

PMC Museum e-News



February 2018

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PMC Legacy Hunt



This past August, the PMC Museum sponsored the PMC Legacy Hunt, in conjunction with the Office of Student Life, as part of the new student orientation program at Widener University.

The purpose of the PMC Legacy Hunt is to teach incoming students about the history

and legacy of Pennsylvania Military College. This year the entire freshman class (770 students) participated. They were divided into small groups and raced around the campus seeking landmarks that represent the legacy of PMC. Each student team was tasked with locating as many PMC landmarks as possible. At each of these campus landmarks, the students were met by a PMC alumnus who explained the meaning of each location as well as the significance to the legacy of PMC. The alumni were encouraged to interact with the students and share their own PMC stories.

In a survey of the freshmen, more than 50% replied that they were “very satisfied” by this program. One student wrote on their survey that “I really didn’t know about the history of the campus until the scavenger hunt, so it was cool for me.” Another

PMC Class Ring

To replace your PMC class ring, contact

Kevin Neary, Balfour
Palyra, NJ 08065
856-786-1110
balfournj@comcast.net

Depending upon the age and condition of the ring, it may be possible to refurbish the ring.



PMC Museum Committee

Don Ainsworth '57
Colin Ainsworth '11
Gil Alderfer, M.D. '64
Jan Alexander, Collections Manager
Jared Becker '18
Jill Borin, University Archivist
Jeffrey Flynn '04, '05
Eric Guzy '20
Merv Harris '57, Emeritus
Dave McNulty '63
Rex Newman '62
Ronald Romanowicz '68
Sheldon Schwartz '60
Clyde Tinklepaugh '73
Vito Verni '61
Chuck Weber '64
Ken Wofford '68

wrote about their interaction with PMC alumni "The volunteers were great and provided an awesome story behind the history of what was on campus."

Many thanks to this year's volunteers: Gil Alderfer '64, Tom Childers '69, Tom Chimento '65, Bob Duffy '64, John Loeser '68, Dave McNulty '63, John Nothwang '62, Jessica Prince, Ron Romanowicz '68, Shelly Schwartz '60, Wayne Smeigh '71 and Gregg Strom '64. The PMC Museum is looking forward to next year's PMC Legacy Hunt and invites you to join us.



Cadet Member of the PMCM Committee

For the past two years, Jared Becker '18, a member of the Dauntless Battalion has been a member of the PMCM Committee. During that time, Jared has been extremely helpful during committee deliberations, planning for the PMC Legacy Hunt and, more recently, overseeing the upgrade of the video monitors in the PMC Museum. After graduation Jared is planning to attend law school while balancing his duties in the Army Reserve. More important, Jared will remain on the PMCM Committee.

PMC Museum Committee Open Meeting

During this year's Homecoming, the PMCM Committee held an open meeting in the Alumni Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was to strive for greater transparency about the PMC Museum and respond to questions from those PMC Alumni who attended.

The meeting began with Dr. Julie Wollman commenting on the work of the PMCM Committee and the importance of preserving the legacy of PMC. This was followed by questions from the 30 PMC alumni who attended. Questions include expenses of the museum, the difference between the operating fund and the endowment fund, and future plans of the PMCM Committee.

While there were no short answers, it was explained that the operating fund is similar to a personal checking account. The money was used for a variety of purposes, including activities sponsored by the PMC Museum, exhibits and refurbishment of existing displays and exhibits. The endowment fund could be compared to a savings account. By building the balance, the earned interest will provide an income. Linda Durant, the former Senior Vice President for Advancement, explained that Widener University supports the PMCM by maintaining essential services such as security, maintenance, and other building services at no cost to the PMCM.

A question about the museum's location was asked. Linda Durant summarized earlier discussions about moving the PMCM to the Annex (Old Chemistry Building). After a careful review, it was determined the available space was not adequate nor

were the finances.

In closing, Committee Chair Ron Romanowicz '68 thanked everyone for their interest and questions. He suggested that this may become an annual event and asked those present to continue the dialogue with PMCM Committee. The University will soon be embarking on a long-range planning survey and donor drive for a variety of future needs. The PMCM will be part of that survey, but for the immediate future the relocation of the PMCM is not being considered.

PMC Museum Charitable Gift Annuities

Charitable gift annuity is a simple contract which will have a big impact on the PMC Museum.

In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, securities, or other easily-converted assets, Widener University agrees to pay one or two beneficiaries you name a fixed sum each year for life. The older your designated annuitants are at the time of the gift, the greater the fixed income Widener University can agree to pay. In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, increasing each payment's after-tax value.

When the gift annuity ends, its remaining principal passes to the Museum Endowment or Operating Fund, per your restriction when the fund is set up.

For more information, you can [download a specially prepared PDF](#) or contact Tiffany Kator, associate vice president, at takator@widener.edu or 610-499-1160 for additional information including illustrations.

PMC Museum Experiences a Make-Over

This past summer, a designer from HealyKohler Design who completed work on several projects in the recently opened Museum of the American Revolution, visited the PMC Museum. As a result of her insights and recommendations several changes in the layout of the PMC Museum were made in time for Homecoming. In addition, the Geoghegan display was updated; a display of historic PMC medals was assembled; and, the exhibit of the Alpha Blouse once worn by Cadet First Captain John Everson '67 was refurbished.

Staff Ride to Gettysburg, Mission Accomplished



In November, the MSIV cadets of the Dauntless Battalion conducted their staff ride, a requirement for commissioning, at Gettysburg, PA. Thanks to the support of the PMC Museum and Col. Tom Vossler, U.S.

Army (ret.) '68 the entire weekend was spent in Gettysburg. As an expert on the battle, Col. Vossler was a valuable resource in teaching cadets the history of the battle and in assisting them analyzing both the battlefield and the leadership demonstrated during the battle.

While on the battlefield, cadets analyzed the terrain, resources, and historical context of the battle to better understand how and why the battle progressed as it did. In addition, cadets compared and contrasted their individual ideas and strategies with how the soldiers at the time fought the battle. Col. Vossler brought to bear his experiences and insights as a combat officer to make this staff ride a truly memorable and valuable experience.

Afterwards, the cadets camped on the campground at Mountain View Farm, which is owned and operated by Col. Vossler. cadets pitched several individual and group tents in front of the barn and sat around a bonfire and discussed several topics. The cadets then slept through the evening showers until a break in the showers at sun-up.

LTC Justin Shaffer remarked that the "experience was impactful not only from the analysis Tom provided of the battlefield but from the real goal of mine to build unit cohesion and esprit de corp." In addition, CSM Jared Becker '18 expressed the gratitude of the MSIVs for the support of the PMC Museum Committee.



Remembering Carl Wisneski



Eloise Wisneski and family members joined former members of HQ Company during Homecoming for a brief celebratory event to honor the memory of the late Dr. Carl Wisneski, the long-time music director at PMC. In the next issue of Widener Magazine there will be

a feature article about Dr. Wisneski.

Military Academies Campus Event

On Oct. 24, 2017 the Widener Admissions Office held a successful military academies event. The thought was that some of the guests might be impressed by the military history of PMC and the Army ROTC program, and might consider Widener.

Almost 300 guests were on campus and met with representatives from the military academies. Quite a few people checked out the PMC Museum, which was open for the event with Gerry Ferguson PMC '70 greeting visitors and describing the legacy of PMC while they were waiting for the program to begin.

Keith Karbel, the Army ROTC Enrollment Officer, wrote "The event went very well and we had a lot of traffic. Thanks to Gerry for assisting!"

Gerry wrote that he thought the ROTC/Service Academy program went well. He

observed that the folks going through the Museum as a group seemed to be impressed. The #1 comment: "We didn't know Widener was PMC prior to 1973"

It's just another example of the PMC Museum making connections with local families.

Alumni Attitude Study

The logo for the Widener/PMC Alumni Attitude Survey. It features the text "WIDENER/PMC ALUMNI ATTITUDE SURVEY" in bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in four lines: "WIDENER/PMC" on the first line, "ALUMNI" on the second, "ATTITUDE" on the third, and "SURVEY" on the fourth. The text is set against a solid blue rectangular background.

Widener has contracted with an outside company to run an extensive survey of all Widener/PMC alumni. The survey will be emailed on March 1 to alumni and will take 10-15 minutes to complete. Questions will center on your experiences as a

student and as an alumnus and will gather data on your preferences and perceptions of the university. The results of the survey will help guide future decisions. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Visiting the PMC Museum

The Office of Development and Alumni Engagement Office will now assist PMC alumni and other visitors wishing to visit the PMC Museum during weekdays (Monday through Friday). Please contact Patty Votta at (610)499-1154 prior to your visit, so we can prepare for your arrival.

The Museum relies on the support of PMC Alumni in its efforts to develop new exhibits and build an endowment fund.

Mail your donations to:

Development c/o Widener University
1 University Place, Chester, PA 19013.

Make your check payable to:

Widener University (PMC Museum).

Online donations can be made by using this link give.widener.edu/PMC .

Widener University

Office of Development and Alumni Engagement

One University Pl, Chester PA

Phone: 610-499-1154

alumnioffice@widener.edu