

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor

Photo by JoseAndresRuizPhotography.com



*Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright—wearing one of her famous brooches—meets Maggie Woodward (left) and Dan Woodward (center) before delivering a keynote address, a highlight of the Arnold Air Society-Silver Wings Conclave.*



*Albright chats with Scott Van Cleef (right), AFA's Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, and Leonard Vernamonti (center), AFA's National Treasurer.*

Photo by JoseAndresRuizPhotography.com

## Conclave in D.C.

When some 1,150 Arnold Air Society AFROTC cadets and students from Silver Wings gathered in Washington, D.C., in April for their National Conclave, they had backing from several local Air Force Association chapters: the **Nation's Capital Chapter** in D.C.; the **Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter** and **Gen. Charles A. Gabriel Chapter**, both in Virginia; and the **Thomas W. Anthony Chapter** of Maryland.

An affiliate of AFA, the Arnold Air Society is a professional, honorary service organization for cadets in Air Force officer candidate programs. Silver Wings is its sister organization, with a membership of college students focused on community service and supporting the military.

AFA's involvement in the 2014 AAS-SW conclave began last year when Nation's Capital Chapter member Lt. Col. Darryl Terrell, from Howard University's AFROTC Det. 130, told the chapter that the cadets wanted D.C. to be the next convention site. The chapter and its industry partners backed the cadets' campaign, arranging for the designing and printing of the brochure and nomination material used at the 2013 NATCON in Atlanta to bid for Washington as the 2014 host city.

When D.C. won the honor, the hard work began, said Nation's Capital Chapter President Bruce VanSkiver. "It was like the dog chased the car and caught it. Now what?"

VanSkiver, an AAS alumni, headed a steering committee for the local AFA chapters. They concentrated their efforts on organizing a Saturday night social, where the college students would have a chance to speak informally with senior leaders from the Air Force, government, and industry.

The Anthony Chapter president, John L. Huggins Jr., said most of his group's fund-raising came through member

*In her keynote address, Albright spoke of how the Air Force touched her life, going back to her childhood and the AAF in World War II London. Here, she takes part in the Q&A moderated by Silver Wings President Ryan Westfall.*



Photo by JoseAndresRuizPhotography.com

*AAS cadets and Silver Wings students listen to the US Air Force Band's Max Impact rock group at the Saturday night mixer funded by four Washington, D.C.-area chapters.*



Photo by Jonathan Dagle

donations. He called this “only natural” because they have long supported their area’s cadets in wide-ranging projects.

As for the other chapters’ fund-raising, VanSkiver said, “We scoured all the industry partners out there.” With their help, the four chapters raised more than \$25,000.

That secured the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum as the location for the after-hours, private-function Saturday night social. VanSkiver gave credit to chapter member Jack Catton Jr. and Steele Chapter’s Duncan J. McNabb, who both worked to lower the price of this venue, chosen for its aerospace education value.

Some of the other high-profile events during the five-day conclave were keynote addresses by former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, and Lt. Gen. David Goldfein, director of the Joint Staff. AFA also sponsored an awards luncheon, with its Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, Jerry E. White, as master of ceremonies.

AAS Executive Director Daniel P. Woodward said this gathering was the second most widely attended National Conclave in a decade and couldn’t have been carried out without help from the AFA chapters.

**New AFA Chapter: Pride of the Adirondacks**

Besides Washington, D.C.’s, selection as the 2014 conclave site, something else resulted from last year’s AAS-SW National Conclave: one of AFA’s newest chapters, **Pride of the Adirondacks**.

Centered at Clarkson University’s AFROTC Det. 536 in Potsdam, N.Y., the chapter first met on March 2, 2014.

That was 17 days before Scott Van Cleef, AFA’s Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, even signed its charter. Chapter President Nicholas Donato formally received

*Northeast Region President Maxine Rauch (far left) presented AFA’s new chapter, Pride of the Adirondacks, with its charter on April 12. Donato holds the document.*



Photo by JoseAndresRuizPhotography.com

*Pride of the Adirondacks Chapter President Nicholas Donato (second from right) and several fellow cadets drove from upstate New York to D.C. to attend the 2014 AAS-SW National Conclave. Above: They relax between business sessions.*



Photo via Maxine Rauch

# SUMMER IN D.C.

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*This yearbook photo features AFROTC cadet Robert Barns (left) helping sophomore Cynthia Rubio, member of an upstate New York high school CyberPatriot team. The Genesee Valley Chapter got this team established.*



Photo by MSgt. Greg Cross

*Goddard Chapter's TSgt. Steven Rutledge (left) and Maj. John Bixby (third from left) hit the buffet at an awards event. Who's in the flight suit? One of the 100 unexpected guests.*

the document on April 12, when North-east Region President Maxine Rauch and Charles Rauch, the New York state president, traveled up from Long Island, N.Y., to the Clarkson campus.

A sophomore majoring in aeronautical engineering, Donato says he was inspired to start the chapter last year, after attending the conclave, where he was encouraged to make contact with his local AFA chapter as a way to strengthen AAS. Back on campus, though, he searched the AFA website and couldn't find one. So he decided to take the initiative.

Donato says that being a member of an AFA chapter differs from belonging to AAS because the chapter is "not limited to cadets" but has a broader scope, including veterans, local business leaders, and others who support a strong national defense. He has been "working on generating interest in the community" from other military-related organizations and has received good feedback from Clarkson faculty members.

Besides Donato, the new chapter's officers are: Jessica V. Szeliga, VP; Joseph A. Scataro, secretary; and Nathaniel G. Warren, treasurer.

The chapter takes its name from a B-47 that served in Strategic Air Command. *Pride of the Adirondacks* won so many "Best" awards at a 1965 SAC bombing and navigation competition at Fairchild AFB, Wash., that some called it the "World's Best B-47." It was put on static display at Plattsburgh Air Force Base—today an airport—when SAC began phasing out Stratojets. The bomber is still there, and now, so is a new AFA chapter.

**CyberPatriot**

The yearbook for the Franklin School of Integrated Arts and Technology just came out. It features three photos of the Rochester, N.Y., school's CyberPatriot VI team—a group born over a cup of coffee from the **Genesee Valley Chapter**.

Team coach Joseph T. Cicero, a social studies teacher at the school, explained that Chapter President Alfred E. Smith took him and biology teacher Timothy Johnsen out for coffee one day. Smith wanted them to participate in CyberPatriot, AFA's cyber education and competition program. But the teachers were worried about the time commitment involved, wondered if they could find enough students to form a team, and weren't sure they had enough technical expertise.

The solution? Smith "pulled in RIT," says Cicero. That's the Rochester Institute of Technology, where chapter member Lt. Col. Erik J. Lagerquist heads AFROTC Det. 538.

Backed by those resources, Cicero said he and Johnsen then "felt like we weren't going it alone."

To their surprise, 20 students applied for a place on the team. Cicero said this enabled him to be selective. He said he pulled the "smartest of the smart" from his Advanced Placement World History class, for example.

School officials understood that training for the competition meant the team members learned and applied science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a hands-on way. They sometimes excused the team members from classes, says Cicero. So on occasion, the CyberPatriot students could spend the entire day training.

The team was a "middle scorer" in the competition, Cicero says. "No trophies or medals." But yearbook honors. And the team told him they will all be back for the next round of CyberPatriot.

**Party Crashers**

A hundred people crashing an AFA awards banquet?

It happened to California's **Robert H. Goddard Chapter** as cohosts of the

44th annual joint awards presentation with a local Air Force Sergeants Association chapter.

The afternoon reception in March took place at Vandenberg Air Force Base's Pacific Coast Club and honored the top performers from the 30th Space Wing. Among the winners were: chapter member Lt. Col. Ramiro Riojas, from Vandenberg's National Reconnaissance Office, named Military Member of the Year; Lockheed Martin, named Community Partner of the Year; and the 2nd Range Operations Squadron, Falcon 9 Crew, recognized as Best Space Operations Crew.

Chapter President Juan E. Cruz said the planners think in terms of squadrons and knew some were bringing 20 guests, some only three or four, and one squadron never replied to the invitation.

"We made allocations just in case," Cruz commented. Good thing because the enthusiasm of unit commanders, the lure of food, and the event's time slot—people didn't have to return to work afterward—brought out extra guests, he said.

"We did have a bit of chaos for about five minutes," wrote Cruz in an email, "but the young airman who was in charge of seating, A1C Stephen Spor, was able to think on his feet and was able to accommodate all of our guests."

Retired CMSgt. James E. Lokovic, vice chairman for the AFSA International Legislative Committee and a member of AFA's **Salt Lake City Chapter**, was guest speaker.

See photos from the awards presentations on the chapter's Facebook page.

**Drumbeats & Hangar Stories**

Dann D. Mattiza, Florida Region president and **Hurlburt Chapter** membership director, credits a retired vice admiral with the idea.



*At the joint-services all-aviators gathering—co-hosted in Florida by the Hurlburt Chapter—many guests displayed their military résumé on their backs.*



Jerry Unruh realized that since military support organizations all have chapters in the Pensacola area, why not bring them together, so members can meet each other, plan community projects, and—of course—tell “hangar stories”?

Unruh pulled in representatives from AFA, Navy League, Marine Corps League, and Order of Daedalians military pilots. He then looked beyond this circle and invited USAF’s 479th Flying Training Group, headed by Col. Thomas B. Shank, from Naval Air Station Pensacola and all fliers, Active Duty, retired, and former-service, from all branches.

A steering committee held weekly “drumbeat” meetings—status updates—

by telephone. Mattiza emails: “The reports from committee members sounded positive and encouraging, but we really could only guess at the final attendance numbers.”

In the end, some 300 guests showed up at the Pensacola Yacht Club for the event. Mattiza said: “Aviators in flight suits (even the older guys) came through the doors, along with a number of special invitees who flew in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.”

One of them was retired USAF Lt. Col. Thomas S. Pyle, a Hurlburt Chapter member with hangar stories from two services and a reserve component. Pyle served in the Marine Corps from 1954

to 1957, in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1959, then in USAF as an F-105 electronic warfare officer at Takhli RTAB, Thailand. He was shot down near Hanoi in 1966 and remained a POW until 1973.

The all-aviators joint-services event proved so successful that Mattiza said, “We will be hosting our next event in a few months.”

**More Chapter News**

■ On April 2, the **Swamp Fox Chapter** in Sumter, S.C., co-hosted their

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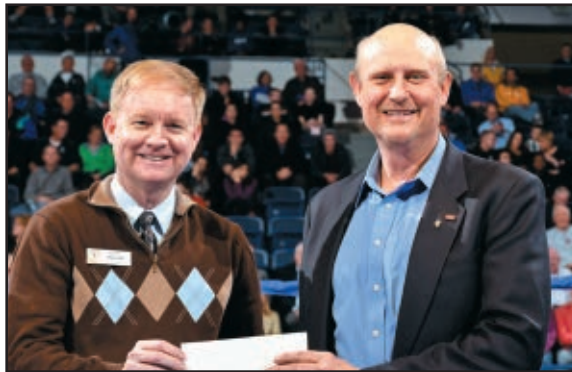




*In South Carolina, Swamp Fox Chapter President Bush Hanson (left) welcomed guest speaker Maj. Gen. Jim Post, who spoke about sequestration's effects on Air Combat Command's readiness.*

yearly dinner with the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. Maj. Gen. James N. Post III was guest speaker. He is director of operations at Air Combat Command at JB Langley-Eustis, Va., and served nearly three years at Shaw AFB, S.C., as an F-16 evaluation pilot, an operations officer for the 79th Fighter Squadron, and most recently as commander of the 55th Fighter Squadron. Chapter President Bush Hanson said 140 guests turned out—a solid number, considering the event had been delayed for more than a month, due to a severe ice storm in mid-February. ■

*Jerry Allen DeBusk holds a book and an AFA Certificate and wears a chapter-produced medallion—all presented by Florida's Sarasota-Manatee Chapter President Mike Richardson (left). DeBusk and Kaia Clark received awards from the chapter for their aerospace-themed entries in the Sarasota Regional Science, Engineering, and Technology Fair.*



*And in this corner: At the Air Force Academy's boxing tournament, Scott Hallam (left) receives a donation from Tom Ocvirk, secretary of the Lance P. Sijan Chapter in Colorado. Hallam represented The Home Front Cares charity. The chapter raised funds for it through a pizza party attended by 80 guests before the boxing match.*

*Leigh Wade Chapter President Gary Metzinger (back row, center, in sunglasses) and chapter member CMSgt. Jeffrey Gideon (back row, second from left) ran a 5K in April with 345th Training Squadron members from Fort Lee, Va. The road race helped fund the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Va.*



[reunions@afa.org](mailto:reunions@afa.org)  
**Reunions**

**1st Flight Det**, Nha Trang AB, South Vietnam (1964-72). Oct. 19-24, Las Vegas. **Contact:** Roger Gibson (228-209-1181) (rgibson2403@aol.com).

**20th & 81st TAC Fighter Wg Gp.** Oct. 8-14, The Villages, FL. **Contact:** Gregory Vogel (352-633-6029) (gvoegel55@yahoo.com).

**410th Security Police Sq.** July 12, former K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI. **Contact:** Kurt Carlson (carlson.kurt@yahoo.com).

**Berlin Airlift Vets Assn.** Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Nashville, TN. **Contact:** J. W. Studak, 3204 Benbrook Dr., Austin, TX 78757 (512-452-0903).

**Phan Rang AB**, South Vietnam. Oct. 9-11, Doubletree, Tucson, AZ. **Contact:** Lou Ruggiero (louruggs@comcast.net).

**UPT Class 67-D.** **Contact:** Mike Ridnour (704-385-9613) (dridnour@mindspring.com). ■



*Lauren Incontrera received the national-level AFA 2013 VA Employee of the Year award, presented by the Gen. Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz Chapter in New York in April. Incontrera is the women-veterans program manager for the VA's Hudson Valley Health Care System. Chapter officers are l-r: Howard Harmon, William Shembeda, William Sarama, Edward Garrett, David Ribbe, Joseph Traina, and Gilbert Raines.*

*Civil Air Patrol Raritan Valley (N.J.) Composite Squadron cadets used an AFA/CAP grant to help them compete in a robotics tech challenge. That's their robot in front of them.*

