

THE RED DRAGON



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Help Requested – Rules and Regulations Pre - 1990

Members of the Senior Staff are seeking your assistance in recovering a complete copy of the Wentworth Rules and Regulations prior to school year 1990. Yes, we need to take a step back and look back. Surely one of you faithful who have retained all your Wentworth memorabilia out of pride and can assist with this most important deed.

If you have a copy we need to hear from you. Please contact: Mr. John Meyer, Executive Vice President, at: jbmeyer@wma.edu or Al McCormick, Director of Alumni Relations at: amccormick@wma.edu.

Should you have a copy or think you have a copy, please notify one of the above immediately.

Red Dragon Reward
for the first responder with a complete copy!

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Regional Alumni Chapters And Contacts

Arizona

George Hittner:
george.hittner@atsol.com

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Anteco Cross: (913) 205-9113
anteco-cross@adp.com

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Lexington, MO Area

Al McCormick (816) 255-0641
amccormick@wma.edu

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John Stahlnecker: (402) 738-8908
togetherwebuild@cox.net
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patrick.jarrett@pbpresortservices.com

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Steve Smith: (831) 588-7838
steveinsv@yahoo.com

SE Wisconsin

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bobkerscher@comcast.net

If you are interested in participating in a Regional Alumni Chapter, please contact one of the Regional Commanders above.

If you wish to start a Regional Alumni Chapter in your area, then contact either Al McCormick or the President of the WMA Alumni Association.

WMA Alumni Association Elected Officers



President

John Francis, '83: (414) 815-4447
john.francis@metavante.com



Vice President

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Steve Smith, '83: (831) 558-7838
steveinsv@yahoo.com



President-Elect

Jim Wright, '67: (913) 642-2219
jimwright@kc.rr.com

President's View

By John Francis

Attention old boys:

First let me thank each and every one of you for your years of loyal support for Wentworth Military Academy. Without you, the academy would not be able to provide the educational back drop that shapes the lives of thousands of men and women. Our school's history is rich with tradition, honor, and loyalty. These principles are key in producing our country's social, corporate, and military leaders while securing the future of Wentworth.

As school continues to focus on its old boy ranks, we are embarking on a new alumni organization which will incorporate the current Board of Visitors and the Alumni Council. The newly formed Alumni Association will merge the strengths, membership, and momentum of the before mentioned organizations.

The mission is quite simple: Advance the welfare of the academy through consistent communication and networking with our alumni, you the old boy. While there has already been a number of "behind the scenes" events occurring, this newsletter is one of the first steps in reconnecting with Wentworth graduates. Many of our graduates have created Facebook and LinkedIn pages in an effort to find classmates or share academy news with a broad audience.

We have also begun organizing regional Red Dragon rallies across the United States. In the 1st quarter of 2010, old boys gathered in Phoenix, Orlando, St. Louis, and Lexington. We currently have plans to rally in six additional cities between now and the year of the year.

Of course, the grand daddy of all rallies is Homecoming each year in Lexington. Please mark your calendar for October 1-3 this year and plan on attending this great reunion. Between the Ed Ellis golf outing, Friday night BBQ cook out, all alumni Chapel meeting, and the Saturday night dinner/auction, this is shaping up to be one of Wentworth's best homecomings. The theme for this year's event is "Honoring our Veterans" and an all 80s class reunion. If you have not been back on cam-

pus in 10 years or you were there last month, I urge you to return this October for the reunion.

I am honored to be working with an alumni leadership team that spans a three decades of cadet life at Wentworth. Jim Wright – President-Elect, class of '67, Guy Harkness – Vice President, class of '63, Slick Heathman – Treasurer, class of '56, and Steve Smith – Secretary, class of '83.

Our focus over the next 12 months will be creating the foundation from which alumni news, school events, and cadet accomplishments will be communicated. Together with Al McCormick, WMA's Director of Alumni Affairs, we strive to provide an open communication channel with all graduates in an effort to reconnect the old boy network.

I hope to see everyone back on campus for homecoming, if not sooner.

Best Regards,

John Francis '83

John Francis

--UPDATE--

This is an update to the article on page 10 of this issue. As you can see, a lot of construction progress is being made on the new rappelling tower. The picture was taken by Al McCormick on May 11, 2010. There is still more to come.



Director's Corner

By Al McCormick

Alumni Association Membership

Any former cadet who is in good standing with Wentworth Military Academy is considered a member of the alumni body and welcome to attend events and socials. We in fact, look forward to having the opportunity to visit with you.

An organization initiated several decades ago under the name of the **Wentworth Alumni Council** existed to support and nurture alumni relations and support academy objectives. Some of you reading this were members and/or officers and gave your personal time to manage committees and alumni volunteer efforts towards furthering the objectives of the academy.

Times have changed. During the Council meeting held in October of 2009, a new direction was proposed and accepted by the membership. The Alumni Council name has changed and is now known as the **Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association**.

The Association will be managed by a set of officers known as the Executive Committee. This change brings our Association more in line with the organization of other alumni associations nationally and eliminates any confusion on terminology.

Membership is open to anyone who cares to join. Dues are required and a schedule is included in this newsletter. Since we have just reorganized, benefits are being examined and re-designed.

Today, as a dues paying member you can take pride in how this organization is managing your money and investing it in improvements benefiting Wentworth and their programs, facilities, and their youth (cadets). Here are a few examples:

A monument commemorating the dedication of Alumni field within Alumni Stadium was dedicated in honor of Paul Butherus and his contribution to the youth of Wentworth.

In that same year, a new concessions "wagon" was purchased and donated to the Athletic Department. The "Dragon Wagon" is a portable concessions stand complete with utility hookup, allowing the Academy to transport the new facil-

ity to several campus events and raise monies for the booster club.

Three long standing traditions are: Student scholarships, and work weekend. Both projects initiated years ago are funded with dues monies and individual contributions which are vital in continuing those projects. Two scholarships will again be awarded this school year to returning cadets.

Work weekend has produced improvements to the campus within classrooms, the stadium, the grounds, and several building and the monument preservations.

Annual Pizza Party for graduates: Over 115 graduates, faculty, and members of the Alumni Association attended and participated in this years' pizza party giving our graduates a great evening and a warm send off. Your dues and contributions supported this event .

Without your dues monies we could not provide continuing support of these programs and others.

We invite you to become a card carrying member of the Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association and join us at our annual meeting to be held at Homecoming in October where you will receive a full update of the value of this organization.

As a special introductory offer, if you complete the membership application and return it before June 15, 2010, your initial dues will be \$20.00. Joining now will gain you access to an alumni newsletter distributed on an electronic basis.

Dues for a full year participation are \$50.00 annually and range from October to October. Members will be invoiced for continuing participation from October 2010 through October 2011. Your access to the newsletter will be renewed with your dues. Currently we cannot accept credit or debit cards. We can however accept cash or checks.

The Alumni Association is moving forward with a national membership drive. Please come be a part of our group and take pride in our relationship with and support of the Academy.

Please mail your application and funds to:
Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association
P.O. Box 102
Lexington, Mo. 64067

Al McCormick

Rally Held In Saint Louis

By Al McCormick & JB Meyer

In April, an informal Red Dragon Rally was held at Spiro's in Creve Coeur, MO with the greater St. Louis alumni invited. The evening was a low key business casual event that served the attendees well with more time for the individual and "getting caught up" rather than concentrating on presentations.

Academy updates were discussed one on one and among the topics were the addition of an Old Boy from '89 LTC Charles (Butch) Beauchamp as Commandant, and the difference he is creating on campus. Although most commandants are successful at Wentworth, COL Beauchamp brings the perspective of a former Wentworth cadet to the table and can instantly identify with the good values and habits that have served Wentworth well over decades.

The new rappelling tower was also discussed and everyone seemed pleased that a new facility would be available to the cadets soon. The new tower will also be a community resource for selected groups and an income stream for the Academy. The tower is north of the East Barracks in what was at one time an outdoor small bore range. Old Boy John Stahlnecker, owner of Paramount Builders of Omaha is the General Contractor.

The evening was enjoyable and included such notables as LTC Bernie Landau, Tim Warden, Jim Hoeller, Randy Shields, Grant Martin, and many others. Jack Eggman promoted the event locally and enlisted the assistance of Spiro's to provide a comfortable atmosphere. This was a warm up stop; St. Louis will be revisited again this calendar year. Attending for the Academy were Al McCormick and JB Meyer.

And speaking of Jack Eggman, did you know Jack has written a book? Jack is the author of "The Roots of Tennis", a history of the game. The book is great reading if you are a tennis fan, if you are not; the book is worth having as a table top display for discussion. The price of the book is well worth it for the pictures alone.

Jack has a history of involvement in tennis and in his adult life his passion carried on off the court where, as a member of the St. Louis Jaycees, he championed projects, instructional events, and tournaments for youth in the Greater St. Louis area. He did his part in opening up the country club sport to kids of all backgrounds. Jack Eggman is a member of the WMA Athletic Hall of Fame.

More can be found about the book at <http://www.therootsoftennis.com/>. We endorse the book and recommend a purchase.

Editor's Notes

By Jim Wright

Welcome to the first issue of the new and rejuvenated *Red Dragon*. This newsletter is for and about the members of the Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association - it is for and about you. We intend to bring you up-to-date news about what is happening within the WMA Alumni Association, with its members, and at the school.

We intend to publish this newsletter once every two months, or maybe once a quarter. It depends on how much news there is that may be of interest to all of you. This publication will be published via e-mail. Sending it by e-mail will help us control our costs and better use our funds for support of the school.

In order to bring you all of this information, we need your help. We welcome any articles and pictures from your cadet days. Likewise, we welcome any current happenings articles and pictures about Alumni Association members. As always, we and the school welcome getting up-to-date information about all Wentworth Alumni. Please send your articles to Jim Wright, the Editor of **The Red Dragon**.

This newsletter is one of the many benefits you receive by being a member in the WMA Alumni Association. You are welcome to pass your copy of *The Red Dragon* along to as many alumni and friends of Wentworth as you wish. I hope you will. By passing this along, you may be encouraging other alumni to join the Alumni Association. When they do, they will be able to renew old friendships and provide support to the school they love. What a deal.

We welcome and hope that you will provide feedback to us about *The Red Dragon*.

Don't forget to set aside Homecoming for October 1, 2, and 3.

Until next time, I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Red Dragon*.

Jim Wright

Over The Sands Of Time - And Space

Article and Pictures By Francisco Jose Palacio, Jr.

A recollection of a recent Muster put together by a few members of the South Florida Alumni Association, apropos Homecoming Celebrations for Juan Hernan Villacis, U.S. Army Veteran of both conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It was a perfect day, a “Beach Weather” day, as local Floridians would put it, when a handful of Old Boys had the unique opportunity to welcome to friendlier sand dunes their longtime friend and WMA Alumnus, Juan Hernan Villacis.

His travails, lasting over five years, as a U.S. Army Medical NCO, covering both fronts in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, are made more remarkable to many for a variety of reasons.

First of all, Juan Hernan hails from the beautiful – and sandy! – East Caribbean island of Margarita; known locally as “Nueva Esparta” (New Sparta). The name was given to it by the Spanish Conquistadores as the local tribes of “Guaiqueri” Aborigines were renowned by their skill in battle and endurance as warriors. This was a fact oft-reflected upon in the online conversations that so frequently tied Juan’s deployment to a cornucopia of friends, some with family and friends in that exact same location, where not only was he born but also remains a loved and endearing figure thanks to the fact that he has dutifully maintained all these friendships not only over very long distances, but over very long time spans. The other most remarkable thing about this reunion, is the fact that a lot of the attendees were literally ‘introduced’ to each other by Juan, as he interacted with many on Social Media venues such as Facebook and Skype.

Therefore, having had this muster embellished not only by the presence of everyone’s families, which made it turn from a reunion of a few Old Boys into a veritable gathering, but that even those who could not attend in person knew about it over these newer ‘channels’ of modern technology, made it very special to many – specially as they shared photos and comments almost in real-time, right after the group was dismissed!

Finally, another remarkable fact about this meeting was that many others were watching it elsewhere, as the ‘model’ for gathering and organizing these type of Musters, combining them with the Homecoming & honoring of our servicemen and servicewomen, may serve to spark others in different localities, as friend-

ship, time, and space are compacted into the shared attribute of having some sort of connection with Wentworth Military Academy.

Muster’s Roster: Juan Hernan Villacis, Igor Wasilewski, Alejandro Perez, Daniel Gonzalez, Francisco J. Palacio, Jr. and John B. Meyer – and their families and friends.



L to R; Lisette Leive Nazarewsky, Juan Hernan Villacis, David Reyes, Odelaisy Padila



L to R: John B. Meyer, Alejandro Perez, Igo Wasilewski



(No Order) Old Boys Juan Hernan Villacis, Igor Wasilewski, Alejandro Perez, Daniel Gonzalez, Francisco J. Palacio, Jr., and John B Meyer - and their families and friends



Hal Middleton, retired educator from the Richmond, Mo. area, delivered an enthusiastic program to the Wentworth graduates at the Wentworth annual pizza party for graduates.

Photo by Al McCormick

Alumni Association Throws Annual Pizza Party For WMA Graduates

The Nebraska branch of the Wentworth Military Academy Alumni Association secured a corporate sponsor for the annual alumni pizza party to honor Wentworth Junior College, and high school graduates of the class of 2010. Included in the class are the Wentworth Falcon Scholars who are departing for enrollment into the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs immediately upon graduation.

The Nebraska Alumni, led by Wendall Cobleigh of Lincoln, worked closely with Valentino's Pizza of Lincoln to sponsor the event in conjunction with the Wentworth Alumni Association. The event was held on Monday, May 10th in the Hall of Honor on the Wentworth campus in Lexington.

Over one hundred fifteen students, honored guests, faculty members and area alumni enjoyed some of the best pizza in the Midwest along with an informative evening.

John Francis, Shorewood, Wisconsin, President of the Wentworth Alumni Association, pre-

sided over the evening and presented Mr. Hal Middleton, retired educator from the Richmond, Missouri area who served as the guest speaker for the evening. Mr. Middleton provided a lively and enthusiastic presentation to the graduates; speaking about his favorite topic, "How you have learned and continue to learn, excitement in the classroom" held the graduates attention throughout the entire evening's performance.

Anthony "Tony" Messineo Jr. , President and CEO of Valentino's Pizza was quoted as saying; "We are familiar with the values of the structured education at Wentworth Military Academy and we are proud to serve as a sponsor to recognize the advancement of your young people". Mr. Messineo personally supervised the production of the special Pizza's for the occasion.

Mr. Cobleigh and the Nebraska Alumni are very proud of the partnership with Valentino's and challenge all other branches of the Wentworth alumni to meet or exceed their involvement in bringing corporate business partners to Wentworth Alumni activities and programs.

Valentino's Pizza, established in 1957 in Nebraska is the envy of the Pizza Industry throughout Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Kansas.

Wentworth Military Academy, established in 1880 is the oldest and one of the most respected Military Academies west of the Mississippi.



Cadets feast and have a good time at the Annual Alumni Association Annual Pizza Party.

Photo by Jim Wright

In Memory

Jean Gover



Georgia (Jean) Gover

We sadly report the loss of Jean Gover, wife of Alumni and former faculty officer, John Gover. Classmates from the '50s and alumni from the '60s and early '70s will remember John and his family and his dedication to the Academy. Typical of the times, the entire Gover family was dedicated to Wentworth and its youth.

Georgia (Jean) Gover, (78), died April 25, 2010 in McAllen, Texas. Born in Ironton, Missouri, she has lived in the Valley since 1973. She graduated from Berkeley High School in California, and attended Ottawa University in Kansas, where she met her husband-to-be.

Jean was employed by the law firm of Aull, Hader and Sherman, in Lexington, Missouri for 17 years, while her husband was teaching at Wentworth Military Academy. After moving to the Valley in 1973 she served as office manager for R. E. Friedrichs Company until her retirement in 1993.

Jean enjoyed traveling and made trips to many parts of the world collecting Pinocchio items. She will be remembered by her family and friends for her generous spirit.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 59 years of marriage, John; her daughter, Judy (Craig) Lindquist, and their sons JT and Scott; her son Jeffrey (Sonia) Gover and their son Jared.

Jean was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to that church at 1401 South Nebraska, San Juan, Texas 78589.

"To live in the hearts you leave behind is never to die." Thomas Campbell.

A memorial service was conducted at the Kridler Funeral Home, 314 N. 10th St., McAllen, TX at 7:00 PM on May 1, 2010.

George Reece Honored

On Saturday, May 8th, George Reece was presented an Eagle Leadership Award, at his home, in honor of his many years of service to Wentworth Military Academy. The award was presented by Matt Wiseman and Patrick Melvin who volunteered to serve as Ambassadors for the Academy for this important event.

George was the first President of our Alumni Association. George is the most active and successful volunteer recruiter we have. Over time, he has brought many cadets to Wentworth to finish their education and to guide them on a path to a productive life.

George has responded and is extremely excited with the recognition but also quite humble. He feels Wentworth turned his life around and helped him gain focus and openly shares the credit for that. He has always been ready to promote Wentworth Military Academy to the public.

Congratulations George, and thank you Patrick and Matt!



Patrick Melvin, George Reese, Matt Wiseman

New Rapelling Tower Coming to Wentworth

By Al McCormick



Old Rapelling tower will be going up in flames

Thanks to many involved, the brainstorming and planning to introduce a brand new rapelling tower on the campus at Wentworth is about to happen. LTC J. B. Meyer, Executive Vice-President of WMA has announced the construction of a new rapelling tower to be installed north of East Barracks early in the month of May.

The tower brings a dream come true to the campus, offering a new facility not only for our cadets but also a community resource for groups who base summer camp activities upon availability of facilities such as these. The former rapelling tower is scheduled to become a fire exercise on behalf of the Lexington Fire Department, following the exercise, the tower remains will be removed from the campus.

Costs of construction will be contained thanks to the dedication of "Old Boy" John Stahlnecker, '84, from Omaha, Nebraska. John has volunteered to provide a crew to erect the tower.

The tower itself will be black in color with gray trim. The tower is a metal, substantial building and should remain a relevant structure for many years to come.



Construction is underway



New tower pit, under construction



2010 Homecoming Weekend Schedule Tentative (As of 4/10/2010) Subject to Change

Friday, October 1

- 10:00 AM-11:45 AM Alumni Association Annual Meeting Memorial Chapel (No Food/Drinks)
All members welcome, Dress: Business Casual.
- 12:00 PM Alumni Association members, lunch with the Corps (Optional)
- 12:45 PM Alumni Association photo. Groendyke Hall South Steps (Washington Ave).
- 12:00-5:00 PM Homecoming Registration in Groendyke Hall
- 12:00-5:00 PM Alumni Golf Tournament at Shirkey Golf Course in Richmond, MO
- 1:00 - 4:00 PM Spouse/Guest Event TBD
- 5:30 PM Alumni Backyard BBQ (Location TBD) Donations of support are appreciated
Tentative Location: Northwest corner of the Field House
- 7:30 PM Pep Rally/Bon Fire on the field east of the tennis courts
- 8:30 PM Alumni After Hours Gathering – All Decades. (Location TBD)***

Saturday, October 2

- 8:00-9:00 AM Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 8:00 -10:30 AM Homecoming Registration in Groendyke Hall
- 9:00-12:00 PM Annual Kemper-Wentworth Invitational Trap Shoot (Location TBD)
- 9:00 AM Alumni Activity (TBD & TBA)
- 11:30 AM Dragon Feast* Location: Weather Dependent. Wear Your Dragon Red Colors
- 12:45 PM Line up for the Homecoming Parade West side of the stadium
- 1:00 PM Homecoming Parade Downtown Lexington. Dragon- Red Colors
- 2:00 PM Homecoming Football Game Alumni Stadium - Show Your Red Dragon Pride.
- 6:00 PM Alumni Social Groendyke Hall, Dress: Business Casual
- 7:00 PM – 10:00PM Alumni Banquet Groendyke Hall. Dress: Business Casual
And Annual Alumni Association Silent Auction Event
- 10:15 – 12:00 AM Alumni After Hours Gathering – All Decades. (Location TBD)***

Sunday, October 3

- 8:30—9:45 AM Continental Breakfast –Dinning Facility
- 10:15 AM Alumni assemble at the Viet Nam Monument south of the chapel
- 10:30 AM Memorial Service ** Dress: Business Casual
- 11:15 AM Dress Parade and alumni flag ceremony on Stephen Oliver Parade Field
- 12:00 PM DRC in the Dining Hall (Optional)

*In the event of inclement weather the Dragon Feast will be held in the athletic center

**In the event of inclement weather the memorial service will be held in the Memorial Chapel

*** New location to be determined

Homecoming Dates for 2011 September 30th, October 1st & 2nd.

Come, Grow With Us

BE ONE OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE WMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REFRESH OLD RELATIONSHIPS AND HELP SUPPORT WMA

Membership in the Wentworth Alumni Association is open to everyone who is an alumnus, parent, or friend of Wentworth Military Academy and is in good standing with the Academy.

Benefits of membership are under review for the individual but the overall support of the organization is instrumental in providing programs that meet the objectives of the Academy. Your financial support enables us to:

- **Fund a Work Weekend.** Alumni gather and perform physical repairs to various memorials and buildings on campus. Your funds enable us to purchase needed supplies to fulfill the work and food for the volunteers. Work Weekend projects have proven their value over the years.
- **Scholarships.** Awarded to, two deserving cadets annually as tuition assistance.
- **Special requests from the Academy.** Occasionally the Academy will request financing for special projects for goods or services that are needed but low in visibility in terms of sponsorship recognition. Typically, your association has been able to respond due to your financial support.
- **Memorial preservation.** The campus has several outdoor memorials. Some of your dues money is used to support and expand this effort.
- **Pizza Party for Graduates.**
- **Homecoming.**
- **Life members are given special recognition on a plaque located in the Maring Alumni house.**

Membership growth and participation will be a priority not only this year but next. If you join by June 15th your dues will be prorated. Typically dues are collected for the period of October to October. If you join now dues will be \$20.00 for the period of June to October. You will be notified in October 2010 about the next dues due.

Please see the next page for the schedule and levels of recognition.

SE Wisconsin Chapter

by Bob Kerscher

Our Manitowoc Wentworth Alumni Club has been around for a long time. Manitowoc, Wisconsin area boys began attending Wentworth in the early 1900s. Our alumni club officially formed on January 3, 1936. We have been meeting at least annually ever since. This is our 74th year of existence. My father Vince, attended Wentworth in the 1930s and was a very big promoter of the school and the leader of our alumni group for many years. After his passing in 1983, I took

over the club advisor role from him. There have been over 100 area young men who attended Wentworth from our area since the early 1900's.

Our annual meeting this year is on Monday, June 21st and will be the first one done in association with the newly formed SE Wisconsin Alumni Region. We are looking forward to a great turnout this year.

Regards,
Bob Kerscher



**Wentworth Military Academy
Alumni Association
Membership Application**



Instructions:

Fill the following form out as completely as possible then send it along with your payment information to:

WMA Alumni Association
P. O. Box 102
Lexington, MO 64067

Applicant's Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____ Years at WMA: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation/Title _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Work phone: _____

Work E-mail _____

Spouse's Information:

First Name: _____ Is Spouse also an Alumnus [] yes [] no

Membership Dues:

[] Annual one year (\$50) [] Annual three year (\$140)

[] Lifetime Donor Dues one time payment (\$1000)

[] Lifetime Donor Dues semi-annual two payments in single year (\$510) \$1,020

[] Lifetime Donor Dues quarterly payments in single year (\$258) \$1,032

[] Recent Alumni 1st year (Free) [] Recent Alumni 2nd or 3rd year (\$25)

[] Senior 65 Annual one year (\$35) [] Senior 65 Annual three year (\$95)

[] Senior 65 Lifetime Donor Dues one time payment (\$500)