



Joint Alumni Association



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From the President's Desk

BY: PERLINA FORTINBERRY
 NATIONAL PRESIDENT
 1ST LT., USAF

Our mission for the The Arnold Air Society, Angel Flight, and Silver Wings Joint Alumni Association (JAA) is to foster a spirit of loyalty and kinship among former AAS/AnF/SW members and to achieve unity of purpose and action in promoting the best interests of the Joint Alumni Association. We focus on professional development, service to the national community and social interaction with the national community. We not only work with the Arnold Air Society (AAS) and Silver Wings (SW) community, but the Air Force Association (AFA) as well. We hope to improve our relationship with the national community by reaching out to other national organizations.

I just want to welcome the staff for this upcoming year; Elizabeth Rouillier, Vice-President; Robert Endler, Secretary; Katrina Tabinowski, Chief Financial Officer; Leanne Babcock, Development Officer; Ashley Agacki, Marketing and Communications

Officer; and Summer Folsom, Technology Officer. This is going to be an exciting year! All of the officers have their goals in place and have been working hard since the end of NATCON to plan and prepare for their terms in office. Some goals for this year include; a stronger promotion of JAA nationally, offering more scholarships for AAS and SW students, improving our relationship with the AAS and SW students, enhancing our relationship with the AFA, an improved communication system to make it easier for JAA members to get involved and stay informed, and much more.

The JAA team always welcomes new ideas. Check out our website, <http://www.aasswjaa.org/>, periodically to learn about our current JAA news, local events, and how to chat with the community. If you are interested in getting involved, please email me at Perlina@gmail.com.

Article and Picture Submission Request

Any member of JAA, Arnold Air Society, Silver Wings or Air Force Association can submit an article or pictures to be put in our newsletter.

Just send it to

jaapublicaffairs@gmail.com

FIESTACON

By: Emily Brand 1st Lt., USAF

It happens all the time. Once when I was walking across the flightline at Ramstein AB, Germany. More than a few times when sitting outside with my laptop in the middle of the night at Al Udeid AB, Qatar. And there I was flight planning for the next leg of our mission at Mildenhall AB, UK. I look up and a familiar face catches my eye. Sometimes I immediately remember their name and where I met them in the past. Other times it takes a few minutes, or a short conversation. But the inevitable will happen... you will both find the connection no matter how long it's been or how much you don't remember that person. I've run into people I knew from training a few months ago, all the way back to freshman year of ROTC eight years ago. I can't even begin to imagine how many people I've met through various Air Force related gatherings. It's true that there are very few I actually keep in contact with on a regular basis. That would be next to impossible, even with today's powers of facebook and myspace. And yet they are all still out there wandering around somewhere... until one day we meet up half way around the world.

Maybe that's why I went back- to find some old friends. Maybe I just missed the camaraderie of the society and the close knit group of people who were with me every step of the way. Maybe I wanted to see what became of the squadrons, chapters, area, and region I had helped to build. Probably a little of all the above.... who knows. But when I saw the invite it didn't take much thought before I checked my calendar... and booked the ticket.

I was surprised at how many Joint Alumni Association members answered the shout-out to attend FIESTACON. It takes quite a bit of effort to pull away from an active duty job and buy a plane ticket to Phoenix. We had representatives from several brand new chapters of our baby society. I had no idea we were that organized.... and I was impressed. There was an Alumni schedule of events filling two whole days, completely separate from the cadets. I quickly realized that no matter what my reason was for getting on that airplane... I was here to work.

I was present (and written in the minutes) for the very first alumni business session called to order in the history of Arnold Air Society, Angel Flight and Silver Wings. Yep, I definitely got a warm fuzzy feeling when that was announced. We were a

LOCAL INFORMATION

We are currently in the process of starting local chapters for the JAA. With this, we hope to allow for more social functions throughout the year so we can all touch base with local alumni!

Current local chapter information can be found on our website at <http://www.aasswjaa.org/local>

Don't see your state there yet? We are looking for alumni who want to start local chapters around the nation and even internationally!

If you are interested in starting a local chapter, email us at jaanationaldevelopment@gmail.com

small group. Roll call didn't take 30 minutes and there were no mascots present, but we did it all: changed the JAAM (Joint Alumni Association Manual), passed, declined and tabled resolutions, appointed new positions, all that good stuff. It was fun. No hissing or skits... yet... but give it time.

I quickly realized another reason I had come back to NATCON. Between the cadets business sessions I stood at the JAA booth to help recruit. Who knew that a little set of pilot's wings on a chest meant a wealth of information to a good majority of thousands of cadets. It didn't take long for me to figure out that there weren't that many Air Force pilots hanging out among this sea of blue, especially not one who was fairly fresh out of pilot training like me. I did my best to mentor to the masses and give out contact information, but I'm sure there were many more who would have liked the chance to talk.

I'm not going to lie, I had my doubts about the lasting health of a full up Alumni Association with official manuals, and dues, and an organizational structure that mirrors it's parent societies. But I realized three very important things on my FIESTACON vacation. First, that the JAA has always existed. Maybe not on paper, but the network of people who are connected on the level of their AAS, SW or AnF roots has been there as long as the societies have been in existence. Now, however, it is so much more. What the JAA has done is made our small Air Force even smaller. It's given us a way to travel and meet, to talk and to read about what we've done since graduation. I could probably name at least one person I know stationed at every Air Force base around the world. That's kind of cool. I always have someone to meet wherever I go. The second thing I realized is that the JAA isn't an organization of idle membership. Just like the societies we came from, there's a reason why we are organized the way we are. The community service aspect doesn't end with graduation. It may be focused differently, more on the needs of AAS and SW, but there are plenty of ways to help. The last thing I recognized about JAA is that it provides each society the best way to preserving its heritage. We don't rely solely on old records with names and dates to figure out where we were in the past... we have the people themselves. And they have a chance to be involved.

It didn't take very long. There I was, at my home base of McGuire, and I saw a vaguely familiar face. A minute later I was reintroduced to a cadet-turned-2Lt I had met at FIESTACON. Funny how that happens.

Alumni Spotlight: Terry Miller

By: Leanne Babcock
National Development Officer
2nd Lt., USAF

In 1959 Terry Miller embarked on his college career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During this time, land grant schools required all young, able-bodied men complete a mandatory 2-year ROTC obligation. As he approached his junior year, Miller was invited to enter advanced Air Force ROTC. Advanced AFROTC students earned a large stipend of \$27.50 per month which he used to help pay his tuition. However, Miller soon discovered there was more to AFROTC than fulfilling a commitment and receiving a stipend.

Arnold Air Society

Miller was asked by his fraternity brothers to join the Joyce-Johnson AAS Squadron, which also meant becoming a cadet member of the Air Force Association. This began Miller's life-long membership in the AFA. Through membership in both organizations, Miller gained knowledge of military history, learned how to network and make professional connections. All of these skills culminated with what Miller was learning in AFROTC, through his studies at UNL, and his job at a local bakery. Miller was taking information from all sources and employing them into valuable life experiences.

During his service in Arnold Air Society, Miller was the AAS Administration Officer, Squadron Vice Commander, and Squadron Commander. Outside of his leadership roles, Miller and the Joyce-Johnson Squadron paired with their Angel Flight to host fundraisers and social activities on campus. One of the largest events was the Spring Last Day of Class/Study for Finals Tomorrow Dance held at the UNL Student Union. This dance was a tradition and nearly all students attended to blow off steam before finals.



Angel Flight

A new organization that started at the University of Nebraska-Omaha sparked the interest of the Joyce-Johnson AAS Squadron. Angel Flight was comprised of female members in the student body from the campus and their main objective was to support the local AAS Squadron. UNL wanted to start an Angel Flight to support their squadron; this is where Miller and Angel Flight founder Mary Anne Thompson first met. They worked together to find women on campus who would be part of their Angel Flight. Once the flight was picked, the Joyce-Johnson Angel Flight at UNL became the second chartered Angel Flight. A lifelong friendship between Miller and Thompson continues to this day through their work with the AFA. Thompson was a great source of help at Miller's commissioning and wedding.

Support of the UNL Angel Flight also included traveling to two NATCONs in support of their Angel Flight members who were being nominated for major titles. The 1964 NATON in Denver featured UNL Angel Flight member Marilyn Masters who was the current "Little Colonel" going up for the AFROTC Area's "Little General". Although she came in second, the AAS Squadron supported her and her duties in representing UNL and the Area

through public appearances on campus and the city.

Today, the Joyce-Johnson Silver Wings Chapter is strong just as it was when it was Angel Flight and represents some of the finest women and men on the UNL campus and supports the AFROTC detachment and AAS Squadron.

After the Sword

Miller received his orders the day he graduated and eventually served a 26 year military career in the space operations career field. His assignments included Ent AFB, CO (now Peterson AFB) Eglin AFB, FL; Clear AFS, AK; Peterson AFB, CO; Maxwell AFB, AL; Shemya Island, AK; WSMR, NM; Headquarters USAF; Philippines, Australia, Naval War College and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He retired as the Assistant DCS Operations at Space Command Headquarters.

His career in the space operations field involved satellite surveillance, missile warning, and satellite control. Miller was involved with several large operational test and evaluation programs most notably the FPS-85 radar at Eglin AFB, FL and the Cobra Dane on Shemya Island, AK. While at the JCS, Miller was involved with Arm Control negotiations with the USSR in Geneva, Switzerland.

Alumni & Air Force Association

Miller took on the role of an active AAS Alumni member through the AAS Alumni which at the time was a Division of the AFA. AAS Alumni did not pay separate alumni dues as they do today; they instead paid regular AFA dues. As an AAS Alumni Division they received a quarterly check from their share of dues as did AFA chapters for their operating expenses.

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Spotlight Continued

Miller volunteered to become the Alumni Secretary and spent considerable time finding AAS Alumni members in the hard copy rolls of AFA records and asking them to transfer their AFA affiliation to the AAS Alumni Division. He became the Alumni President in 1966 and suggested to AFA they start a Junior Officer advisory Council and subsequently served on the initial council. As the Alumni Division grew, it was necessary for AFA to provide more of the administrative support and the Division (and AFA Squadron/State Wing) organizational concept was replaced by the current Chapter, State and Region organizations that are still used today



Today

Miller continues active participation within the AFA having been former Vice President of the Sijan Chapter in Colorado Springs, President of the Mile High Chapter, and Colorado State President. He is also currently active as a chapter officer in AFCEA, ITEA, and is a member of numerous other

professional organizations. Miller continues to work part-time in business development and program manager for Westech International of Albuquerque, NM. Miller is a great source of history for AAS and AnF and a resource for JAA. He was inducted into the UNL AFROTC Hall of Fame in 1999.

Meet the Officers:

Summer Folsom

Summer has been a member of Silver Wings since 1997 when she was at the University of Georgia's Col. L. G. Duggar Chapter.

During her time in Silver Wings, she served as the NBC, NPAR, and REO for Region III (formerly Region C) on the national level and on the chapter level she served as president, vice-president and secretary. Since joining the JAA, she has served as the National President and is currently the National Technology Officer, which is a great compliment to her career as a technology consultant.

