**USNA CLASS OF 1981 40th REUNION CLASS PROJECT DETAILS**

Our first goal, a gift of $450,000 to **International Programs,** will enable many midshipmen to participate in short-term cultural immersion opportunities like the 3-week Tri-Service Academy Cultural Immersion trip to Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore a few years back. A firstie on that trip had this to say about it:

“The program was a great experience for me both personally and professionally. I had the experience to develop myself personally by interacting with many different types of peoples and cultures over the trip. I developed many lasting relationships with the acquaintances I made throughout the trip. Professionally, it showed me the lasting effects that war leaves on a country. I witnessed the devastation that war can have on the persona of a nation and how the people of a nation control its overall outlook for the future. I saw hope in the eyes of many people who have experienced only war and have had next to nothing. Yet, the hope and hard work of the population of most the struggling nations in SE Asia are helping to improve the overall atmosphere of the region. I also witnessed the vast differences in the living conditions of societal classes.”

Private gifts in support of international programs at USNA enabled this mid and hundreds of others to have life-changing experiences and to gain perspectives that can't be taught in the classroom. The Supe’s goal is to send 500 mids per year abroad for Semester Study, Language Immersion, Non-language immersion or Foreign Navy Professional Training. But he only has enough appropriated funds to send about 300. Gifts such as ours make up the difference.

Our second area of support is the **Center for Academic Excellence**. When we were mids, academics was like swimming—sink or swim. And those of us who were not great academic “swimmers” had little recourse other than Extra Instruction or the help of classmates who were better students. Thus, about 20% of us left the Academy for academic reasons. Starting in 1989 that situation changed dramatically with the establishment of the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE). The mission of the CAE is to provide the highest quality academic support programs for the entire Brigade of Midshipmen. This mission is accomplished by offering learning and reading skills instruction, time management training, individual tutoring services and academic advising and counseling to all midshipmen. In 2015 2,817 midshipmen visited the CAE over 39,000 times for academic help. Evening Supplemental Instruction classes offer support in chemistry, physics, math, cyber security and engineering covering 16 core STEM courses. The Midshipmen Group Study Program supplements dozens of courses and is led by over 100 upper class teaching experts. And the Writing Center provides one-on-one peer or professional writing consultations to over 150 mids per week in addition to holding public speaking and grammar workshops. The CAE is 60% funded by appropriated funds and 40% by gift funds. It is most significant that our support of the CAE is direct support to thousands of midshipmen who use the services of the Center every year. Your gift will help midshipmen graduate and become fine officers in the Naval Service—midshipmen who might not have graduated were it not for your generosity. What more powerful gift could we give than the gift of a career of service to our nation? A gift received by a USMC Major who said, “Without the help of the Academic Center, I would not have graduated from USNA. I am now competitive for command.” A gift to a “JG” who said, “I would never have graduated were it not for the people and the programs provided by the Academic Center.” We’re not buying a bench or funding a professor who may touch the lives of some midshipmen during their four years by the Bay. We, the Class of 1981, are creating future leaders for the Navy and Marine Corps. What gift could be more important than that?

Our third goal is to support the **Fund for Athletic Excellence**. This fund supports all levels of athletics at the Academy including varsity, club, and intramural teams and, therefore, all midshipmen. While other institutions devote unprecedented resources to varsity athletic programs, no other institution supports the number of athletic programs or makes such a commitment to athletic excellence across the entire physical mission spectrum. Many of our classmates are a testament to the fact that the attributes of successful leaders are developed as much on the playing field as in the classroom. With our $375,000 gift, the Academy will be well-positioned to continue its successful intercollegiate, club, and intramural programs. An important footnote: The Foundation and NAAA have established a partnership to define four levels of annual giving to Athletic Excellence ($2,500, $5,000, $10,000 and $25,000) that come with some significant benefits. If you are interested, contact Rich Goldsby at the Foundation for further details at (410) 295-4167.

Finally, our Class Gift will also support the **Naval Academy Annual Fund**. The Superintendent considers the Annual Fund to be the lifeblood of private gift support for the Academy for two reasons. First, without the Annual Fund, the USNA Foundation wouldn't exist. And without the work of the Foundation, there would not be: over 25 privately supported academic, leadership and ethics professors; the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership; the Center for Academic Excellence; the Brigade Sports Complex; the greatly improved Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium; the Memorial Hall Valor and Operational Loss displays; the vastly improved Museum in Preble Hall; a significant portion of varsity, club and intramural sports programs; overseas cultural immersion opportunities for about 200 midshipmen annually; the new Center for Cyber Security Studies; and many other gift supported areas that have transformed the Academy from a good institution to a great one. Second, the Annual Fund provides the Superintendent unrestricted dollars each year that he uses to jump-start, and sometimes sustain, programs that prepare our Midshipmen to face a complicated and ever-changing world. And, without the Annual Fund we would not enjoy the many services provided by our Alumni Association such as *Shipmate* magazine, Class Reunion support, the e-newsletter *Wave Tops*, the information and video packed www.usna.com, the USNA smart phone app, and many other services that we take for granted.