



# SOCIETY NEWS

*Serving Graduates throughout  
Southwest Florida*

*Welcome!*

## Upcoming Events

### Parents Club Hail & Farewell

CONGRATUATIONS TO THE  
CLASS OF 2026 AND WELCOME  
TO THE CLASS OF 2030!

When: Saturday, May 30  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Place: The Club at  
Renaissance, Fort Myers

## Future Events

### SUMMER LUNCHEONS

When: June 30<sup>th</sup> & August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 1130  
Location: Connors Steakhouse,  
Fort Myers  
Pay as you go

- Fall Luncheon: Oct 28, 2026
- Watch Parties!  
Army A/F - Nov 7, 2026  
Army Navy - Dec 12, 2026
- Annual Meeting and  
Luncheon: Jan 30, 2027
- Founders Day: Mar 18, 2027
- Spring Luncheon: Apr 28, 2027

Dear Members and Friends -

Welcome to Our Summer Newsletter! Spring brought wonderful Society events and incredible cadet achievements. We hope you enjoy these highlights and look forward to seeing you this fall!

### A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: WEST POINT'S 50-YEAR AFFILIATION PROGRAM

Since 1999, West Point has fostered a unique bond between graduating classes through its 50-Year Affiliation Program, linking classes separated by fifty years in a tradition of mentorship, shared experiences, and enduring camaraderie.

Beginning on R-Day, the entering cadet class is paired with an alumni class that is fifty years its senior. Over the next four years, the graduates accompany their affiliated cadets at significant Academy events, creating a living link to the Academy's rich history and ensuring that lessons learned through decades of service are passed directly to those just beginning their journey as Army officers.



50-Year Affiliation Program

The purpose of the 50-Year Affiliation Program is to strengthen the ties between the graduates of yesterday and the cadets of today as both groups work together to strengthen the Long Gray Line as it serves our nation.

West Point Association of Graduates

Continued on Page 3



## *Celebrating Camaraderie*

**By Chris Williams '87,  
President, West Point Society of Naples**



Dear Members and Friends,

As another academic year draws to a close and we look toward summer, I find myself reflecting on legacy — not only what we have accomplished over the past several months, but also what we are building for the future. This year, our work has centered on three shared commitments: expanding our network of connections, upholding our foundational mission, and strengthening the bonds of camaraderie that unite us across generations and experiences.

That camaraderie is what makes our Society truly special. The bonds forged at West Point do not end at graduation; they extend across decades, connecting us through shared values, mutual respect, and common purpose.

We see this spirit in countless ways: in the energy of our football watch parties, the mentorship offered to cadet candidates, the support provided to Army families, and the stories exchanged at our luncheons. These moments remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves - a brotherhood and sisterhood that transcends rank, class year, career path, and life experience.

Celebrating camaraderie also means recognizing that every member brings unique value to our Society. Whether you served in combat or in garrison, pursued a military career or transitioned to civilian leadership, graduated decades ago or only recently, your experience enriches our collective story.

As we gather for upcoming events, I encourage each of you to connect with someone new, share your story, and listen to the stories of others. These personal connections are what transform an organization into a community and make our Society a true reflection of West Point's lasting spirit.



## A Legacy of Leadership: West Point's Enduring 50-Year Affiliation Program

### More Than Mentorship

The affiliation program extends far beyond formal guidance. Senior class members offer perspectives that textbooks cannot teach, sharing stories of leadership under pressure, ethical decision-making, and the maintenance of West Point values throughout life's challenges. As cadets "Grip Hands" with those who preceded them a half-century earlier, the 50-Year Affiliation Program has matured to become an indispensable element in not only the development of cadets but also in the strengthening of the Long Gray Line.

### Recent Program Highlights & Key Events in the 50-Year Affiliation Class

Since its inception in 1999, the 50-Year Affiliation Program has created structured touchpoints throughout the cadet experience. These include the following:

- **Reception Day (R-Day):** Members provide water and breakfast to incoming cadet candidates and their families, then witness the swearing-in ceremony.
- **March Back:** Alumni join cadets in the 13+ mile march from Camp Buckner to Main Post, culminating in a review before the Superintendent.
- **Acceptance Day:** Graduates join the new cadet class for the March Back and participate in the A-Day Parade as part of the reviewing party.
- **Yearling Flag Ceremony:** The affiliation class presents the Yearling class with their class flag after Cadet Field Training, symbolizing their journey.
- **Affirmation Ceremony:** The affiliation class presents a Class Coin to the Cow class, emphasizing their commitment to the Profession of Arms, followed by the Affirmation Oath.
- **Ring Weekend:** During Ring Weekend, members of the affiliation class attend the various activities serving to curate and strengthen their class connection with the cadet class.
- **Branch Night:** The affiliation class celebrates and congratulates cadets, with some requesting to be "pinned" by members of the 50-Year Affiliation class.
- **Graduation – 2LT Bar Presentation:** Distinguished members present graduating cadets with their first 2LT bars, engraved to symbolize the lasting connection between classes.

For the members of the WPSN, that affiliation begins at the Parents' Club Hail and Farewell, where we welcome our cadet candidates and wish them luck as they embark on their 47-month journey.

### Building Bridges Across Generations

Despite being separated by five decades of change, affiliate classes discover profound commonalities. The challenges of Beast Barracks, the pride of first wearing Army dress blues, and the weight of leadership responsibility create bonds that time cannot diminish. Young graduates gain real-world leadership insights, career transition guidance, and ethical grounding, while senior graduates find renewed purpose in guiding the next generation.

<https://www.westpointaog.org/traditions/50-year-affiliation-program/>



## A Legacy of Leadership: West Point's Enduring 50-Year Affiliation Program

### Sustaining the Long Gray Line

The West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) oversees this program through the Office of Class Support (845.446.1614, [50YearAffiliation@wpaog.org](mailto:50YearAffiliation@wpaog.org)). What began with the Class of 1949 supporting the Class of 1999 has grown into a comprehensive program that includes various touchpoints throughout the cadet experience, from R-Day through graduation and beyond. Recent innovations include virtual mentoring sessions and structured leadership workshops, allowing for more frequent connections despite geographic distances.

The West Point Society of Naples has witnessed firsthand the power of these affiliate relationships. Our members speak passionately about the guidance received from their senior affiliates and the joy of mentoring younger graduates. These connections strengthen not just individual classes but our entire West Point community.

### CLASS OF 1979 & CLASS OF 2029 - HAIL AND FAREWELL, MAY 2025

CLASS OF 1979 REPRESENTATIVES MIKE KOSTOFF AND TIM FORD  
WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2029



CLASS OF 2029 L TO R: JADEN WHITE, FELIPE JUNQUERIA, SYDNEY PABLO,  
CHRISTINE WU, AVA MICHALOPOULOS, ETHAN HYLWA, AND PATRICK HOOPER

### Looking Forward

For the Class of 2030, their journey with the Class of 1980 is just beginning. For the Class of 1980, this role as affiliate mentors offers an opportunity to give back to the institution that shaped their lives. Together, they will write the next chapter in this enduring tradition, proving once again that at West Point, graduation is not an ending but the beginning of a lifetime of service, growth, and connection.

The affiliation program embodies the essence of the Long Gray Line—an unbroken chain of leaders committed to Duty, Honor, Country, stretching from West Point's earliest days into its unlimited future.



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Spring  
Luncheon

**On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, the West Point Society of Naples gathered at The Club at Renaissance for our annual Spring Luncheon, featuring an engaging presentation from distinguished guest speaker LTG(R) Dana Chipman '80.**

LTG(R) Chipman served as the 38th United States Army Judge Advocate General (TJAG) before transitioning to civilian service as chief investigative counsel for the United States House Select Committee on Events surrounding the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, a position he held from 2014-2016.

The afternoon began with Derek DeVecchis leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Logan West, Class of 2019, leading the Cadet Prayer. Doug Whitehead led attendees in singing the Alma Mater.

LTG(R) Chipman's presentation, titled "Lessons in Congressional Oversight: There Are Better Ways to Pay College Tuition!" offered a compelling blend of professional insight and personal reflection. He shared how military service encompasses the full spectrum of human experience—humor, sacrifice, joy, and tragedy—drawing from his extensive career in both uniform and civilian government service.

His perspective on serving as chief counsel for the Benghazi Committee provided attendees with a rare behind-the-scenes look at congressional oversight and the complexities of high-profile investigations.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for Society members, parents, and supporters to connect while hearing from a leader whose career exemplifies service.





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Hail and Farewell

***Congratulations  
Class of 2026!***

When: Saturday, May 30  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Place: The Club at  
Renaissance, Fort Myers

## Summer Luncheons

When: June 30<sup>th</sup> &  
August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11:30 AM  
Location: Connors  
Steakhouse, Fort  
Myers  
Pay as you go



***Congratulations  
to the  
Class of 2026 -  
and Welcome to  
the Class of  
2030!***

## OUR FALL AND SPRING LINEUP OF EVENTS!

The WPAOG Leaders  
Conference will be held August  
11-15, 2026. Mike Zolidis will  
be the WPSN primary  
representative.

- Fall Luncheon: Oct 28, 2026
- Watch Parties!  
Army A/F - Nov 7, 2026  
Army Navy - Dec 12, 2026
- Annual Meeting and Luncheon:  
Jan 30, 2027
- Founders Day: Mar 18, 2027
- Spring Luncheon: Apr 28, 2027

**WPSN is looking to host a viewing of  
*Brothers on Three* - details to follow!**



**BROTHERS ON THREE**

© 2025 All Rights Reserved | Brothers on Three, a fiscally  
sponsored project of Veterans Collaborative, Inc.

*Brothers on Three* is an emotional, critically-acclaimed documentary that follows the West Point Army Rugby team. Directed by West Point graduate Sean Mullin, the film embeds with the cadets during their 2023 season as they attempt to defend their historic National Championship, ultimately exploring themes of brotherhood and leadership.



# SUPPORTING CADETS



West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



Thanks to all who joined us at the Backyard Social for a Parents Club get together - Everyone had a great time catching up! Go ARMY!!!

*2026 Hail & Farewell Banquet*

**Join Us  
May 30th!**

Saturday, May 30, 2026  
The Club at Renaissance  
Fort Myers, FL  
6:00pm - 8:30pm

ALL OLD GRADS, CADETS, CADET CANDIDATES & THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AS WE WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2030 AND BID FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2026

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



The Spring Luncheon

Thanks to WPSN and the Parents Club for all their support of cadets - and especially for the American Burrito gift certificates for TEES week! Yum!



For more information about the Parents Club, follow us on Facebook or contact [wppcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:wppcswfl@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/wppcswfl>



[www.westpointsocietyofnaples.com](http://www.westpointsocietyofnaples.com)

# MEET A SWFL CADET

SEBASTIAN CORREA

CLASS OF 2026

COMPANY A-1

ACADEMIC MAJOR: ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING/COMPUTER SCIENCE  
BRANCH: AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY



Sebastian Correa, from Riverview, Florida, graduated from Bell Academy in 2022. He received an appointment to West Point, entering that summer.

As a Yearling, following Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner, Sebastian had an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, working in computer modeling and AI-targeting. He did a subsequent AIAD during his Cow summer with Pulse Power at the National Nevada Security Site.

Sebastian has been deeply involved with Club Beyond throughout his time at West Point, becoming the Cadet-in-charge (CIC). Club Beyond (Young Life) is a youth ministry group with multiple trip sections where they sponsor camps for middle and high school students. He has also been involved in CyberTech, an academic club focusing on teaching, learning, and holding Cyber-related events, becoming the CIC for organizing trip sections during his Cow year. For company intramurals, he coached Orienteering and Functional Fitness (Funky Fit) last year. He was an official for Street Hockey and competed in combatives this year.

Sebastian has been involved in various research and group projects. For his capstone, his team built an autonomous (Tactical Microgrid Standard) power distribution system for use in austere tactical environments.

As a Cow, Sebastian was a Color Sergeant and a Squad Leader. In the summer following Cow year, he completed Cadet Leadership Development Training (CLDT). Last Summer, he did his Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) with the 2d Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum and was also a Beast Platoon Leader. Last summer, he was the Company Honor Officer and is currently the Battalion S4.

Sebastian branched Air Defense Artillery. After his Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) at Fort Sill, he will spend a follow-on year there in the Lieutenant Advanced Acquisition Program (LAAP) within the Air Defense Artillery training base before his first assignment in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) to work with counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS).



# MEET A SWFL CADET

CHRISTIAN V. KREEGEL

CLASS OF 2026

COMPANY F-1

ACADEMIC MAJOR: AMERICAN  
HISTORY

BRANCH: INFANTRY



Christian Kreegel graduated from Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda in 2022 and entered West Point that summer.

During Plebe Year, Christian did Power Lifting. Both Plebe and Yearling years, he participated in company athletics combatives, and then as a Cow and Firstie, he did Club Combatives. As a Cow, he was also the Company Grappling coach.

During both his Cow and Firstie years, he has been active in the Catholic clubs. He also was active in the Hunting Club all four years.

During Cow year, Christian was the Company Spirit Activities NCO and then a Squad Leader. Last summer, he was a Platoon Leader in Beast Barracks. During first semester Firstie year, he was the Company Cadet Activities Officer and is currently a Platoon Leader.

Last summer, Christian completed Air Assault School. His Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry in the 82d Airborne at Fort Bragg.

Christian's Capstone Project within the History Department is a thesis on Special Operations in Native American Warfare.

Branched Infantry, his first duty assignment will be in a Stryker battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Basis Lewis-McCord.

This coming summer, Christian will do his Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT) and Robin Sage, the culminating exercise for U.S. Army Special Forces candidates and will be graduating and commissioning in December 2026.



# MEET A SWFL CADET

DAVID LIU

CLASS OF 2026

COMPANY: C-4

ACADEMIC MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

BRANCH: UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, 62E1A

AERONAUTICAL DEVELOPMENTAL ENGINEER

David Liu graduated from Dunbar High School in 2022 and received an appointment to West Point to join the Class of 2026.

As a rising Yearling, David had a 7-week Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a Cow, he did another AIAD with the Physics and Nuclear Engineering Department (PANE) studying the detection of fast neutrons.

For company intramurals, David was in company Sandhurst and Ultimate Frisbee as a Plebe. As a Yearling, he was in flag football and functional fitness. As a Cow, he participated in grappling and was the Company coach for orienteering. As a Firstie, he was the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment cadet in charge (CIC) for basketball, and did grappling for a second time. David has been a part of the Theatre Arts Guild at West Point for his four years, doing such things as background acting, composing, video producing, prop making, and backstage work. He was CIC for the club Cow and Firstie years, organizing trips to see Broadway shows. He was also the Executive Officer and Producer for the 100<sup>th</sup> night show for the class of 2026.

David completed Cadet Field Training (CFT) at Camp Buckner as a Yearling, and Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT) during his Cow summer. He has completed the Norwegian Foot March twice and has earned the gold German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. During Cow year, David's leadership positions include being Platoon Sergeant and AS1/AS3. After assisting with our local Pre-Basic orientation for candidates entering any of the service academies and ROTC scholarship winners, he was a Company Executive Officer during Beast Barracks his Firstie Summer for his leadership detail. This year, he was the Company Knowledge Manager and the Company Honor Officer. As a Firstie, David spent his spring break in Sweden as a guest at Military Academy Karlberg as part of the Foreign Academy Exchange Program (FAEP). He then subsequently hosted two Swedish cadets at West Point for a week.

David presented at Projects Day for the past three years. As a yearling, his math-oriented project researched fractals focused on geometric tilings of the plane using binary fractal trees. As a Cow, he developed a hybrid quad-copter/fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) as part of SOCOM Ignite 2026. This UAV provided for range extension in fixed wing flight while retaining hovering agility with the usage of a droppable wing. This year, David teamed up with 8 other cadets on a project employing an autonomous swarm of UAVs to detect, localize, and map landmine threats.

David's Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) this past summer was at Fort Carson. Given his passion for aeronautics, and after a visit to Wright Patterson Air Force Base and considerable reflection, David is cross-commissioning into the Air Force as an Aeronautical Developmental Engineer. Following graduation, he will pursue a Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech as part of Georgia Tech's Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory.



# MEET A SWFL CADET

**RYAN A. SEGALLA**

**CLASS OF 2026**

**COMPANY F-4**

**ACADEMIC MAJOR: AMERICAN  
POLITICS**

**BRANCH: ADJUTANT GENERALS  
CORPS, BRANCH DETAILED ARMOR**



Ryan Segalla graduated from Reading Memorial High School in Reading, Massachusetts and entered the United States Military Academy with the Class of 2026 that summer as his parents moved to SWFL.

Following Plebe year, he completed Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner and graduated from Air Assault School. Ryan participated in the Company Combatives intramurals all four years. During Cow year, he was a combatives official, and he coached the company team Firstie year. He also did Functional Fitness (similar to cross fitness competition) one semester. Each of his four years, he completed the Norwegian Footmarch, earning the Silver Medal, and he also earned the Silver German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

As an American Politics major, he was active in the Domestic Affairs Forum all four years. This afforded multiple trip section opportunities to the District of Columbia with meetings with Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the national media.

During Cow summer, he was a Platoon Sergeant in Beast Barracks. He was a squad leader during the entire academic year with additional duties as Company Assistant S4 and Area NCO responsible to ensure that the company common areas are maintained. This year, he was the company S-1, and is currently the Company Finance Officer with oversight of the Company Store. His Capstone project addressed scaling counter-small unmanned aerial systems (C-sUAS) across the interagency domestically as well as internationally.

Last summer, he completed Cadet Leadership Development Training (CLDT) and did his Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 63d Armor, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS. He had the opportunity to spend time in both armor and infantry companies. He also had an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) as an intern with the United States Capitol Police.

Ryan branched Adjutant Generals Corps with a branch detail to Armor. His first duty assignment will be in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team in the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division at Fort Bliss, TX.

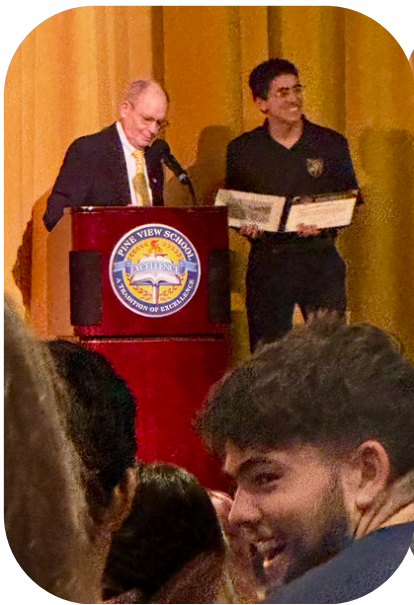




# FIELD FORCE UPDATES

Supporting Cadet Candidates

As our new cadet candidates close out their distinguished high school careers, the Field Force works hard to recognize their acceptance to West Point at their high school senior awards ceremonies or some other appropriate venue. As of this writing, we will have twelve new cadet candidates joining the Class of 2030, three candidates joining the USMA Prep School and one candidate going to a civil prep school!



Marty Bowling ('68) recognizes Andrew Kim ('30) and Paul Ramos ('30)



Russ Schott ('91) recognizes Trevor Spicer ('30) and his mother Janet Tempelaar





# FIELD FORCE UPDATES

## Supporting Cadet Candidates

The Field Force is essential in helping spread the word about West Point. Three ways we get the word out is through support of the Admissions Hometown Visit Program, Supporting Congressional “Academy Days”, and supporting local JROTC programs.



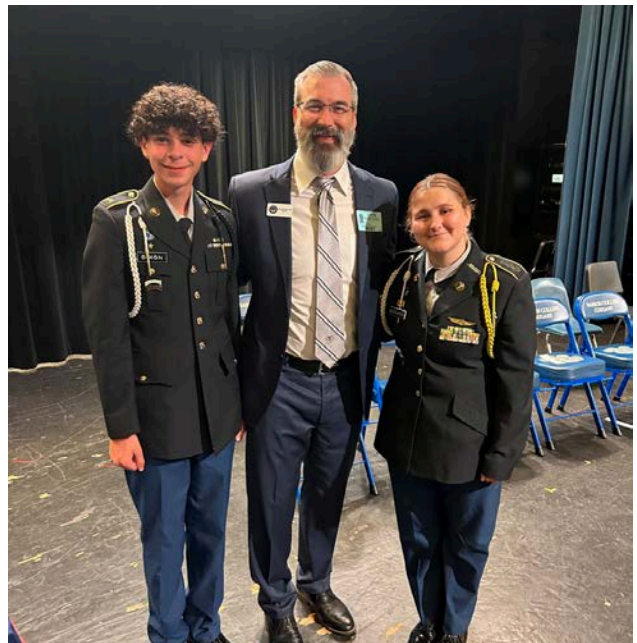
Marty Bowling ('68) hosting a Cadet Hometown Visit with Cadet Micah Thompson ('28), Andrew Kim ('30), Paul Ramos ('30), Joseph Garcia, Lauden Simon, Sofia Yu, Trey Piver, Devon Veal, and Cadet Ta Nguyen ('28)



Trevor Spicer ('30), Lee County JROTC Dep Area Cdr, and Elly Young ('30), Lee County JROTC Area Cdr)



Marty Bowling ('68) supporting FL17 Congressman Steube's Academy Day on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Sarasota Military Academy



Matt Shanahan ('99) presents WPSNs awards to Barron Collier students C/SSG Shane Dixon & C/CPT Mia Hutchinson





# FIELD FORCE UPDATES

Supporting Cadet Candidates



Carter Frye



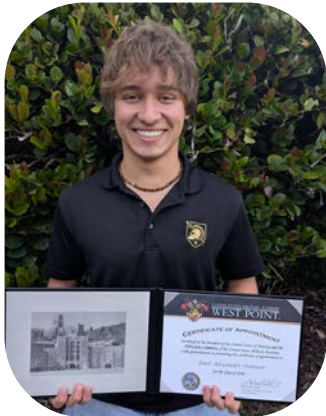
Elly Young



Chloe Dean



Yosef Frost



Emil Daniyar



Andrew Kim

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CADET CANDIDATES FOR THE CLASS OF 2030!

- Caine Cokkinias (Newsome HS)
- Carlyn Collison (Cardinal Mooney HS)
- Emil Daniyar (Barron Collier HS)
- Chloe Dean (Cape Coral HS)
- Yosef Frost (Classical Acad of Sarasota)
- Carter Frye (GMC/Fort Myers HS)
- Etienne Gaillard (Acellus Academy)
- Andrew Kim (Pine View School)
- Paul-Gabriel Ramos (Venice HS)
- Trevor Spicer (North Fort Myers HS)
- Christine Wu (Pine View School)
- Elly Young (Ida Baker HS)



Trevor Spicer



Caine Cokkinias





# DID YOU KNOW...

## WEST POINT'S ANNUAL PROJECTS DAY

West Point's annual Projects Day Research Symposium is a premier showcase of cadet-led research and innovation. Each year, over 900 cadets present more than 350 research projects through posters, presentations, and dynamic displays across academy grounds.

Key leaders, researchers, and benefactors from academic institutions, industry, and government converge on West Point to witness how cadets apply classroom learning to solve the Army's most complex problems. Research at West Point keeps the Academy's mission at its core: to build, educate, train, and inspire leaders of character ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and Nation.

**Several of our Southwest Florida cadets participated in this year's symposium, contributing their talents to cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines!**



**Lucas Granda-Musa '26**  
**Silent Panel Array Relay Kit (SPARK)**

The Silent Panel Array Relay Kit is a covert communication system that enables secure, bi-directional messaging without emitting radio-frequency or acoustic signals. SPARK embeds encrypted messages within visual codes that are optically captured, decoded, and decrypted by a receiving device. By eliminating reliance on the electromagnetic spectrum, the system mitigates vulnerabilities associated with RF detection, jamming, and spectrum denial

**Ronald L White '26**  
**Light Tethered Drone (LITED)**

This project investigated a low-signature power and communication architecture for small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS). His team designed and integrated a universal fiber-based interconnect that delivered remote power and data while reducing reliance on onboard batteries and eliminating conventional radio-frequency links using fiber optic tethers.



**Sebastian Correa '26**  
**TMS Power Distribution System (TMS)**

Our capstone team designed and built the first fully functioning, portable Tactical Microgrid Standard power distribution system suitable for use in austere tactical environments.





**David Liu '26**

### **SwarmTroopers (SWARM) and Advanced Robot Teaming for Minefield Detection**

This project investigates the development and field evaluation of coordinated autonomy algorithms for swarms of small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) to detect, localize, and map landmine threats. He designed a swarm teaming solutions to enable collaboration between a heterogeneous team of UAS with the objective of detecting mines on the ground

**Kai Sutter '26**

### **AutoZero: AI-Assisted Marksmanship for Speed & Precision (AUTOZERO)**

This project developed a web-based application that applies computer vision and artificial intelligence to enhance the marksmanship zeroing process by accelerating feedback during zeroing and digitizing shot data. The system improves training efficiency and enables commanders to collect longitudinal performance data across formations. This data-driven approach has the potential to strengthen marksmanship training and enhance overall lethality and readiness while reducing time and ammunition required.



**Ryan Segalla '26**

### **American Politics Capstone - JIATF 401: Scaling C-sUAS Coordination Capabilities**

The United States faces a critical national security gap in its defense against small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS). Joint Interagency Task Force 401 is responsible to lead and synchronize its C-sUAS efforts. There are several policy challenges due to a fragmented and outdated legal and policy landscape working across the civil and military environments; his team recommend solutions to these policy challenges.



**Chase A. Merriam '27**

### **The Effect of Rotor Wake Turbulence on High Energy Laser Propagation**

This study examines the effect that the turbulence generated by a rotary wing system has on the propagation performance of a high energy laser if it were mounted on a tilt-rotor aircraft as a point defense weapon. General atmospheric turbulence can scatter a laser beam over long distances, which can reduce the fluence of energy deposited on a target over time. We are using open-source rotary wing air flow data as a sample medium to simulate high energy laser propagation and determine its intensity distribution, and coherence at various distances from the aircraft.





**Christopher M Barr '26**

### **The Impact of Chinese Dual-use Digital and Physical Infrastructure in Latin America**

The Chinese government exerts influence in order to shape conditions in Latin American countries for its strategic purposes, including dual-use infrastructure in the areas of mobility and technology in particular. This research highlighted how China is doing so and identified areas in which the United States and its allies/partners can disrupt or defeat these efforts.

**Jacob M Azizi '26**

### **Supplier Selection for Critical Minerals in Space Supply Chains**

By systematically tracing critical components through a life cycle analysis (LCA), his team identified risks tied to foreign dependencies and proposed strategies to strengthen supply chain resilience.



**Robert Fritz '26**

### **From Concrete to Control: Measuring China's Belt and Road Influence in the Balkans and the U.S. Response**

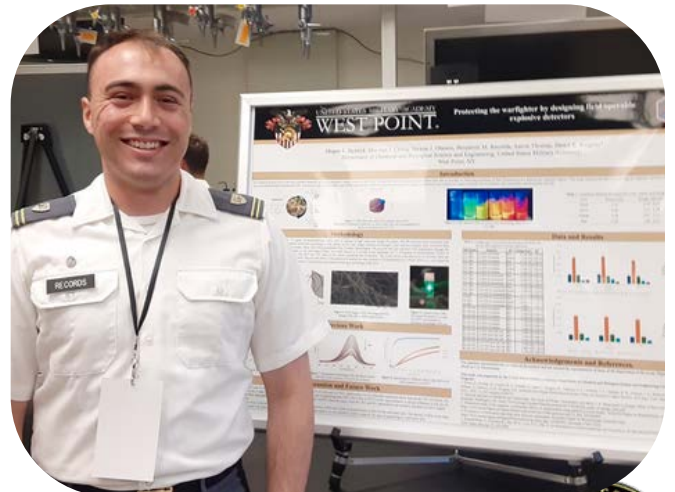
His team analyzed China's strategic objectives through their belt and road initiative in the Balkans specifically in digital and infrastructure applications.

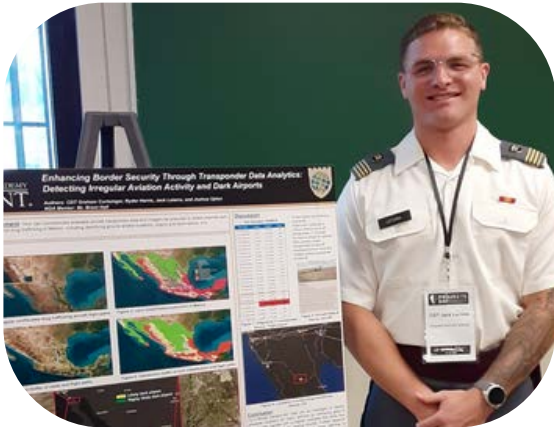


**Benjamin M Records '27**

### **Protecting the warfighter by designing field operable explosive detectors**

His team explored a potential field-operable explosives vapor detector. Specifically, the reaction rates of various sized CdSe nanoparticles (QDs) embedded in polymer fibers and used to detect explosive vapors were determined.





### Jack Laterra '26

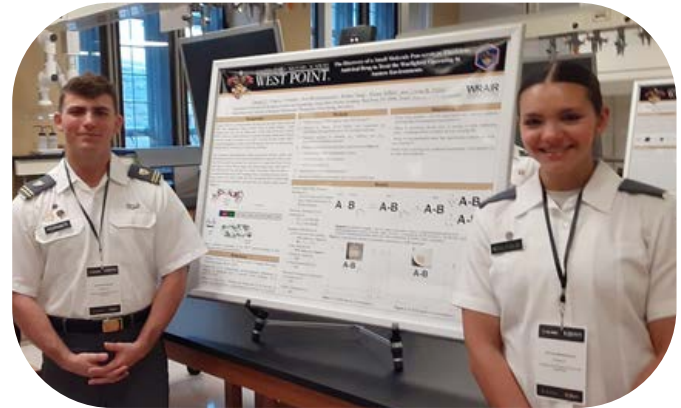
#### Irregularities in Aircraft Transponder Data

US Customs and Border Protection, Air and Maritime Operations (AMO) are responsible for interdicting and/or apprehending illicit narcotics trafficking and human trafficking by air into the United States. Utilizing commercially available transponder data, his team identified irregularities in the data with the intent to identify date/times of activity, start and end points, registration, and other pertinent information. In addition, if possible identify landing sites at locations especially unknown or 'dark' airfields.

NOTE: Immediately after their Project Day presentation, the team went to DC to brief the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) on their research.

### Charles M Ferrante '27 and Ava Michalopoulos '29 The discovery of a small molecule pan-serotype Flavivirus antiviral drug to treat the Warfighter operating in austere environments.

This research is focused on developing an anti-viral for a range of Mosquito-borne flaviviruses, a significant threat to Warfighter health and operational readiness in austere environments. This research focuses on synthesizing and characterizing a library of pyrimidine-piperazine small-molecule derivatives that target essential viral nonstructural proteins, with antiviral efficacy evaluated in functional assays.



NOTE: This is the second year Charlie presented on this research after continuing the research last summer at Walter Reed. Plebe Ava Michalopoulos joined the team and is scheduled to continue the research at Walter Reed this summer.



### Aravind Rajeev '27

#### Development of a RNA Virus Model: Improved Methods for Neutralizing Antibodies Quantification

This research makes use of a porcine RNA virus (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus) to improve methods for quantifying neutralizing antibodies by comparing the commercially accepted method (fluorescence focus neutralization assay) to a novel method of flow cytometry.

NOTE: This is the third year Aravind presented on this initiative.

### Raphael Fabyanic '27 7 Years War

The team led a discussion of the 7 Years War focused on their AIAD to Europe last year.

USMA Projects Day Research Symposium

United States Military Academy West Point



# *Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida*

## How to Get Involved – and Different Ways to Donate

- Sponsor JROTC Awards
- Sponsor a Cadet Candidate to attend the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE)
- Sponsor a Cadet Boodle Run
- Sponsor a Cadet and/or Cadet Candidate attending Founders Day
- Represent WPSN at an award ceremony or an event
- Visit a local High School
- Attend our events
- Bring a guest to an event
- Sponsor a guest speaker
- Donate money, stocks, or bonds

### ***Become an active member!***

**To join/renew active membership:**

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/join-renew>

**To make a tax-deductible Donation:**

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/make-a-donation/>

*Looking to be more involved in local activities?*

## JOIN THE TEAM!

We are always looking for volunteers – from hosting local Benny Havens to working with the Field Force team and representing WPSN at events!

If you're ready to take a more active role in our Society and help shape our future, we encourage you to apply! Please contact Chris Williams at [admin@westpointsocietyofnaples.com](mailto:admin@westpointsocietyofnaples.com) for more information.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS

We are excited about our newsletter and invite you to contribute your ideas, experiences, and insights.

Share your suggestions and stories related to our themes to help us create a newsletter that resonates with our readers.



# Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida

## Meet your WPSN Board of Directors

### President –

Chris Williams '87

### Vice President/Events –

Evan Blanco '80

### Secretary –

Cathy Speer '72 Spouse

### Treasurer –

Matt Shanahan '99

Arnie Haake '69

Mike Zolidis '70

Gary Speer '72

Saul Siemaska '76

Mike Kostoff '79

Doug Whitehead '85

Russ Schott '91

Libby Schott '91

Shannon Horne '95

Derek DeVecchis '13

Patty Holston '25 Parent

### **Emeritus**

Jodie Glore '69

Pete Lilly '70

Garrett Dietz '73

## Active Membership Info

Your dues and donations help support the many activities sponsored by the WPSN. The rates for active membership:

- Annual \$35
- Three-year \$100
- Lifetime \$400

The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Celebrate lifelong friendships

Support SW FL cadets

Engage the next generation of officers in the US Army



## OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Point Society of Naples, an exclusively non-profit organization, is to:

- (1) further the principles and welfare of the United States Military Academy;
- (2) provide an organization with activities for its members to associate in order to foster the aims, ideals, standards and achievements of the United States Military Academy;
- (3) promote a better understanding of the Military Academy by the public throughout Southwest Florida; and
- (4) inform, encourage and assist talented young men and women of the admissions process of the Military Academy.



**We are based in Naples, but our membership area covers all of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.**

West Point Society of Naples is a 501 (c)(3) / tax exempt organization



## LINKS

[West Point Society of Naples](#)

[United States Military Academy](#)

[USMA Old Grad Gateway](#)

[West Point AOG](#)

[SallyPort](#)

[GoArmy Sports](#)