



# Falcon Footnote

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## Alumni Note: June 2017

By. Grant T. Weller, Ph.D.

To all of my DFH friends and family, greetings from Colorado State University-Pueblo, where I now serve as the Chair of the Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography. It is now been a year since I accepted my third and final "Once a DFHer, Always a DFHer" parting gift and entered the world of civilian academia, so it seems a good moment to fill you in on my transition.

Teaching in DFH had long ago convinced me that once it was time to hang up the blue suit, I wanted to continue as an educator, so when I reached that point where I could retire, but didn't yet have to, I started applying for faculty positions around the country. Thirty applications netted one Skype interview, which led to an on-campus interview, and finally the job offer. One retirement ceremony, one final house hunt and family move, and one identity crisis in the Macy's men's department – just what kind of civvies was I supposed to buy, anyway? – and life after DFH had begun.

The last year has been full of challenges and opportunities (often the same thing), some of which have been quite similar to those I faced in DFH, but many very different. As I settled into my new office, met my new students, and got to know my new colleagues better, I realized one aspect of teaching in DFH had to translate to my new responsibilities: embracing the professional development of the student. Now, instead of telling cadets about life in space or missiles, I work with students to identify their paths after college. Are they interested in teaching? Museums? Research? Public history? Government work? Corporate employment? I've discovered that the opportunities for historians

## By the Numbers\*

- Presentations (Faculty: 20, Cadet: 6)
- Travel (Faculty: 26, Cadet: 13)
- Conference Participation: 34
- Faculty Publications: 6
- DFH-Hosted Events: 9
- Staff Rides: 4
- DF/USAFA/External-level Awards = 11  
(3 Faculty & 8 Cadets)

\*AY 17-18

and political scientists are much more diverse than I had ever imagined, even though I was on the job market myself not so long ago. Not coincidentally, helping students (and their parents) realize that degrees in our discipline can lead to gainful employment is crucial to recruiting new majors and minors.

With about 5,000 students, CSU-P has some of the same feel as USAFA, but the students have challenges that I never faced in DFH, such as child care, transportation, and medical conditions that would result in medical retirement for a cadet. (I actually have students who are medically retired from the military, including combat wounded warriors.) Despite the differences, I really feel that my time in Fairchild Hall gave me the breadth and depth of experience to lead my new department in exciting new directions. I owe much more than I can express in a short article to the many fine leaders and colleagues over the years who have put me where I am today. Thank you, and don't hesitate to drop me a line at [grant.weller@csupueblo.edu](mailto:grant.weller@csupueblo.edu)!

## Commander's Corner: Col Meg Martin



With Thunderbirds overhead another academic year comes to a close and launches a new chapter for the class of 2018 as Air Force Second Lieutenants. Amid the excitement of graduation, I am reminded of how quickly the last year has passed here at USAFA. In the short two years I have served as the Department Head this stellar unit has accomplished so much. Last year's wrap up feels hot off the presses in large part because it never was distributed! This Commander's Corner covers highlights from both academic year 16-17 and 17-18. Moving forward, we expect to reestablish the Falcon Footnote as an annual summer publication, available on the department's Facebook page and distributed via email. I encourage all of you to update your information with DFH.

Academic year 2016-17 wrapped up with a flurry of activities and cadet travel. For the first time, USAFA held graduation before Memorial Day. This schedule change opened up a week of travel time for cadets, which DFH filled with a staff ride to Europe. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Don Raines, Class of 1986, two faculty members and six cadets visited key sights in England, France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. This travel, paired with John Keegan's *The Face of Battle* and readings from the US Army Green Series, provided the framework for a rigorous examination of three World War II battle sites and the ability to contextualize changes in warfare when contrasted with significant battles from other eras.

On the heels of that amazing trip, Maj Mike Kennedy led the second of DFH's three summer 2017 staff-ride events. In coordination with the Center for Character and Leadership Development, Maj Kennedy guided eight cadets on a visit to strategic World War II airpower sites in England, highlighting 8th Air Force and service heritage. Additionally, Dr. Chuck Steele supported the Athletic Department by leading all rising intercollegiate team captains on a battlefield tour of Gettysburg emphasizing peer leadership in high-pressure circumstances. These trips capped off a busy year for the department, as cadets and faculty alike journeyed around the world to further their academic and professional development with events ranged from DFH cadets presenting papers in late March 2017 at the Society for Military History Conference, to supporting the Doolittle Raiders Reunion a month later, to class travel to India as part of a special course offering entitled "India under the Raj." Instructor-led cadet research and travel to Fort Leavenworth and the Eisenhower Museum, as well as DFH-led teams to Model Arab League, Model African Union, and Model EU/NATO competitions rounded out DFH's academic travels through summer 2017.

In addition to supporting these travel endeavors, DFH faculty found time to present locally, nationally, and internationally in more than 35 venues over the last two years. In November 2017, Lt Col Mark Grotelueschen traveled to France to present his work at the international conference "La Fayette Nous Voila! The American military engagement in France 1917-1918," hosted by the University of Paris-Sorbonne and the Society of the Cincinnati. In December, alongside Distinguished Visiting Professor Dr. Jenny Weber, Dr. Bob Wettemann offered cadets a genuine research experience by taking them on a staff ride to the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS. The following month Dr. Wettemann was out on the road again, accompanying three cadets to New Orleans in January to attend the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Biennial Convention, where he chaired a session in which each cadet presented their research. This trip coincided with the unique opportunity to visit the National WWII Museum and New Orleans battlefields from the War of 1812. Dr. Jacob Abadi was out and about in his usual way as well, guiding USAFA's Model Arab League team to the "Overall Outstanding Delegation" award and 8 "Outstanding Delegate" awards at the 1st Great Plains Model Arab League national competition held at Kansas State University, KS. In early April, DFH sent ten faculty and one cadet to the 2018 SMH conference in Louisville, KY. Aside from opportunities for our faculty and cadets to serve as chairs, commentators, and a presenters, DFH hosted the second annual "All Academies Social," connecting students and faculty from all services academies and military programs present at SMH. This new tradition remains an excellent opportunity to link military academics past and present with current faculty and cadets, so please join us next year!

DFH accomplishments over the last two years did not go unnoticed and resulted in 7 faculty and 8 cadet awards at the DF, regional, and national level. Aside from Dr. Abadi's Model Arab League accomplishments mentioned above, three faculty members received distinguished awards as well. The Board of the Bibliographical Committee of the International Journal of Military History and Historiography awarded Lt Col John Clune the 2016 Early Career Prize for his article "UN Peacekeeping and the International Men and Women of the Ghana Armed Forces." The Society for Military History selected LTC Courtney Short's dissertation for Honorable Mention in the Coffman First Manuscript Award. Finally, the cadets of the Class of 2017 voted Dr. Chuck Steele as the Heiser Award winner—the most impactful professor in Humanities and Social Sciences—a first for a DFH instructor!

## Lafayette Escadrille Permanent Display (October 2017)

Col (Retired) Bruce Freeman (class of '67, CS-21) delivered a special lecture entitled "The Lafayette Escadrille: America's First Combat Aces." Col Freeman spoke to cadets and faculty about the legacy of American fighter pilots who laid the foundation for the U.S. Air Force before our nation joined World War One (WWI). The lecture concluded with the unveiling of a new permanent display in DFH dedicated to the Lafayette Escadrille, centered around two artillery shell casings from WWI hand-etched with the names of members of the Escadrille and the campaigns they supported. These priceless casings were donated to USAFA by Col Freeman on behalf of Col (ret) Charles "Carl" H. Dolan II, the last living member of the Lafayette Escadrille.



Col Freeman spoke with a group of cadets and faculty about the Lafayette Escadrille.

## Historic Weapons Shoots (28 April 2018)



The History Club's Historical Weapons Shoot is an annual event that provides History Club cadets the opportunity to learn the development of select US Army issued firearms from the Revolutionary War through the modern era. LTC (ret) Nathan Watanabe, a former instructor at the Department of History, alongside Maj Miguel Lopez, guided the event. They provided the knowledge and expertise to not only instruct faculty and cadets, but also to help organize a live fire weapons shoot at Ft. Carson, a culmination of months of planning. All participating cadets were able to personally fire all of the weapons at Ft. Carson's range, allowing cadets a hands-on history lesson in the relationship between technology and firearms.

## 2016/2017 Harmon Memorial Lectures



Professor Jeremy Black, from Exeter College in the UK, spoke at the 2016 Harmon Memorial Lecture about “Airpower and Warfare, 1950-Present: Success, Failures, and Enduring Challenges.” Professor Black addressed over four hundred cadets enrolled in History 100, as well as faculty and friends of DFH and across DF. His insights into the development of airpower since the 1950’s was instrumental in contextualizing history as a critical foundation to understanding our Air Force’s role in an ever changing combat environment.

The oldest and most prestigious lecture series at the Air Force Academy, the Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History originated with Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first superintendent (1954-1956) and a serious student of military history. The Academy's leadership felt greatly indebted to General Harmon and sought to honor his accomplishments in some way. The Department of History considered launching a lecture series to commemorate his efforts, and in 1959 the Harmon Memorial Lecture Series in Military History was born.

The Harmon Lecture series supports two goals: to encourage interest in contemporary military history and to stimulate in cadets a life-long interest in the study of the history of the military profession. The lectures are published and distributed to interested individuals and organizations throughout the world and many are used in courses at the Academy. In this way, we continue to honor the memory of General Harmon, who during his lifetime developed a keen interest in military history and greatly contributed to establishing the U.S. Air Force Academy.



Professor Brian Linn, from Texas A&M, spoke at the 2017 Harmon Memorial Lecture on what it means to be a military professional adhering to the warrior ethos in the aftermath of war. Despite disagreeable weather, we hosted more than 800 cadets, current faculty and staff, members of the Department of History, and colleagues from across Colorado Springs, resulting in tremendous feedback from all of the attendees. We were particularly pleased with the post-lecture reception, where many cadets and faculty took the opportunity to interact with Dr. Linn in a relaxed environment. Dr. Linn enjoyed this time and it is always great to see our future leaders interacting with an award-winning scholar. It is just this sort of interaction that makes this lecture, our department’s flagship event, a success each year.

## 2017/2018 Distinguished Professionals-in-Residence

As part of the core Military History curriculum, the USAFA Department of History sponsors the visit of a senior US military member each spring. The program is designed to motivate cadets towards a career in the Air Force prior to the commitment decision at the end of their second year as cadets. The Distinguished Professional In Residence program began in 1979, and has included past leaders such as Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner, Gen. Ronald Fogleman, Lt. Gen. Harold Moore, and Gen. Richard Myers.

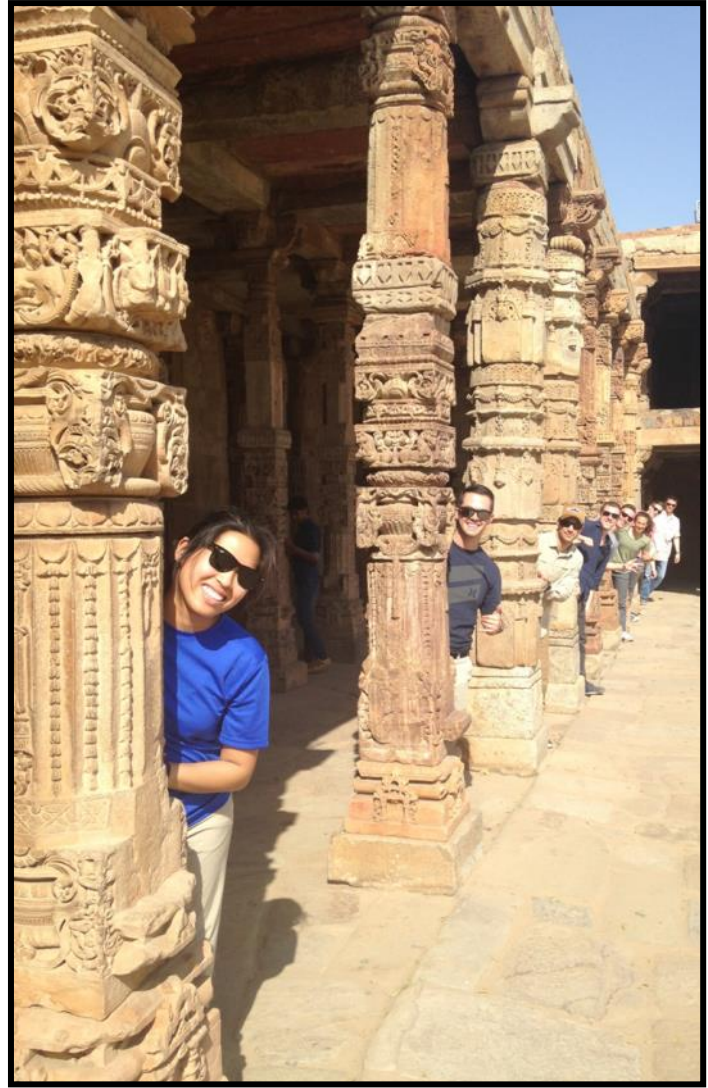
General John D.W. Corley inspired and motivated cadets and faculty as our 2017 Distinguished Professional-in-Residence. Cadets grabbed onto the opportunity to learn from his vast experiences commanding at the squadron, group, and wing levels. Additionally, he shared lessons learned from his time as the Commander of Air Combat Command working with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve forces giving cadets valuable understanding of the total force structure they will one day work with.



More than 500 cadets spanning 11 class periods had the opportunity to glean insights and lessons learned from General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr, USA (Retired), the 2018 Distinguished Professional-in-Residence. He spoke with the cadets about his time commanding Multi-National Corps-Iraq, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).



## Educate with Experience: India



Eight members of the USAFA Department of History enjoyed a once in a life-time experience over Spring Break 2017. Captain Mark Honnen and Captain Steven Czak led six cadets on a DFIP Cultural Immersion Program Trip to northern India from 23 March – 2 April 2017. During this trip, cadets visited Delhi, Varanasi, Agra, and Jaipur. This trip supplemented the Spring History 495, entitled: The Raj – India and the British Empire. This trip exposed cadets to Indian history in several critical ways. First, cadets visited foundational sites associated with Indian culture prior to the arrival of the British and other European powers. These sites included the holiest city in Hinduism, Varanasi, to witness to the cremation of bodies in the ritualistic funeral pyre and Brahmin prayers; the site of the Buddha's first sermon at Deer Park and the surrounding archaeological site; and a multitude of government buildings, military fortresses, and Islamic mosques built during the Mughal period. Next cadets visited several sites meant to demonstrate how British influence spread and was reinterpreted by local groups. This included a walking tour of Delhi and its role in the 1857 Sepoy Revolt and a high British tea at the Imperial Hotel, Gandhi's favorite afternoon tea location. Cadets also visited key sites of Indian independence, to include Gandhi's funeral pyre. Cadets had the opportunity to experience the daily life of modern Indians by taking several walking tours through Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi), Varanasi, and Jaipur to witness local bazaars and sampling street food.

# Out and About



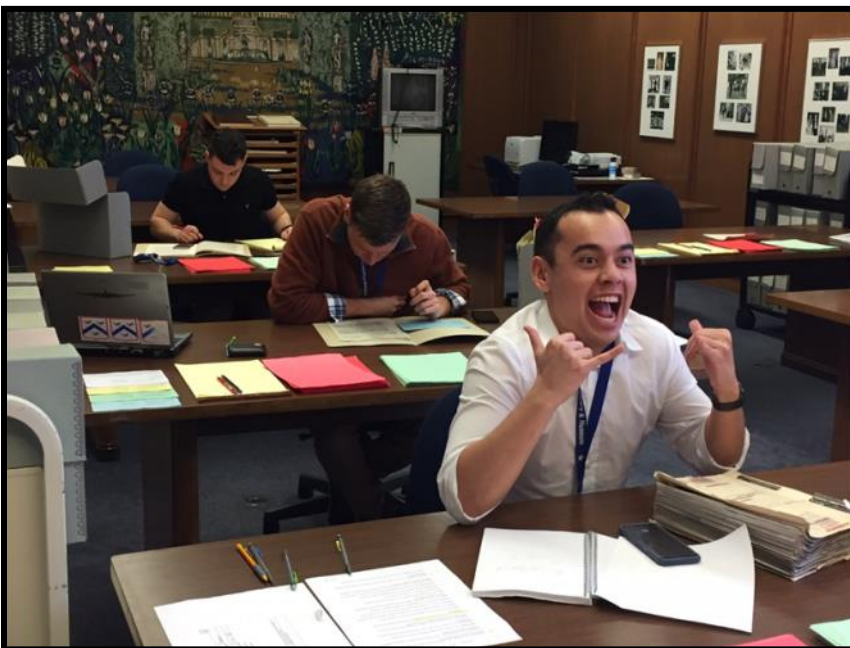
A group of cadets took the trip of a lifetime during the summer of 2017 to see first hand the battlefields of Europe on a visit led by Dr. Bob Wettemann. They experienced the physical spaces of the war and returned with a deeper understanding of the actions and sacrifices of American and allied forces in both major wars. This trip was only possible through the use of endowment funding.



Dr. Bob Wettemann introduced a group of cadets to life at Bent's Old Fort through an interactive itinerary focused on military, economic and cultural considerations present at the time the fort was built and operated.



With the goal of increasing knowledge and awareness in the United States about the U.S.-Qatar strategic partnership, the Qatar Military Office in Washington, D.C., partnered with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations on a unique initiative for future U.S. military leaders. Four cadets and one History Department escort represented USAFA as part of a larger delegation of cadets from the U.S. military academies invited to visit and explore Qatar, learn about its strategic significance and role in global affairs, and witness firsthand the nature and extent of Qatar-U.S. defense cooperation. The delegation also learned about Qatar's history, culture, and scientific achievements and advances. This delegation of emerging armed forces leaders and strategic thinkers of tomorrow, was hosted by the Qatar Armed Forces from 19 to 26 May 2017, and came away from their visit with a deeper understanding of Qatar's special role in the region and in U.S. military strategy and operations.



Cadets discovered the joy of the archive and honed their research skills with an exciting visit to the archives at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS over the Summer of 2017. They engaged in a variety of individual research topics with material only available on-site.

## Commander's Corner Continued

Complementing faculty and cadet development, members of the department have been busy supporting USAFA's efforts to realign and reinvigorate its institutional outcomes. Over this past year, we finalized course revisions formally aligning History 100, USAFA's core military history course, with the Warrior Ethos outcome. Similarly, History 300, our core World History course, now aligns with the Culture and Conditions outcome. These placements indicate assessment responsibilities, ensuring USAFA has empirical data to demonstrate how we prepare cadets for service in an interconnected and complex world. The department also has begun efforts to show how History develops critical thinkers and effective communicators, a requirement for all academic majors. These efforts, as well as new assessment programs, undergird USAFA's preparation for HLC accreditation in 2019.

DFH is busy and maneuvering to meet current and future challenges. Although department military manning is an ongoing negotiation, DFH has found support in other lanes. We successfully hired Dr. Bob Wettemann to fill the civilian vacancy left upon Dr. Jeanne Hiedler's retirement in 2016. In academic year 2016-17, we hosted two visiting professors, Dr. Greg Hospodor from USGCSC and Dr. D'Ann Campbell from Culver-Stockton. DFH was honored to have Dr. Campbell remain with the department a second year—she departed after 2018's graduation. In these two years Dr. Campbell made a significant impact in DFH and at USAFA, so much so that DFH faculty awarded her the coveted Clio Award for outstanding contributions made to the department. Dr. Jenny Weber joined us from University of Kansas last June as the department's second visiting professor, and will remain with our department for academic year 2018-19. Additionally, we have entered into an agreement with NORAD/NORTHCOM for its command historian and deputy to alternate teaching semesters. Dr. Lance Blyth taught with us last fall and Dr. Brian Laslie joined us this spring. Their presence adds to our cadre of airpower experts and terminal degree holders. Lastly, former Air Force space officer Bill Scruitsky volunteered to teach a section complementing his experience teaching at UCCS. This outside support has bolstered our faculty in carrying the usual heavy teaching load, enabling our department to meet to demands of USAFA's core courses. The increased presence of civilian faculty also foreshadows upcoming changes—we will be converting some of our military faculty positions to civilian postings to ensure long-term faculty stability. All of these moves are geared toward enabling DFH to accomplish its mission of producing leaders of character by teaching history for the profession of arms.

In the upcoming year DFH plans to host open houses in the department during the various class reunions. If you are out for a reunion or other event, please let us know—you are always welcome to drop in. As always, "Once a DFHer, always a DFHer!"

## USAFA Endowment Accepts Gifts for DFH

The United States Air Force Academy Endowment is a foundation "singularly charged with the abiding stewardship of donated funds" in support of the Academy's mission, providing margins of excellence beyond what federal funding can achieve.

If you're interested in learning more about the USAFA Endowment, visit their home page at

<http://www.usafa.org/UE>

Or write them at

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