



USAF Academy Men's & Women's Gymnastics Team Funds



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Campaign Co-Director

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US Olympics Coach, 1976

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Dennis Ramsey

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AFA Gymnastics Coach, '74-'79

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AFA Gymnastics Coach, '77-'80

Jill Archer Schuff

AFA Gymnast

Women's Team MVP, 1980

Quarterly Update – 2016/02/28

USAFA Gymnastics Alumni, Parents, and "Friends of USAFA Gymnastics,"

Our opening topic for this update is the **USAFA Gymnastics 60-year Reunion**. If you were one of the ~150 alums/spouses who attended the festivities on 5-6 February . . . thanks for attending! For those of you who couldn't escape reality to join us . . . we missed you . . . it was truly outstanding!

The Reunion's lead organizer, Ken Kemper ('90) and his small committee are compiling a summary and photo journal of the event. Additionally, Ken is drafting an article for inclusion in Checkpoints. While those are being completed, here are a few highlights:

- Ken and his team did a brilliant job developing and executing their 2-day agenda
 - Friday lunch at Mitchell Hall -- academic & dorm tours with 4 gymnasts -- Q&A with the Vice Athletic Director (Col Brian Hill), Vice Dean (Col Kathleen Harrington), and Vice Commandant (Col Dale Holland) – watch gymnastics practice – Friday evening social at the Drury Hotel – Saturday morning brunches – double dual gymnastics meet (think again if you thought your generation of gymnasts was good!) – Reunion Banquet at the Falcon Club (to include all the gymnasts and coaches)
- The banquet was highlighted with multiple, heartfelt remarks by Coach Doug Day, Coach Jeff Robinson, Jack Howell ('59), Lynn Ellen Vergis ('82), and Ken Kemper ('90).
 - Many thanks to all the current gymnasts as they spread out and sat in pairs at practically all the round banquet tables. (They thoroughly enjoyed our "tall tales" and certainly walked away with a greater appreciation of the gymnastics heritage they're carrying forward!).

Finally, the "behind the scenes" work by Garry Dudley ('68), Chuck Schweiss ('82) and Nancy Kiyota ('82) was absolutely huge as was the "hosting" of the Saturday Brunches by Garry & Tina Dudley ('68), Ted & Leslie Brewer ('82), and Brian & Lindsey Moore ('06). Everyone greatly appreciated their collective efforts as well!

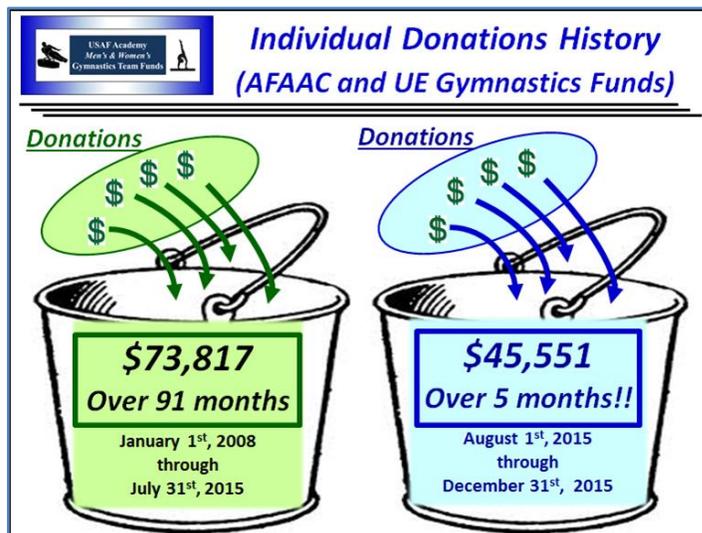
Per "post-reunion" tradition, the organizers for the upcoming 65-year Reunion (in February, 2021) were announced at the end of the banquet. Many thanks to USAFA gymnastics alums Lynn Ellen Vergis ('82) and Nancy Kiyota ('82) for grabbing that chalky baton! Mark your calendars now everyone!!!

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On to our final topic. Our campaign has not only become a permanent, visible presence in the West Gym (see picture below), but thanks to your support of our gymnasts we've also nurtured an expanded donor involvement. As you can see in the slide below, individual donors have provided \$45,551 in the 5 months since our "Campaign Kickoff" on August 1st of 2015 – quite impressive when noting how much was donated in the 91 months prior.



As anticipated, both Doug Day and Jeff Robinson have been quite appreciative and excited with additional funding to help fill that "Margin of Excellence" gap that's existed for the last several years. Recognizing they're only half way through the current fiscal year and fully aware that USAFA's appropriated funds will only cover ~85% of their needs, they're taking the cautionary route: wait until this coming September to determine their plan for these campaign donations.

While their top budgetary requirements include a) long-term funding for 3rd coaches, b) additional "away meets" during the 2017 season, and c) capturing "USAFA Gymnastics Heritage" with new displays and pictures, they are well aware that this donated money can be "rolled over" to future years if needed. That simple fact gives them all the planning flexibility they need! We'll keep you posted on their spending plan in our campaign's August quarterly update.

That's it for this quarter. Please note on our campaign website (the link is within our transmittal email) that there are still several Men's and Women's Gymnastics Meets remaining for this season. Hopefully one is occurring in your neck of the woods and you can attend! Also, for all you historic donors, if you hadn't already received your "USAFA Gymnastics Campaign Coin" while at the Reunion, you'll see it soon in the mail!

All the best, thanks for your support, and GO FALCONS!

Mark

**Mark Zamzow, Major General (retired), USAF
USAFA Gymnast and Coach, Class of '78
Co-Director, USAFA Gymnastics Funds Campaign**

Kim

**Dr Kim Broughton
USAFA Gymnast and Coach, Class of '03
Co-Director, USAFA Gymnastics Funds Campaign**



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