



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



Quarterly Update – 2016/08/30

USAFA Gymnastics Alumni, Parents, and “Friends of USAFA Gymnastics,”

Happy Anniversary! Our USAFA Gymnastics Team Funds Campaign has officially completed our first year as we “kicked off” way back on 1 August 2015. One year behind us and many, many more to go! We’re also pleased to announce that we’ve added 100+ new contacts (mostly gymnastics alums) to our campaign’s email database. Welcome to those folks and please thoroughly explore our website -- we look forward to your feedback and support!

We think it appropriate for this update that we first remind everyone of our campaign’s purpose (from our website, <http://www.supportusafagymnastics.org/our-purpose.html>):

In 2008, two athletics funds were established in support of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) gymnastics teams: the *Men's Gymnastics Team Fund* and the *Women's Gymnastics Team Fund*. While these funds have garnered modest donations over the years, there is now a profound need to augment each team’s budget and to fill existing gaps in programmed funds. In response to that requirement the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation (AFAAC) and the USAFA Endowment, both of which are 501(c)3 organizations, are sponsoring the *SupportUSAFAgymnastics.org* website and our *USAF Academy Gymnastics Team Funds Campaign* that will continue over the long term.

The USAF Academy faced tremendous challenges with their budget submission for the 2015 fiscal year. While funding cuts to the Commandant, Dean, and Athletic Director were all significant, one drastic course of action under consideration was elimination of both USAFA Gymnastics Teams. Fortunately, at the last hour, funds were re-allocated and the teams were spared. Our campaign seeks to secure donations that will eliminate current funding gaps – essentially provide “**Margin of Excellence**” funds that enhance the cadet’s leadership and character development while enabling them to attain their full athletic potential as gymnasts.

Our campaign efforts will be focused on the following objectives:

- *Preserve the Past and Protect the Future of the USAFA Gymnastics Teams*
- *Enhance each gymnast’s leadership and character development*
- *Ensure today’s gymnasts enjoy the same team environment that earlier cadets experienced*
- *Provide “Margin of Excellence” funds to fill budgetary shortfalls identified by the Athletic Department*

We ask for your generous support of our campaign – it’s all about the gymnasts, their professional development and this unique athletic opportunity that provides so much to their USAFA experience.

Executive Committee

Campaign Co-Director

Mark Zamzow, '78

Major General (retired), USAF

Campaign Co-Director

Kim Broughton, '03

M.D., Orthopedic Surgery

Athletic Department Liaison

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Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF

USAFA Endowment Liaison

Mark Hyatt, '74

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Alumni Affairs Liaison

Ted Brewer, '82

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AFA Gymnast

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Brigadier General (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnast

Orwyn Sampson

Brigadier General (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnastics Coach, '69

Dr Jimmy Tanaka

AFA Gymnastics Coach '60-'64

Karl Schier

Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnastics Coach '65-'68, '70-'76

US Olympics Coach, 1976

Lou Burkel

Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnastics Coach '76-'84, '86-'05

Dennis Ramsey

Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnastics Coach '79-'86, '04-'06

Carl Townsend

Major (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnastics Coach, '74-'79

Mary Camille Maddox

AFA Gymnastics Coach, '77-'80

Cheryl Botzong

AFA Gymnastics Coach, '84-'90

Jill Archer Schuff

AFA Gymnast

Women's Team MVP, 1980



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As we reflect back on our first 12 months, we're quite proud of the support donors have provided: **\$62,563.20** between 1 Aug 2015 and 31 July 2016 to be exact! On behalf of the gymnasts and coaches, **Thanks so very much!** With both the Men's and Women's Gymnastics Teams continuing to endure that approximate 10% shortfall in funds provided by the Air Force, we're filling that "Margin of Excellence" gap nicely. Here's how the coaches are using our donations:

- **Women's Team:** Coach Doug Day has decided to align your Campaign donations to cover the salary for a 3rd coach! He's really excited about the qualifications of this new coach and what she'll bring to the team. Now, with this new "3 Coach" reality as the norm for the long-term, we have a bit more pressure on our Campaign. Our goal remains to expand our donor base and overall donations – can't rest on our past laurels – but we need to do more than just sustain this 3rd coach for Women's Gymnastics. Please help us and also spread the word!
- **Men's Team:** Coach Jeff Robinson on the other hand already has his 3rd coach position funded and filled for this upcoming season only. So he is "tactically" waiting for his fiscal year 2017 budget (for 1 Oct 2016 to 30 Sept 2017) to be finalized before he determines how to use your Campaign donations. He'll receive his new budget, as you might have already surmised, just before the end of September. We'll pass his decision on to you in our November Quarterly Update. Again however, we need to sustain and expand donations for the Men's Team as well!

On a different note, one of the relatively new projects the coaches are planning is the USAFA Gymnastics Heritage Hallway. As soon as the upgrade construction of the main hallway outside the West Gym is completed next spring, both sides of the hallway (approximately 50 feet on each wall) will be devoted to Gymnastics. The coaches will continue designing their displays over the upcoming year, and they've agreed to give our Campaign a small section of one wall which we'll devote to donor recognition. On the "How to Donate" page of our campaign website (www.supportUSAFAgymnastics.org), you'll see how we've delineated our **Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Podium Donor Levels**. Our Campaign will soon contract a stone mason to make large (48" x 30") plaques for each donor level, and these will display the names of those donors. Once hung, those plaques will be one of the first displays seen as folks enter the Heritage Hall -- we think that will be a superb way in which to honor our Campaign's significant donors.

Finally, continuing in the "thank you donors" line of thought, we're hosting our first annual **"Donor Appreciation Dinner" from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday, 13 January at USAFA's Falcon Club**. Unfortunately, due to continuing construction efforts in the south hallway along the West Gym, a "double dual" meet is not possible for this coming gymnastics season. That weekend however, the **Women's Team competes in Denver at Denver University at 6:00 pm on Saturday, 14 January**. Additionally, the **Men's Team competes in the Rocky Mountain Open at USAFA at 6:00 pm on Saturday, 14 January** (against Oklahoma, Nebraska, Washington, Arizona State, and the US Olympic Training Center gymnasts). With those dates/times in mind, we're hoping Donor Appreciation Dinner attendees will attend the Donor Appreciation Dinner on Friday night and then the gymnastics meet of their choice on Saturday night. Please mark your calendars now and we'll send you more specific details about that weekend in our November Quarterly Update.

We're now entering our Campaign's second year. And while last year's total donation figure at first glance is quite impressive, our goal is to attain at least an additional **\$100,000 by August 1st of 2017**. USAFA Gymnastics Alumni (now numbering 477 letter winners): please think back to your days as a gymnast, reflect on how that program "shaped" you as an officer and leader, and consider making routine, automatic donations of any amount at our Campaign website. Every monthly donation adds up, and today's gymnasts and coaches would certainly appreciate your support! 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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