



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



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

Chuck Schweiss, '82

Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF

USAFA Endowment Liaison

Mark Hyatt, '74

Colonel (retired), USAF

Alumni Affairs Liaison

Ted Brewer, '82

Colonel (retired), USAF

Honorary Chairs

Glenn Spears, '78

Lieutenant General (retired), USAF

AFA Gymnast

John Gruesser, '71

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

Jill Archer Schuff

AFA Gymnast

Women's Team MVP, 1980

Quarterly Update #1 – 2015/08/01

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

I'm sending you this letter on behalf of the Honorary Chairs and Committee Members for the USAFA Gymnastics Funds Campaign. This is the inaugural edition of what will become a quarterly update.

In the spring of 2014, during the final rounds of the Air Force budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2015, both the USAFA Men's and Women's Gymnastics Teams were identified for complete elimination. They were among six USAFA intercollegiate teams that were deemed unaffordable in the USAFA Program Objective Memorandum (POM) submission because of budget cuts imposed upon the Academy. Fortunately, in the very last hour, the Air Staff shifted funds from other programs to sustain funding for all six of those teams.

Those events were an awakening for many USAFA gymnastics alums and parents who heard the alarming news. We immediately recognized the need to mobilize. Our mantra: the gymnastics teams should never again end up in such a precarious situation. We suspect that you feel the same way.

Following many discussions and planning efforts with Kim Broughton ('03), Chuck Schweiss ('82), Ted Brewer ('82), Mark Hyatt ('74), and Lou Burkel (head coach for over two decades) and through partnership with the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation (AFAAC) and the USAFA Endowment (UE), we collectively developed a viable way ahead to preserve and sustain our USAFA gymnastics heritage and the opportunity for future USAFA cadets to have the full gymnastics opportunity that earlier generations enjoyed and valued.

In 2008, the USAFA Endowment established both a Men's Gymnastics Team Fund and a Women's Gymnastics Team Fund. Their purpose: to help gymnasts attain that additional "Margin of Excellence" in gymnastics ability, character development and leadership development beyond the funding available in the teams' programmed budgets.

In late 2014, General Steve Lorenz, President and CEO of the USAFA Endowment, approved our establishment of a [USAFA Gymnastics Funds Campaign](#) in order to solicit more substantial donations to bolster the Endowment's existing gymnastics team funds. And in the spring of 2015, Dr. Nancy Hixson, the Interim CEO of the AFAAC, also pledged the AFAAC's support of our campaign.

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THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
ENDOWMENT

Our campaign's volunteer leadership now stands at 26 volunteers to include the Honorary Chairs and three committees. Currently, the Executive Committee is comprised of the following:

<i>Maj Gen (ret) Mark Zamzow</i>	<i>Campaign Co-Director</i>
<i>Dr Kim Broughton</i>	<i>Campaign Co-Director</i>
<i>Col (ret) Mark Hyatt</i>	<i>USAFA Endowment Liaison</i>
<i>Col (ret) George "Ted" Brewer</i>	<i>USAFA Alumni Affairs Liaison</i>
<i>Lt Col (ret) Chuck Schweiss</i>	<i>USAFA Athletic Department Liaison</i>

As you'd expect, we have several distinguished colleagues and friends who have volunteered to serve on our Honorary Committee, and they are listed below. Those of us on the Executive Committee look forward to their assistance, guidance and wisdom as we navigate forward.

<i>Glenn Spears, Lieutenant General (retired), USAF</i>	<i>Class of '78, USAFA Gymnast</i>
<i>John Grueser, Brigadier General (retired), USAFR</i>	<i>Class of '71, USAFA Gymnast</i>
<i>Orwyn Sampson, Brigadier General (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach 1969</i>
	<i>Men's Team Advisor 1973-1992</i>
<i>Dr. Jim Tanaka, Colonel (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach 1961-1964</i>
<i>Karl Schier, Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach, 1964-1968 and 1970-1976</i>
	<i>US Olympics Gymnastics Coach, 1976</i>
<i>Lou Burkel, Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach, 1976-1984, 1986-2005</i>
<i>Dennis Ramsey, Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach, 1979-1986, 2004-2006</i>
<i>Carl Townsend, Lieutenant Colonel (retired), USAF</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach, 1974-1979</i>
<i>Mary Camille Maddox</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnastics Coach, 1977-1980</i>
<i>Jill Archer Schuff</i>	<i>USAFA Gymnast, Women's Team MVP in 1980</i>

Over the last 12 months, we made substantial progress regarding development of our campaign vision, structure, themes, and donation solicitation tools.

Now, with this inaugural [USAFA Gymnastics Funds Campaign](#) letter to our "USAFA Gymnastics Family" database, we officially "Kick-off" our long term efforts!

Our overall campaign objectives are to . . .

- ***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***



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Our campaign is designed to solicit donations to the USAFA Gymnastics Men's and Women's Team Funds in order to enable a "bridging" of that Margin of Excellence gap. Former USAFA gymnasts and parents of USAFA gymnasts recognize how gymnastics positively shapes cadet athletes – we feel that our videos and other campaign materials help highlight that.

Our campaign website, www.supportUSAFgymnastics.org, was launched today and will provide you with campaign details. **Please take a look, watch the 2 videos, and browse through our website's informational tabs.**

While we certainly anticipate that this campaign will resonate with those associated with USAFA Gymnastics, we also expect that these same materials will capture the interest and support of those outside of USAFA, the military environment, and even gymnastics.

With the hope that you find our USAFA Gymnastics Campaign worthy of your support, how can you help our efforts?

1. Consider donating through our website

- *While any single donation amount is certainly appreciated, establishing a short-term or long-term automatic donation schedule gives the campaign the most impact*

2. Consider writing a short input for our website's "Testimonials" subpage

- *Simply email it to USAFgymnasticsFunds@gmail.com for insertion*

3. Consider serving on one of our committees for a couple of years

- *You can see where the open slots exist by looking at the "About Us" page of our website*

4. Consider "spreading the word" about our Campaign to friends and businesses

- *Feel free to print/forward this PDF, the website URL, and any other campaign material*

5. Consider helping us expand our "Friends of USAFA Gymnastics" database by forwarding this email to gymnastics alums, parents of gymnastics alums, and any others who might like to receive our periodic emails and updates.

- *Tell them to email USAFgymnasticsFunds@gmail.com and ask to be added to our database*

On behalf of the Honorary Chairs, the Executive Committee, and our Campaign Committees, thanks for your time and hopeful backing of our long term journey as we support our cadet gymnasts. Go Falcons!

Mark

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

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