that comes from WMA, please share that information with our admissions office and they will follow up with that prospect.

Each spring we recognize the MacArthur award recipients for the school year and this year I am very pleased to announce the high school recipient is Cadet Capt. Rebecca Finley from Waynesville, Mo. The college recipient is Cadet Sgt. Maj. Zachory Jasinski from Wewahitchka, Fla. Both of these cadets emulate the qualities of strong academic performance, athletics which follows Gen. MacArthur's example.

I would like to thank Wentworth's Board of Trustees for their service to our Academy. They each have given of their time and resources to help support our school and allow us to continue to provide an excellent educational opportunity for those cadets who walk the halls of the Academy.

So I leave you with these words from the cadet prayer... may the band always play, may the brass always shine, may the sabers always flash and above all, Sir, may the corps always sound off.

Lord, Sir, Wentworth Military Academy is all present or accounted for, Sir.



## From the President's Desk

**Scott Hefner, President, Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association**



I am pleased to again offer my thanks to our members and donors for your support this past year. Your support has allowed your alumni organization to support of the mission and objectives of your alma mater, Wentworth Military Academy.

Our list of support projects are growing because of you. Investments in our organization have allowed us to provide a scholarship for a returning and deserving cadet, recreational equipment for cadets, equipment for the rifle range, and in partnership with the Stempel family a complete renovation of a classroom. This is just a partial list of projects in which we have been involved over the past couple of years.

We can continue these worthwhile projects depending upon continuing support from you, our alumni base. Our two sources of income are the annual golf tournament held on the Friday of Homecoming and the members who are willing to pay dues. Our 2016 golf tournament produced a record number of supporters and record income. We will work to repeat this performance in 2017.

I am asking that each of you reading this who are not dues-paying members to consider joining for one of the membership terms that we offer: one-year, three-year, or lifetime. For those of you above the age of 62, there is a substantial discount for lifetime dues. Your dues make a difference and it will support our two-fold objective of supporting the Wentworth mission and to build long-term financial reserves for future generations of officers and members who will continue the mission of the WMA alumni association.

For your convenience, a membership application is included in the newsletter.

Thank you!

### Monthly Donation Benefits Scholarship Fund

Al McCormick, Treasurer, Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association

The Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association is organized as a Missouri Corporation and is an approved tax deductible organization that is recognized by both the state of Missouri and the IRS as a suitable organization to receive donations.

This isn't news to you, correct? So why bring it up? For months now, we have been receiving a generous donation from an alumnus who wishes to help us our scholarship fund. The donor is generously sending a monthly contribution supporting our efforts to provide cadet scholarships. The funds in the scholarship account will be paid to Wentworth after the Homecoming event.

If this is something you are interested in, please contact Al McCormick, association treasurer.



**2017 Homecoming**

**Oct. 6, 7, 8**

**Stay tuned for details!**

**Projects Sponsored by the WMA Alumni Association**

**(This is only a partial list)**

**2009 and prior**

**Dedication and monument of Butherus Field**

**The Dragon Wagon mobile concession stand for athletic and other events**

**American Samoa Earthquake and Tsunami Relief (Wentworth campaign for student families)**

**2010 to the Present**

**Reinstatement of membership recruitment and life member program. From five life members in 2010 to 65 in 2016**

**Initiation of the Alumni Association Newsletter, a quarterly online publication directed to alumni**

**Sponsorship of the Senior, Sophomore, and Falcon Banquet**

**Recognition for each graduate into the alumni**

**Cadet emergency financial travel assistance**

**At least 14-year sponsorship of the Commander Ed Ellis Golf Tournament (re-named in 2011)**

**Partnerships in two family-customized scholarship campaigns**

**More than \$64,000 contributed to Wentworth scholarships since 2010**

**Contribution of \$40,000 for classroom renovation and upgrade (2015) in conjunction with the Stempel family**

**Purchase of student recreational equipment**

**Purchase of rifle range equipment and range tools for competition (Campaign, \$4,800)**

**Sponsorship of flags to alumni in combat zones**

**Initiated a flag honors program for alumni recognition**

**Sponsor of 10-year and 25-year reunion challenge coins**

**Sponsorship of some alumni reunions**

**Creation and awarding of the Bobby Gadt Award (alumni of the year)**



homecoming  
2017



## COME BACK HOME. REUNITE WITH FRIENDS!

Get everyone together and make plans to be in Lexington in October! More info will be online at [www.wma.edu](http://www.wma.edu)

### Wentworth Chapel gets new Baby Grand Piano

(Al McCormick)

Thanks to Bruce Minter, '72, and his being heads up on local community news, the Wentworth chapel has received a much-needed, slightly used replacement baby grand piano.

A local Lexington resident who was in a hurry to downsize her residence and relocate contacted friends for assistance and those friends got Bruce involved. He was pleased to see a baby grand piano that was in great shape among the items available for donation. Bruce worked out the details of the donation with Wentworth officials and, three days later, Wentworth received the baby grand for its memorial chapel.

Needing to move quickly, Bruce contacted the Wentworth Alumni Association to inquire if the association would assist with the cost of moving the instrument across town and the association approved. Therefore, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, the baby grand was moved into the Wentworth chapel.

The baby grand has been evaluated by a piano specialist and declared to be in excellent condition and should serve Wentworth's musical needs for years to come.

Thank you, Bruce, for being heads up on this and many other things you do for Wentworth and the association.

homecoming 2017

reunion  
classes



- 10 YEAR - 2007
- 20 YEAR - 1997
- 25 YEAR - 1992
- 30 YEAR - 1987
- 40 YEAR - 1977
- 50 YEAR - 1967
- 55 YEAR - 1962

Don't miss out on the Golf Tournament, Welcome Reception, Homecoming Parade, Trap Shoot vs. Kemper, Pancake Run, Banquet and much, much more!

As plans are made they will be posted at our website at [www.wma.edu](http://www.wma.edu) or the Alumni Facebook page.

### Upcoming Events

@

Wentworth

\*April 21-23, 2017

Spring Parent Weekend

\*April 22, 2017

Military Ball

\*May 12, 2017

Commissioning Ceremony

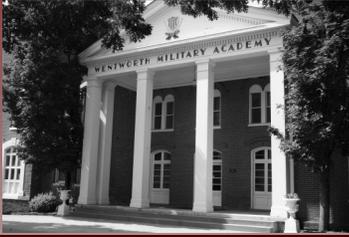
\*May 13, 2017

Commencement



**Congratulations to Tom,'64 ,(Gail T.) and Christie Butler,'71, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31, 2016. The Butlers gave many years of service to Wentworth. (Thanks to Tom for the pictures)**





# Extra! Extra! Old Boy News



## 1960s

**Clark Betts, '62**

Clark Betts and Tom Hughes met in Des Moines, Ia. on January 21, 2017. Clark graduated Wentworth Junior College in 1962. Clark is in the Athletic Hall of Fame for track and swimming.

**Lost Old Boy**

Phillip Moore, '64-'65, last-known residence is Indialantic, Fla. If you know his current address and contact data, please get in contact with Al McCormick @ [almccormick64152@gmail.com](mailto:almccormick64152@gmail.com).

**Loren Mogenson, '65**

Loren Mogenson had lunch with Tom Hughes in Colorado in December, 2016. He has not had any contact from anyone from Wentworth since he graduated. We are looking forward to having Loren visit the campus in the near future.

**Ted Butherus, '68**

A big thanks to Ted for renewing his membership for one year in the Wentworth Alumni Association!



## 1970s

**Ralph M. Erwin, '73**

**CGSC Foundation release**

Ralph M. Erwin, senior geospatial intelligence officer, led the discussion in the next InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture on Jan. 26 in the Arnold Conference Room of the Lewis and Clark Center.

Erwin outlined the roles and missions of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and how it serves as both a combat support agency under the Department of Defense and an intelligence agency as part of the United States intelligence community.

“Erwin represents the NGA here at Fort Leavenworth,” said Rod Cox, Simons Center program director.

Erwin is the senior geospatial intelligence officer assigned by the Army National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Support Team to be the NGA liaison to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth. His responsibilities include the integration of geospatial intelligence education into U.S. Army TRADOC educational institutions, CAC elements and CGSC. He is a Director of National Intelligence-designated intelligence community officer and served as a senior mentor to the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office in 2011.

Erwin has previously served as the deputy director of the U.S. Army TRADOC Program Integration Office for Terrain Data at the U.S. Army Engineer School, was a U.S. Army Field Artillery officer, spent time at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as the main battle tank simulation operations manager, and was a topographic systems combat developer for Lockheed Martin Corporation. Erwin is a graduate of Wentworth Military Academy and he holds a bachelor of science in mathematics from Cameron University and a master's of strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

# FtLeavenworthLamp.com



## 1970s cont'd.

### Jordan Albaugh, '77, '79



Tom Hughes met with the Albaugh Family on Jan. 19, 2017, at a basketball game in Iowa.

Left: top row: Hughes and Jordan Albaugh, '77 and '79.

Bottom row: Lisa Albaugh and Alex Albaugh, class of 2011.

### Jim, "Jamie" Wright, '77



Wentworth welcomed Jim "Jamie" Wright, '77, to campus on January 19th. The tour included this photo in front of Hickman Hall and a photo in front of the Ralph L. Conger Memorial Award for Sportsmanship plaque located in the Wentworth Hall of Honor. Jim received the Sportsmanship Award in 1976. Taylor O. Wright, Jim's father, graduated from Wentworth High School in 1949. Welcome back, Jim!



## 1980s

### Guy Burrell III, '89



Tom Hughes met with Guy Burrell III, '89, and his family in December in Colorado. Guy is in the National Guard and his unit gets deployed to do construction projects around the globe.





## 1990s

**Jason Wiedmeir, '91**



Tom Hughes and Jason Wiedmeir, '91, had lunch in Iowa on Jan. 19. Jason played college basketball while earning his AA degree at Wentworth.

**George Hittner, '97**



Mr. & Mrs. George Hittner announced the birth of the second child, Hazel Sue Hittner born Jan. 27, 2017, at 10:17 a.m. Hazel weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces. Everyone is doing well.

**Congratulations!**



## 2000s

**Douglas Cobern, '04**



Douglas Cobern, '04, (left) was sworn in as a captain on Feb. 10, 2017, by Flight Commander Lt. Myles Delcambre. Cobern was honored for his prior service in the guard.



2010s

Eric Wainer, '10

Congratulations to Eric Wainer, '10, who is now Capt. Eric Wainer ! Capt. Wainer was pinned on Oct. 1, 2016. Congratulations!



Michael Waldron, '11

K-9 Officer Michael Waldron is credited with saving a 69-year-old gentleman who was trapped in some water. Waldron was among the officers responding to a report from a woman who said a man was yelling for help. We have provided an excerpt of the account of Waldron's bravery from a report written by Sgt. Bruce Yoxall of the Lake Wales, Fla., Police Department:

“ Officer Waldron, without concern for his own safety, took his police equipment off and headed into the water to help. By this time the only thing out of the water was Mr. Stokes' head. Officer Waldron reached Mr. Stokes and discovered he was tangled in the lilies and could not get free. Officer Waldron cut away the lilies with his knife, freed Mr. Stokes, and dragged him to shore. It was learned that Mr. Stokes was in the lake since fishing since 11 p.m. the night before in his paddle boat. The boat tipped over and Mr. Stokes got caught in the lilies. Once on shore Mr. Stokes was asked how long he was capsized and hung up. He replied, about an hour . . . Officer Waldron did an outstanding job saving this man's life.

**GREAT JOB OFFICER WALDRON YOU ARE A TRUE HERO AND I'M PROUD TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.”** (This information and photo were found on Facebook)



Matthew Wyman, '12

Congratulations to Matthew Wyman, '12, who completed the Apprentice School for Pipefitter. He wrote "I honestly believe that Wentworth Military Academy, my family and friends helped me get through it." (reprinted with corrections and photo)

### Flag Honor Program

The WMA Alumni Association in conjunction with Wentworth offers a flag honors program for those who wish to own a souvenir or honor a former cadet with a memorial flag that has been flown over the campus. For \$300 we will have a 5-foot X 9.5-foot flag flown over the campus, tri-folded and placed in a high-quality case and certified with certificate the day of the flag flying.

- Lead time is required
- Once the flag is flown, framed certificate and tri folded flag will be shipped as soon as practical.
- Requests for flag flying on specific dates will be attempted to be honored.
- Direct all inquiries to [almccormick64152@gmail.com](mailto:almccormick64152@gmail.com).





Cadet Trey Austin was mentioned in an article about his father, Clyde “The Glide” Austin, former Harlem Globetrotter and his brother, Eddie, who plays for Doane University in Crete, Neb. The article was published in The Richmond Free Press.

“Trey Austin is a 6-foot-1 guard who has started eight of 21 games for Wentworth junior college. He had 12 points — 6-for-6 from the floor — in a Jan. 21 game against Little Priest Tribal College of Winnebago, Neb., and was named the Red Dragons’ Player of the Week.

‘Trey’s not the flashiest or quickest, but he does the little things to help us win,’ said Wentworth Coach Matt Brown, a former University of Richmond assistant under former Coach John Beilein.

Trey Austin participates in Wentworth’s ROTC and has the option of joining the U.S. Army in August as a second lieutenant in the early commissioning program.”

You may read the entire article by going to this link: <http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2017/feb/17/father-sons/>



The Alumni Association treated the high school football team to dinner at the Spotted Pig after their season ended. Our intention was to lift their morale and show some appreciation for never giving up in a difficult year.

We're not seeking accolades. We wanted to record one of our expenses in the alumni association account in the database. There were 15 individuals from the academy and three alumni in attendance. Total expenditure was \$377.51.



## Kudos to Wentworth Cadets



### MacArthur Awards Announced

Wentworth Military Academy and College awarded two deserving cadets the MacArthur Cadet of the Year Award recently during a short ceremony in front of the 137<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets.

The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation presents the award to cadets who attend institutions in the Association of Military Colleges and Schools. The Foundation encourages the cadets to emulate and practice the qualities of Gen. MacArthur, who was a cadet at West Texas Military Institute and the U.S. Military Academy.

Col. Michael Lierman, Wentworth's President and Superintendent, remarked during the ceremony that each of these cadets exhibited a great deal of leader-

ship and have raised the standards that help their cadets find success. As Gen. MacArthur said ' "Duty, Honor, Country – those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.' "

The MacArthur Award is presented to a senior cadet who demonstrates outstanding qualities in academic, military and athletic endeavors. The recipients each receive an engraved replica of the medal struck by Congress in 1962 honoring MacArthur, a cadet uniform emblem, a U.S. Savings Bond, and a copy of MacArthur's autobiography "Reminiscences".

Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Zachory Jasinski of Wewahitchka, Fla. is a college sophomore and is the Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He is the son of Robert and Deborah Jasinski.

Cadet Capt. Rebecca Finley is a high school senior from Waynesville, Mo., and is Delta Company Commander. She is the daughter of Patrick and Alle Finley.

"I am very proud of both Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Jasinski and Cadet Capt. Finley for exhibiting the qualities that I believe General MacArthur did. It was my honor to present these awards to these two cadets," said Col. Lierman.



### Purple Heart Scholarship Announced

It is with great pleasure that Wentworth announces that, at the Association of Military College and Schools of the United States conference, Wentworth's Cadet Kevin Ferrera is a recipient of the Purple Heart Scholarship. He is the son of Sgt. Maj. and Mrs. Ferrera. Cadet Ferrera is a college sophomore who is a member of the soccer team. To be considered, the recipient had to be either an active or honorably-discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the child or grandchild of such veterans. Preference should be given to veterans (and family members of veterans) who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Cadet Ferrera is the son of a Purple Heart recipient.

Cadet Ferrera is Wentworth's first Purple Heart Scholarship recipient. It was a great honor to present this scholarship to Cadet Ferrera. A formal presentation will be made at a later date because it is preferred that the presentation be made by a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

## **2016 Wentworth Mid-Term Graduates**

### **College Graduates**

**Patrick A. Blanton**

**Samantha N. Brisbin**

**Nicole D. Burge**

**Marla R. Cooper**

**Josiah Crowther**

**Elizabeth B. Findlay**

**Beth Anne Gray**

**Brianna J. Humphrey**

**Trevor D. Jones**

**Heidi D. Martin**

**Tanielu T. Matautia**

**Anthony M. May**

**Kienna V. Metscher**

**Vernita Pogi**

**Jacinda Poland**

**Colin M. Riley**

**Jonathon L. Ruckdeschel**

**Kathleen J. Turner**

**Raeley A. Vanderpool**

**Joshua K. Warlick**

**Austin A. Wilson**

### **High School Graduates**

**Carrie Cotter**

**Mason Crane**

**Joshua Good**

**Tian Qing**

## Col. Lierman Receives Special Recognition



Col. Mike Lierman was recognized at the recent annual conference of the Association of Military Colleges & Schools in the United States (AMCSUS). Regis McDonald, chairman of the Board of Trustees, accepted the award on Col. Lierman's behalf. Col. Lierman was ill and could not attend. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart (shown at the left).

The certificate reads: "Despite significant medical challenges and personal limitations your unwavering and selfless leadership ensured the success of Wentworth's faculty, staff and cadets."

Below is an excerpt from Gen. Fullhart's remarks:

There's an old saying that "It takes one, to grow one." Mike Lierman's first encounter with Wentworth Military Academy and College was as a cadet. Now I'm guessing it wasn't revenge that brought him back in 1980, after completing his college career at Central Missouri University in 1975...but rather, a love for his original alma mater and its mission.

He started his time there working and eventually leading Admissions (which will be a focus at this conference) moving his way up as Vice President of Operations, Executive Vice President, Chief of Staff ... and Superintendent. He became the 15<sup>th</sup> President of Wentworth Military Academy and College in May of 2013.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of getting to know Mike, his wife Brenda, and his team when he kindly hosted a new head's program at his school...and it was evident in my encounter with his staff and his students, that this was indeed an exceptional leader. I also noted that he helped launch the career of a future Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Mark Welch, who now heads the Bush School at Texas A&M.

As you many of you know, Mike wasn't able to be with us last year as he was waging a personal battle with cancer. Throughout that heroic effort, he never lost sight of nor waived in his leadership role with the school.

So if Regis McDonald, board member of the school, could come forward we would appreciate it if you would convey this certificate and our best wishes to Mike and let him know that we salute him, thank him, and would like to recognize him with this special citation in a fitting year when the theme of the conference is "Serving Others".



### Connecting With Alumni (Luke Coffey, '00)

As the Director of the Foreign Policy Center at the Heritage Foundation (a Washington, D.C., based think tank), I often get the opportunity to travel to some interesting places. As an Old Boy (120<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets), and a member of the Wentworth Military Academy's Board of Trustees, I'm always looking for opportunities to meet with some of the school's international alumni.

Recently, I visited Oman — a small country in the Middle East on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Oman is a very close American ally in the region. In fact, it was the first Arab country to recognize U.S. independence, it was the first country in the region with which the U.S. signed a free trade agreement in 1833, and it was the first country in the region which opened its doors to a U.S. military base in 1980.

From Wentworth's point of view, Oman is important because it has sent a number of international students to the Corps of Cadets over the years. During my recent visit, I had the pleasure to meet with Mrs. Amal al-Shanfari, whose son, Haitham, attended Wentworth for high school from 2007-2009 and from 2012-2014 for his associate degree. In addition, other members of her family have attended Wentworth in the past.

Over Arabic coffee and *Halwa* (a traditional Omani sweet) in her office, Mrs. Al-Shanfari spoke very highly of her son's experience at Wentworth and very fondly of the personal connections she made with many of Wentworth's staff. She truly felt as if her family was now part of the Wentworth family—a feeling many of us who

have been to Wentworth can easily relate to.

International students are an important part of the Corps' social fabric. For many American cadets, the interaction with international students opens new doors and expands horizons. It also creates lifelong friendships. As an alumnus and a member of the board, it is satisfying to see how Wentworth touches the lives of those so far away from Lexington, Missouri.



# Taps



**Ernest Smethers 1941**

**John Zdychnec 1947**

**Sheldon Anisman 1951**

**Bernard Witkin 1952**

**Carl Jensen 1954**

**Dr. Jerre Johnson, D.V. M. 1955**

**John Roley 1958, 1960**

**Edward Devinger 1960**

**Gerald Hess 1961**

**Charles “Drew” Dimmel 1962**

**Brian Hoffman 1963**

**Robert Young 1970**

**Michael Carlson 1971**

**Gary Reynolds 1971**

**William “Skip” Samuel 1978**

**Christopher Larkin 1989, 1991**

**Jonathan Beaver 1997**

**Ian Wigg 2008**

**Briana Lewis 2012**



*Lord Sir*

*Written by Ron Sipes, '61*

Lord, Sir, we are, Sir, Alumni, Sir, of Wentworth Military Academy, Sir.

We thank you for your many blessings on our school, Sir.

Without the Academy, Sir, some of us would not be as proud of ourselves as we are today, Sir.

Sir, for the guidance you give the Academy and over twenty thousand youth who have turned into leaders in Your Name's sake, we thank you, Sir.

Lord, Sir, may the band always play, may the brass always shine, may the sabers always flash and above all, Sir, may the Corps always sound off.

Lord, Sir, Wentworth Military Academy is all present or accounted for, Sir. Amen.

The Alumni Corps



## Upcoming Events

@

### Wentworth



**\*March 17-March 26, 2017**

**Spring Break**

**\*April 21-23, 2017**

**Spring Parent Weekend**

**\*April 22, 2017**

**Military Ball @ 7 PM**

**\*May 2, 2017**

**Alumni HS Senior/College Sophomore Banquet @ 5 PM**

**\*May 12, 2017**

**Commissioning Ceremony @ 6 PM**

**\*May 13, 2017**

**Commencement/Final Parade/Flag Ceremony @ 9 AM**

**\* June 24-July 28, 2017**

**Camp LEAD (5-week)**

**\*July 7-July 28, 2017**

**Camp LEAD (3-week)**



**Congratulations to high school senior basketball players C/CPT Rebecca Finley and Cadet Seth Zeien for being selected to the 2017 KMZU Dream Team.**



**Wentworth Military Academy  
Alumni Association  
Membership Application**



**Instructions:**

Complete the following form as completely as possible and send it along with your payment information to:

WMA Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 102  
Lexington, MO 64067

***Applicant's Information:***

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet Years at WMA: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Is Spouse also an Alumnus [ ] yes [ ] no

***Membership Dues:***

- [ ] Annual one year (\$50) [ ] Annual three year (\$140)
- [ ] Lifetime Donor Dues one-time payment (\$1,000)
- [ ] Lifetime Donor Dues semi-annual, two payments in single year (\$510) \$1,020
- [ ] Lifetime Donor Dues quarterly payments in single year (\$258) \$1,032
- [ ] Recent Alumni 1<sup>st</sup> year (Free) [ ] Recent Alumni 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year (\$25)
- [ ] Senior 62 Annual one year (\$35) [ ] Senior 62 Annual three year (\$95)
- [ ] Senior 62 Lifetime Donor Dues one time payment (\$500)

**To Pay Online:**

**Please reference this link: <https://wma.edu/alumni/alumni-association-application/>**