From the President …

Frank and Kristine Garcia (Kevin '03)

Commencement 2003

Graduation week for the Class of 2003 was truly magical! Four years of hard work culminated in a week of fabulous activities and a visit by the President. It’s hard to believe that it’s actually over. All of us who are parents of the Class of 2003 can be proud of the accomplishments of our sons and daughters and feel relieved that they made it.

Graduation week is something that every parent can look forward to. The week started on Sunday with a moving evening parade that ended at sunset. Monday brought lots of good-natured competition and fun at the Academy Golf Tournament followed by the Grad-fest picnic on Nitchman Field. The evening brought the first graduation parties, the arrival of Eagle, and a jazz band and chorus concert at the Leamy Hall.

Tuesday was a morning parade that the fall set of cadet officers got to lead followed by the awards ceremony. Over 50 groups and associations, including our own Parents Association, rewarded the marvelous accomplishments of the Class of 2003. Ensign Andrew Halvorson received the CGA National Parents Association Award, which consisted of a Ship’s Bell Clock and savings bond. On Tuesday evening the formal dinner and dance at the Wardroom and Leamy Hall was a great prelude to Commencement.

On Wednesday May 21, the Commencement activities started with the last parade for the Class of 2003. The Commencement stage was set on Nitchman Field on the banks of the Thames River, augmented by the Secret Service, SWAT teams, and the Coast Guard cutter Seneca on the river. The Commencement ceremony was something that we will always remember … from the processional to the awarding of the diplomas and commissions. Each cadet got to meet the President, and some were fortunate to receive their commissions from a family member. Although the day was cloudy and ended in rain, the weather could not dampen the joy and happiness of the new Ensigns and their families. Family members and loved ones placed the new shoulder boards on their proud new officers. It was a magnificent experience that will not be forgotten.

It was also during the graduation week that we realized how much our son had changed and grown during his four years at the Academy. We got to experience the friendship and camaraderie that had developed between him and his classmates. These close bonds between them will last a lifetime and remain even though they are serving in duty stations around the world.

Welcome to the Class of 2007

All of us in the Parents Association welcome the new cadets and parents of the Class of 2007! You are starting on a journey that will end four years from now in the commencement activities described above. Swab summer is a challenging time both for the cadets and their families. Take comfort in talking with other cadet parents, both in your cadet’s
class and those before. It’s amazing how helpful sharing your concerns and asking questions can be. It’s important to do this by establishing communications with other parents and to become active in Academy life.

You can do this by joining the 2007 Class E-mail group by registering on the CGA PA website. I also strongly urge you to join the CGA Parents Association. You can pick up an application at the National table in Leamy Hall on Reporting In Day. One is also available on-line at our website. Don’t wait! Join the 700 parents that are now members! Becoming a member will be an advantage to you and your new cadet. Also, if you live in a location close to one of our local Chapters, please become a member and participate in the Chapter activities. We were in your shoes four years ago and had doubts about whether to become involved. We decided that our son deserved our full faith and support in his quest to become a Coast Guard officer. We had confidence in him and dedicated ourselves to his dream. Four years later we have been rewarded with an experience that will last a lifetime.

Ensign Kevin Garcia gets new shoulder boards!

Great Year for Parents Association Closes

Ric Waechter, Vice President

As another year comes to an end we say farewell to a group of outstanding cadets and welcome to a new group of swabs. “Fair winds and Following Seas” to those cadets who have left the academy as Ensigns in the United States Coast Guard, and wish them all of the best as they embark on their next series of adventures. Although it was a gloomy, rainy, cold day, graduation was an exciting time, Donna and I very much enjoyed being a part of it. We decided that this year would be a dry run for next year; unfortunately we weren’t prepared for the wet run.

We also attended the advancement ceremony of those cadets moving up into positions of leadership, stature and growth. We remarked that every one of the cadets at that ceremony grew another inch taller with the addition of that new set of shoulder boards. Captain Heyl gave one of his final inspirational speeches to the cadets. He will be leaving the Academy to become Group Commander of Group Key West Florida. We thank him for his support of our cadets these past three years, and look forward to welcoming his replacement Captain Wisniewski, currently Commanding Officer of Training Center Cape May. We look forward to working with Captain Wisniewski in the future. We must say farewell to Dean Haas, who is leaving to become President of State University of New York, College of Agriculture & Technology at Cobleskill. We thank him for his patience and leadership these past years in shaping our cadets educationally.

This has been a great year for the Parent’s Association, under the guidance of Frank Garcia. Although Frank’s term as President was shorter than normal
due to the changing of the By-laws, Frank was able to accomplish much and we thank him for his leadership. Frank has been instrumental in the assigning of positions or duties to those members of the Parent Association, who are members at-large. He was also instrumental in making sure that the Webmasters, List Masters and Officers of the Association kept the organization informed and running. During this past semester we purchased a 2003 Chevy Astro Van, which was delivered to the Academy during April, this was a welcome addition due to the accident in October, which had reduced the vanpool by one new Chevy Astro van. Frank also represented the Parents Association at the Cadet Awards Ceremony, and made numerous trips during the year to attend meetings with Senior Management and the CGA Alumni Association Board of Directors. Thank You Frank! You and Kristine have been an inspiration and a joy to work with.

As we begin the journey all over again on the 30th of June, we welcome a new group of Swabs and their families and look forward to great things coming from this new group.

Please remember it’s never too late to send in a donation to the Parent’s Association, all funds received benefit the cadets. We have provided three Chevy Astro Van’s in the past year to assist in liberty runs. Last year we provided money for the Star Dessert Program, money to assist in athletic events and equipment. Every penny goes to benefit the Cadets! Help us to continue in the future.

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**Chapter Happenings**

**Delaware Valley Chapter**

The Delaware Valley Chapter has been actively involved in activities to support both our current and incoming cadets.

Our last meeting, held in Philadelphia on April 6, welcomed prospective cadets and their families. Gary Murphy (Gary Murphy ’03), former President and Secretary, and Diane Spector (Benjamin Spector ’03), former Secretary, resigned from officer positions after several years of dedicated service. Additionally, new to the officer ranks of Delaware Valley’s Parent Association, we welcome Secretary Chris Dahl (Eleanor Dahl ’06) and Treasurer Rita Nines (Michael Nines ’04 and Richard Nines ’06). Ways & Means continues with Ric & Donna Waechter (Jonathan Waechter ’04) coordinating and Gerald Blasé (Samuel Blasé ’06) joining to learn “the ways.”

Ways and Means is actively pursuing note card and Christmas card products with Coast Guard Academy drawings that will be available Parent Weekend.

With invitations to the championship...
issued less than one week before the May 9-11 event, Delaware Valley families quickly responded to supply food at the ECAC National Invitational Rowing Championships, held on the Cooper River in Camden, NJ. Despite less than sunny weather, our cadets rowed well and were able to enjoy the good food supplied by our local parents.

Once again, Delaware Valley parents will join with C & P parents in the social for new recruits and their families the night before Reporting-In Day. This year’s event will be held at Connecticut College in the Ernst Room of the Blaustein Humanities Center. Upper class parents who are able to join us for the evening are welcome to assist at the event. — Kathy Dopkin

Golden Gate Chapter

Culminating with the recent acceptance of their appointments to the Coast Guard Academy class of ’07, it has been a successful and busy year for us.

In April the Coast Guard Academy Parents Association – Golden Gate Chapter (CGAPA-GGC) and the USCG Auxiliary – Northern California Region jointly met to develop better procedures for tracking the progress of local applicants going directly to the Academy and/or to a NAPS/CEGRIT program, and then to the Academy.

Contacts with these young men and women are made during the application process. They are welcomed by members of the CGAPA- GGC and the Auxiliary. And, at strategic points in the application process both organizations are available to assist the applicants and check on their status. Upon completion of the application process, these candidates were welcomed, as members of the class of ’07. Others were welcomed as part of the NAPS/CEGRIT program; and we look forward to welcoming them, next year, to the Academy class of ’08!

On June 2, 2003, a welcoming reception for the new cadets was held at District 11’s Northern California USCG Station on Yerba Buena Island which is in the middle of San Francisco Bay, half-way across the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge. What a view!

Newly-appointed cadets and their families were joined by an Ensign from the Class of ’03, a newly commissioned Ensign from OCS, and several current Academy cadets. Participants were greeted with coffee and pastries and a welcome from CAPT Buschman. Following refreshments the group took a tour of the grounds, greeted the arrival of a HH-65 Dolphin helicopter, met the flight crew, listened to an inspirational and informative recruiting address, and toured the buoytender Aspen, several patrol boats, and a new port security boat powered by two 225 hp. outboards. We viewed “The Making of an Officer” in the galley while lunch settled.

During the activities, parents and new cadets-to-be were in constant contact and conversation with the current cadets. A huge amount of information was exchanged about the Academy — and a lot of anxiety had dispelled. During lunch everyone had a chance to ask those very important questions. The current cadets were not bashful about sharing their opinions. It is most noteworthy that in a majority of situations the current cadets shared both the feelings and opinions they had during Swab Summer — as well as their current (more mature) opinions. — Bob Wescott

New England Chapter

The Chapter met on February 9. Bruce and Ellen Gillham of Lunenburg, MA, graciously hosted our meeting on a crystal clear winter day. At that meeting we elected new officers. Thank you Nancy Duffy (President) and Jack Murphy (Treasurer) for your hard work during 2000-2002!

We discussed our successful 2002 Reporting-In Day picnic where we sold nearly 700 tickets and decided to buy the large tent we had rented in the past, a tent perfect for any large party. Thank you Tim and Marie Claire Wheeler for coordinating the picnic!

Parent’s Weekend was successful in gaining new members, selling the ever-popular Class Bears, and the Senior Class greatly appreciated their Class Key Chains (with Class crest) donated to them by the New England Chapter … to be used with their new cars of course! My thanks to all the volunteers who helped me with the sales!

At that meeting we also scheduled our Spring Welcome and Honor of the new Appointees meeting for the Class of 2007 for April 26 at the Academy. For a number of years now the New England Chapter has held a meeting in the Spring to welcome aboard the new CGA class appointees and honor these young people and their families. Our Chapter includes all the New England States (Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island) except Connecticut. The last two years we have held this event at the Academy just prior to the Appointees having to make their final commitment decisions by the first of May. The event, although a bit soggy (it poured), was great and we had quite the entertainment from a number of Cadets from the Class of 2004. LCDR Patrick Knowles from the Academy’s Admissions Department was kind enough to come and talk to the group and provide some insight on Reporting-In Day and Academy life, particularly Swab summer. Thank you LCDR Knowles!

We are looking forward to the next year. Reporting-in Day is coming up fast, Parent’s Weekend, and then into the Academic Year. We plan to have a Chapter Meeting later this summer or early fall; we will keep everyone posted. We are looking for volunteers to help out with sales for Parent’s Weekend so keep that weekend in mind for the association as well as your cadet! — Bill Armstrong

Northwest Chapter

The Northwest Chapter is on a roll!
Over the last few years only a handful of seniors from our glorious section of the country have elected to attend the Academy, but the class of ’07 will have no fewer than sixteen Swabs reporting at the end of June. In addition, three others are either going to NAPS, or still debating their appointments. We predict that there will be a lot more flags from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and even Alaska, hanging in Chase Hall over the next few years. Maybe even some salmon and a little moose meat on the menu, too…

The Chapter turned over its leadership in May. Jay Creech handed over the reins to Peter and Ellen Barnett (Jiah ’05) who have committed themselves to following Jay’s excellent example. The first order of business will be a welcoming picnic for the new Swabs and their parents at the Integrated Support Center (ISC) in Seattle on June 14. Peter and Ellen have also been busy connecting with parents of past Academy graduates and finding out where they are now. Frank and Virginia Joves report that Alexander (’96) is living “West Wing” with an assignment with the National Security Council in the White House Situation Room, and Ted and Marcie Passic (Andy ’01) are traveling to San Francisco where their son will take command of the USCGC Tern (87’) after only two years. Way to go! — Peter Barnett

Oklahoma Combined Maritime Academies Chapter

The combined maritime academies chapter in Oklahoma hosted a Welcome Aboard reception at the Kirkpatrick Center in Oklahoma City June 8, welcoming one new swab to the CGA, 12 plebes to Navy, and 2 to NAPS, including the Oklahoma parents of a CG enlisted man whose most recent duty station was Alaska. Midshipmen and cadets home on leave, including Zachary Huff, CGA ’05, were on hand to offer advice. The chapter prepared plebe/swab binders to help with preparations, transitions and fourth-class year.

In March members met at the Oklahoma Academy for Science and Mathematics and in April the chapter continued its tradition of filling “chow boxes” with snacks for finals week. There were no graduating seniors among the five CGA member families but we enjoyed hearing about the big events from CGA ’03 parents, our Navy friends and online.

This summer we are beginning to record our 20-year history in scrapbooks, one for each seagoing service academy. CGA alumni from Oklahoma or parents who were involved with the chapter in years back are welcome to share information and photographs. Contact Doug and Lynne Butterworth, dlbutterworth@cox.net.

— Lynne Butterworth

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Congratulations to the proud families of the 2003 USCGA graduates from the Rocky Mountain region! Ensigns Bradley Brunaugh, Aaron Cassavant, Molly Killen and Sara Senser are some of the most recent officers to join the Department of Homeland Defense.

There will be eight new swabs joining the Rocky Mountain Coast Guard family this summer. The Class of ’07 will have six members from this area and two more will be attending prep school in anticipation of becoming members of the Class of ’08. New families were welcomed to the group during a picnic in Littleton, CO, on June 7.

If you happen to be in the Denver area on December 27, 2003, you are cordially invited to attend the 21st Annual Colorado All Service Academy Ball. The Hyatt Regency Tech Center is the site for this year’s event. We have it on very good authority that the table favors will be outstanding! Each cadet/midshipman will receive a commemorative coin and every attendee will leave with an imprinted wine glass. Please join us for a Rocky Mountain adventure!

We look forward to any cadets visiting the area and would love to host an event for any group. — Kathy Scarbalis and Cathy Dixon

Upstate New York Chapter

The Upstate New York Chapter congratulates and extends best wishes to the following graduates of the class of 2003. We wish them well in their assignments.

Ensign Eric Burley – degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering

Ensign James Cooley – degree in Management

Ensign Loraleigh Roller – degree in Management

Upstate New York PA would like to thank Ann Roller and Ann Cooley (three years of thanks) and Brian Roller (this past year’s treasurer) for all of their hard work and dedication to our Chapter, and now welcome Tom and Cathy Boghosian as President and Vice President and Linda Richards as Treasurer.

They have already planned a welcome picnic for the Upstate members of the Class of 2007 to be held June 7 in Saratoga Springs, New York.
I just arrived home late last night from a very whirlwind week at the Academy and then on Friday my young Ensign was married in a fairy tale wedding in Newport! Now I have TWO Ensigns in my family!

As I sit here sipping my 20th (?) cup of coffee this morning, I thought I would write and share with everyone this parent’s perspectives on graduation so maybe all will have a little idea of what to expect, feel etc.

First of all, I would advise looking over your preferred form of COMFORTABLE accommodations well in advance (July is NOT to early!) And from this year’s weird May weather — plan on renting a place with HEAT! Heat is a wonderful thing! We chose to rent houses in Groton Long Point, and although it was a little pricey, it was well worth the money spent. We were right on the beach, very nice houses, very easy commute to the Academy and had heat!

Gardens and lawns at the Academy were groomed and in perfect shape! Because of the cold weather, the trees and azaleas were in full bloom this past week. Normally they would have been spent by now. It filled me with pride just to show off the campus to our visiting relatives, it was so beautiful.

The class of 2003 did a wonderful job of planning activities for us to enjoy from the evening cruise on Saturday night right through until graduation. The Grad-fest picnic on the softball and track fields was a load of fun for all ages. They had clowns and an enclosed air trampoline for the kids. A SAR demonstration followed, and then the Jay Hawk landed on the softball field so everyone could get pictures and sit inside if they liked. Food was great and plentiful.

The awards ceremony of course was emotional and meaningful. The commemorative dinner and ball were great. Over 1300 people attended and they had dinning in 3 different locations. Prime Rib was the main item and it was done perfect (for those of us who like medium-well, that is) I saw an equal number of suits and tuxes on the men and the ladies wore both short and long cocktail and evening dresses.

All the reviews of the Corps of the Cadets were AWESOME! Every one I watched brought tears to my eyes of pride and honor that I am a parent of (at that point) a future officer for our great country. My daughter warned us to leave early on the last commencement review because security was so tight to get in line for screening to arrive at the bleachers on Nitchman Field on time. This is GOOD advice if you are a class with the President addressing it! It took us almost an hour to go through.

It was sunny/hazy and actually getting hot before the ceremonies started. Then the drips started about 10:00 a.m. The drizzle was off and on but not uncomfortable for quite a while. We watched the bridge over the Thames close and saw the Presidential fleet cross over. He came in the back way because of security reasons.

During the first half of the ceremony a light intermittent rain fell, and on cue, when degrees and commissions started being presented, the heavens burst forth with enthusiasm and it POURED! I was so impressed President Bush did not put on a coat or have an umbrella over him at all until Shawn Whiteside, the class president, presented Mr. Bush the class gift at the end of the ceremony. (By the way, President Bush was very easy-going and thoughtful with all the new ensigns — each and every one. He gave a human touch to each person that crossed the stage.)

As each ensign received her or his commission, cheers erupted. President Bush hammed it up with some of them and hugged a few.

It is hard to tell you what emotions welled up inside as I watched my daughter and heard her name “Loraleigh Ann Roller — with honors” called up and walk across that stage. President Bush gave her a hug, and then waved at us — especially grandma — in the bleachers. The love, the pride, the overwhelming happiness I felt at that moment for my daughter will be with me the rest of my life. Afterwards, pinning on her new boards, even though we all were totally frozen, was one of the happiest moments of my life.

So everyone, be prepared and ready for your heart to outsize your chest and your face to split from grinning. Graduation is EVERYTHING everyone has told me and MORE. How can I describe this overwhelming pride that you will feel that your child, that little boy or girl who use to toddle around the lawn picking dandelions or kicking a
Challenge Coins — A New Tradition
from the USCGA Alumni Association

Last year the parents of one of the members of the Class of 2002 generously provided the funding for production of Challenge Coins for the graduates, thus beginning a new tradition. This year additional donations from many parents of members of the Class of 2003 allowed us to again provide these coins as a memento for the graduates. The coins were presented to the Class of 2003 at commencement by CAPT Wayne R. Gronlund (Ret), ’69, President, USCGA Alumni Association.

Now that we have done it twice, we clearly have continued this “long standing tradition” as part of the welcoming of new members to the long Blue Line! We are asking for support from the Parents of 2004 to help continue this tradition. Please send your contributions (checks made out to USCGA Alumni Association or make a contribution on-line at “www.uscgaaa.onlincommunity.com”), marked for “Challenge Coins,” to the USCGA Alumni Association, 47 Mohegan Ave., New London, CT 06320-8111. You can also call us with a credit card contribution at 860-444-8238.
## Coming Events at USCGA

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<tr>
<td>June 26-29</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Chesapeake &amp; Potomoc and Delaware Valley Chapters host social for new cadets and their parents (Ernst Room of the Blaustein Humanities Center at Connecticut College)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Class of 2007 Reports In to USCGA</td>
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<td>July 4-7</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall St. Maarten</td>
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<td>July 11-14</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Santo Domingo</td>
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<td>July 25-28</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Wilmington, NC</td>
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<td>August 1-4</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>August 8-11</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Annapolis, MD</td>
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<td>August 15-18</td>
<td><em>Eagle</em> Portcall Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>August 20</td>
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<td>October 2-5</td>
<td>Homecoming 2003</td>
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<td>October 24-26</td>
<td>Parents Weekend</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes, Fall Semester</td>
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<td>December 12-18</td>
<td>Final Exams, Fall Semester</td>
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<td>December 19-</td>
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See the following websites for additional information:
- [www.cga.edu/calendar](http://www.cga.edu/calendar)
- [www.cgasports.com](http://www.cgasports.com)
- [www.cga.edu/eagle/eagle.htm](http://www.cga.edu/eagle/eagle.htm)

*President George W. Bush was the commencement speaker at CGA on May 21, 2003.*