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HONOR CODE

The Class of ’22 has arrived! What does that mean for us?

The Air Force Cadet Wing Honor Code Reference Handbook states:

“Every person, cadet and permanent party, assigned to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) plays a vital role in developing future officers of character whether through serving on the Cadet Honor Committee (CHC) or modeling integrity and honor in the classroom, the squadron, or on the athletic field. The Honor Code and Honor Oath are just words without the people who live them. It is the responsibility of every person to uphold the Honor Code and the commitment to living honorably, not for personal gain, but rather for the good of USAFA, our Air Force, and our nation.”

The Air Force Honor Code is the cornerstone of all moral and character development at the Air Force Academy.

To fully understand this we first need to know how the Air Force Academy defines character; “One’s moral compass, the sum of those qualities of moral excellence which compels a person to do the right thing despite pressure or temptations to the contrary.”

Honor Code: We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.

Honor Oath: We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, (so help me God).

Spirit of the Code: Do the right thing and live honorably.

What does it mean to live an honorable life?

The Center for Character and Leadership defines it as: “Consistently practicing the virtues embodied in the Air Force Core Values.”

What are the Air Force’s core values?

Integrity First: Honesty, Courage, Accountability

Service Before Self: Duty, Loyalty, Respect

Excellence in All We Do: Mission, Discipline, Teamwork

To learn more about the Honor Code, go to: https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/AFCW_HCRH_Jun17.pdf

...and the ILS goes to....
By Linda Tully

Insignia Software contract has been awarded to Insignia!

What? You’ve never heard of Insignia Software? Well, we hadn’t either, but they will be our new library system provider starting on August 1. Here’s a little more about them...

Insignia Software is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and has been in operation since 1999. Most of their customers are K-12 school districts and public libraries, but they are also in use at several smaller colleges. I think we will be the first bigger academic site for them.

With respect to their product, they were the only applicant that said they could meet all 78 of the specified requirements. Their OPAC interface is customizable, yet clean and easy to use. It includes the Boolean searching that we have been lacking in our current system. It has a separate module for our digital assets, yet can search them, the catalog, and our electronic resources all at the same time. They also provide a mobile interface app in both iOS and Android. I have not seen much of the staff interface, but what I have seen looks pretty straightforward as well. I have seen some reviews online and most of them have been very positive. The Capterra software rating site has 13 reviews for the Insignia Library System and shows an overall rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

I am anxious to get going with them!
The Honor Code is a bedrock of the Academy, yet there are times when the standardized punishments that can stem from violating it fall in a gray area that isn’t fairly recognized. Can a military academy successfully judge cadets on individual merit in an environment that operates in black and white?

You have just asked a question that is as old as the Greeks and the Romans concerning laws, justice and mercy. I took a crack at some of this in my novel Lessons In Honor in the case of the honor court involving Cadet Walt Remington. (This situation actually occurred to a cadet in our squadron, and while I was not on the Honor Board that judged him, I worked with my editor to try and present a balanced picture of both sides of the question that decided a harsh verdict (Turnout) for this very good person who made a mistake.) Rules, laws and policies are pretty much black and white and judgements, to be fair, have to be consistent looking at the law as it stands, and avoiding external circumstances. It isn’t always perfect, but it does work. It is difficult and challenging to be a judge.

Our staff sometimes wonders how to best demonstrate the Honor Code and be great examples for the cadets. Are there specific actions we can take to be good role models and help strengthen the cadets’ resolve in the process?

I think there are several things staff can do to assist the cadets. First of all realize that for many of the new and young cadets you become a substitute parent or grandparent. They are often homesick, tired, sad, discouraged, doubting themselves and just looking for some empathy and encouragement. You need to model the caring, honesty, integrity, courage and teamwork that you are encouraging them to develop. Be consistent. Do some online research (library staff) on good counseling techniques. Learn about non-directive counseling that assists the person in solving their own problems. There are times for compassion and there are times for “tough love.” I have a wonderful section in my book The Art of Leadership that is entitled “Is It Always Helpful to Help?” Even changing the language that you use can be effective. To tell someone you are going to “help them” implies to them that they are “helpless.” Substitute words like assist or counsel. Again, model what you are teaching. Sharing your own experiences may or may not be helpful. Be thoughtful in what you share. You are in a great position to comfort and assist others in changing their lives.

Cadets (and the rest of us), now have the ability to share a significant portion of our lives with the world – thanks to the internet and social media. Do you think this connectedness encourages respect and positivity through accountability or is there still value in privacy?

Connectedness is wonderful and can assist many people. But privacy and boundaries are also very important and too many people on social media are sharing many personal and private things (including pictures) that are not appropriate and for which there is very little accountability. I have cut way back on my use of social media and seek to share only items that are uplifting, encouraging or give people a good laugh in an appropriate way. I am one who believes that the world would be a better place with more face-to-face interaction and less electronic. Try a one week fast from all your devices. Use the time for reading, exercise, thinking, helping others, and creating something. See how you feel at the end of the week then act accordingly.

You possess a resilience that not everyone manages to find when they need to. Where did your drive and determination come from after being forced onto a new path?

Part of it was the influence of my parents and other family members; part of it was my faith; part of it was professors, business managers and church leaders who mentored me and inspired me; and part of it was just who I had become by the first time the bottom fell out of my life. Being “certified as unfit for higher education,” created in me a burning drive to prove that this judgement said more about others (both individuals and the institution) than it said about me. I changed that energy into positions in student government, becoming a 4.0 student, becoming President of a National Honor Society, starting my own businesses, obtaining a Harvard Doctorate, becoming an Academic Vice President, writing and publishing books, assisting less fortunate people, training others so that they would not have to go through the same things that I went through. I know this is a very personal answer, but it was a very personal question.
USAFA staff, faculty and cadets, I am honored to be invited to share some thoughts with you on leadership and honor. I will save a lot of copy space here assisting you in getting to know me and my story by inviting you to visit my website: www.linbothwell.com. There you can read about my background, biography, writing history, extensive background on my USAFA novel, and a photo gallery of my USAFA years and my life.

While I had been writing all of my life, I never thought I would become a published author. That all changed in 1983 when a major U.S. publisher, Prentice-Hall, contracted with me to publish my first trade book The Art of Leadership. One Internet article called this book one of the top 10 business books of the last quarter of the twentieth century. The book was actually used as a textbook at USAFA many years ago. It provided me with a platform to travel and speak to tens of thousands all over the United States and all over the world; and to associate with many of the top motivational speakers in the country. My writing also allowed me to become friends with and to be mentored by several New York Times best-selling authors.

I was a member of the USAFA Class of 1964, the 6th graduating class of the new Academy. USAFA has just celebrated the fifty thousandth graduate. During the Academy’s 52 years, among those 50,000, there have been a couple of hundred who were “firsts.” (These would include: first cadet to enter the current site location, the first cadet to graduate, the first Rhodes Scholar, the first to score a touchdown, the first All American, and several firsts having to do with gender and race). I was one of those firsts. Mine was in the category of those firsts that were not celebrated. Not only am I not ashamed of it, for I had no control over what happened to me, but it drove me to many of the most significant accomplishments of my life, including obtaining an earned doctorate from Harvard University, and ultimately writing and publishing my first novel Lessons In Honor.

This summer of 2018 will mark the first time that Lessons In Honor will be available to USAFA cadets in the McDermott Library (thanks to the efforts of some dedicated USAFA librarians and staff). If and when you have the opportunity to read the book, whether through checking it out through the library, or buying your own copy from Amazon, you will read of “real life” in the early days of the fledgling Academy. (My website will give you information on which of the events in the novel “really happened” and which were fictionalized by me and my editor).

One thing I hope you will learn, that has been abundantly true in my long personal and professional life is that the qualities and attributes that you acquire and develop as USAFA cadets will stand you in good stead throughout your life, whether within a military career or in other professions. Those qualities include: leadership, honor, courage, integrity, hard work, skills in communication and problem solving, teamwork, devotion to your country, and a commitment to service. In your life going forward I wish you every success.

[Note: At the end of my life (now sooner than later) some of my final thoughts will be of my Band of Brothers (and Sisters) and the USAFA experiences that have become part of my DNA!] LB

If you want to communicate with me you can e-mail me at: drlin@bothwell.net. On the Subject line put #USAFA Staff or Faculty or Cadet or Parent.

Dr. Bothwell’s books can be found in our Library:
Launched in fall 2000, the writing center has enhanced student academic services support in influential ways. Over the last 18 years, the writing center has helped 15,188 cadets to write with clarity, precision and power. Prof. Durthy Washington excelled as the Academy’s first writing center director, building a successful program to advance cadet and faculty communication across a wide-range of courses and genres (personal essays, literary response papers, historical analysis assignments, chemistry lab reports and more).

Since Durthy’s retirement in fall 2015, I have served as the writing center coordinator. Faculty volunteers and contractors remain the sustaining force behind the program’s success. Volunteers have added disciplinary diversity and augmented instruction during the academic day. Our contractors have allowed assistance to continue into the evenings (1730-2130, that readily comes to mind is this one—“this course revamped my love for reading!”

How can the library staff help encourage the cadets to take advantage of all these great resources right downstairs?

The library is a beautiful and central part of Fairchild Hall. Continue to use the space as a venue for communication-enriching activities such as poetry readings, writing symposiums, and research technique workshops.

USAFA WRITING CENTER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

BY

DR. GARY MILLS

The Writing Center has been up and running since 2000. When did you come aboard?

I was an active duty AF instructor with the English Department (DFENG) from 1999-2001 and 2007-2012. Prof. Durthy Washington was the writing center’s first director, and I had the pleasure to work with her across my entire time with DFENG. Following my retirement from active duty, I joined the Academic Success Center (ASC) team as a civilian instructor in the summer of 2013. For the next two years, I worked closely with Durthy as one of her writing center volunteers, and following her retirement in the fall of 2015, I took over as the writing center coordinator.

What was your background prior to coming to the Academy?

Prior to 2013, I served as an Air Force intelligence officer for SAC and AMC flying units, including a tour as an intelligence analyst for NATO in Belgium. Roughly half of my career was spent in intelligence assignments and the other half was spent teaching at the Academy and attending graduate school to earn a PhD in Rhetoric and Communication from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Early in my studies, including points during high school, I struggled with academics. Thanks to the Falcon Foundation scholarship program, I was able to reinforce my scholastic scaffolding at Marion Military Institute. This amazing opportunity helped me to earn an appointment and commission as part of the Class of 1990.

Do you write for fun or are your personal interests quite opposite of your work responsibilities?

I do write for fun! I experiment with different writing styles. I’ve crafted creative nonfiction, flash fiction, and some poetry. I like the challenges new genres open. Often my academic and career interests overlap, and I’m able to write about war literature, intelligence officer development, and personal essays about my active duty service.

Is there a memorable cadet success story that keeps you motivated throughout each school year?

Yes, cadets inspire me each semester! I find cadet comments about our classes most memorable. The one
Monday-Thursday) during the academic semester. Note, this is the same time the Quantitative Reasoning Center is open just down the hall. So, students can set up an appointment to get help on a math problem set and then later that same evening attend an appointment to get help with an essay draft.

We encourage cadets to use the center to generate ideas for writing topics, organize and structure their arguments and receive feedback on the impact and credibility of their sources. We guide students through a dialogue on the strengths and areas for improvement in their drafts. Please keep in mind, the writing center is not an “editing service,” but we will help to address specific questions or concerns students have about grammar, punctuation, spelling or MLA citation. The center is also available to assist faculty, providing in-class sessions on effective writing processes and practices. Please coordinate special support requests at least six weeks in advance of the desired date to allow adequate time for activity planning and scheduling.

Effective writing is advanced by the excellent resources available at USAFA. The McDermott Library is a vital asset. We encourage students and faculty to engage with the library staff to take advantage of the exceptional current and archived (online and hardcopy) primary, secondary and tertiary sources that make top-tier research and scholarship (writing) possible. Importantly, the writing center depends on many mission areas (Library, DFENG and others) and faculty (volunteers and contractors) to remain a vibrant part of cadets’ academic experience. Thank you, USAFA, for your amazing support!

**Hear the Difference...and Revise**

In closing this snapshot look at the writing center, I want to share a writing revision practice **cadets and faculty can use to enhance the flow, style and impact of their writing.** Read your essay draft out loud, or better yet have someone read it to you. As an “audience” to your own writing, you’ll get a better sense of where and how your message excels or fails. Whether you’ve asked a classmate or a colleague down the hall to read your paper draft, you’ll hear the difference, which will help highlight areas for revision. If you want to handle this process solo, you can use MS Word’s text-to-speech, “Speak,” component to do the reading for you. Here’s how.

In the top, left-hand corner of Word you’ll see the

| ![Quick Access Toolbar with the drop down arrow on the right](image) |

Quick Access Toolbar. Select the drop-down arrow on the right. Then, click “More Commands” from the list. In the Word Options window, choose “All Commands” from the list. You can then scroll down to and click-on “Speak”—then press the “Add” button to make it available on your toolbar. Click “OK” at the bottom to save your change. You can then highlight the text you want to become an audience to and press the speak icon on the toolbar. Make sure your speakers are active and set at an appropriate volume.

Listening to your draft is an effective way to catch some surface-level (tense shifts, subject-verb agreement, unproductive repetition and word choice) and deep structure-level (organization, evidence incorporation and content).

**I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating.**

*—Sophocles*

2018 is the Year of the Dog

Sergeant Stubby, an American Hero. Click [here](http://example.com) to read more!
houseguests clamor for it. We hear him doing the same in prison. Later, Matar assists in gaining the release of two of his uncles after 21 years in prison, one of whom wrote poetry but was denied pen and paper, so he wove it with thread on an old pillowcase folded and hidden in the band of his underwear.

“And I remember this man who never ran out of poems telling me once that knowing a book by heart is like carrying a house inside your chest.”

Throughout we meet some of the hundreds of family members in Libya and abroad, the mother as the tie that binds the family with her love and the food that she prepares with every attention to the detail of its ingredients.

We feel the love and the light of Libya, the land that was home the quotidien: freshly baked bread and date syrup on the patio or the horror of the 1270 executed in Abu Salim Prison in 1996. Perhaps the author’s father was among them.

Hisham Matar has honored his father, his family, and his country. This is a book that will give you pause at every turn.

In his memoir, The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between, the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winning author, Hisham Matar details the decades of his father’s incarceration following his arrest in 1990 under Muammer el-Qaddafi’s dictatorship. Matar has given the reader much more than a memoir; it is a story of exile, the bonds of family, country, language, memory, the consolation of poetry, and the refusal of his father to accept the yoke of the dictatorship. The narrative fluctuates between past and present evoking our own past, memories, land, and language.

As a young boarding school student in England, the author is directed by his family to assume a Christian identity with an Egyptian mother and American father. Thus, it is not likely that he will be identified as the son of a wanted dissident by the Qaddafi regime.

However, as his exile continues in England he divulges that, “Encountering our dialect during those years was always disconcerting, provoking in me, and with equal force, both fear and longing.”

He longs for his father, who after several years, they no longer hear from. What follows is more than two decades of his search for his father who we meet through his memory. We hear his father reciting poetry as
COLORADO SUMMER 2018 FESTIVALS

As a fairly newbie to Colorado, I’m trying to explore as much as I can while the weather is sunny. Going to festivals enables me to get to know the culture of the region, and that of other countries as well. Here is what Colorado has to offer during the month of August (listed chronologically).

August 2
Denver Burger Battle
Sample the top 16 burgers in Denver and have a say in who wins!

August 3-5
People’s Tiny House Festival
USAFA, Falcon Stadium
Check out what the rage is all about! There will be models, speakers, educational panels, music and local food.

August 3-5
ARISE
A music, yoga, activism and co-creative camping festival.

August 3-19
The 2018 Parade of Homes!
Friday, August 3rd – Sunday, August 19th
Homes Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

August 4
Denver International Festival
Experience cultural rhythms, food, art, beer and wine tasting, Kids Village in Civic Center Park – without going abroad!

August 5
Springs Beer Fest
America the Beautiful Park, Colorado Springs
Sample 120+ beers!

August 6-9
High Plains Chautauqua
Theme: “Blowin’ In the Wind: The 60s” “Meet” icons from the fabulous 1960s portrayed by scholars. AIMS Community College, 5401 W 20th St, Greeley

August 10-19
Breckenridge Int’l Festival of Arts
Blue River Plaza, S Main St, Breckenridge
This is a multi-arts festival inspired by environment and mountain cultures.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Lin Bothwell, we are extremely honored that you took the time to write an article for our newsletter and for your thoughtful interview. We are humbled by your honesty and willingness to tell your story. You are a true example of what it means to have courage.

Dr. Gary Mills, thank you so much for your article on the Writing Center. It’s nice to know that there are services like this available for our cadets. Thank you also for your wonderful interview. You are a true testament of the incredible faculty we have at USAFA.

Ms. Connie Leonard, thank you so very much for sending in your handwritten book review while on vacation in Greece. You are amazing.

Meredith Moore, thank you for “pulling a double” on your In the Spotlight series. Both interviews were heartfelt and informative. You know just what to ask!

CORRECTIONS

We would like to apologize for misspelling Dr. Newmiller’s name in the July issue in our Special Thanks column.