

West Point Class of 1970 National Conference on Ethics in America

February 13-14, 2018

United States Military Academy

West Point, NY.

Report to Class 1970 Executive Committee

Toby Quirk

The Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic (SCPME) planned and conducted the 33rd Annual West Point Class of 1970 National Conference on Ethics in America (NCEA) on 13-14 February, 2018. 181 students from 39 institutions participated in the two-day event.

Bottom line up front, my take on this year's NCEA: One of the best conferences in which I have participated.

Major high points: 1) Firsties leading table discussions gives them ownership of NCEA. 2) Energetic participation by students in the Q&A's and at table groups. 3) USMA Cadets modeling high moral character. 4) the theme: MORAL COURAGE: FINDING THE STRENGTH TO ACT, 5) SCPME hired full-time event coordinator, Erica Kenner who was able to devote 100% of her time and talent to the event. 6) good cross-section of students, 7) Guest speakers offered wide variety of subject matter on the Moral Courage Theme.

Minor corrections I would offer: 1) I have always felt that at every NCEA including this one that the SCPME could find higher quality guest speakers. That's a subjective judgement. 2) It was unclear to the Class 1970 group as to where and when the first activity would take place. 3) On published material, the prefixes and suffixes for Class 1970 members was incorrect.

Four classmates from USMA 1970 participated in a panel discussion and sat at table discussions: Rev. Toby Quirk, Honorable Joe Reeder, Colonel Fred Lough and Mr. Pat Sculley, representing four disciplines: clergy, law, medicine/military and business.

Special note: Colonel Scott Halstead opened the NCEA a welcome and introduction. He included the very emotional video of Gary Steele's family produced by "NFL Presents". If you haven't viewed it you should. I was thrilled to have Gummy at this NCEA, even through the video.

<http://m.baltimoreravens.com/videos/videos/NFL-Films-Presents-Steele-Tough-Part-2/203c90bd-9d3a-4c14-9ab8-dd000512f679>

Guest speakers:

Mr. Christian Picciolini, Author, Founder of Life After Hate, an organization whose mission is to lead members of hate groups into normal life.

General (R) Raymond Odierno, Former Chief of Staff of the Army, currently the Character Chair at SCPME.

Mr. Scott Mercier, Former Professional Cyclist who refused to use performance enhancing drugs.

USMA Superintendent LTG Robert Caslen and USAFA Superintendent LTG Jay Silveria together for Q&A.

Becca Tieder and Kelly Addington , "onestudent.org" speaking on preventing sexual abuse, assault and rape.

Trisha Prabhu, High School Student, entrepreneur Founder of Rethink App.

Dr. Irshad Manji, Founder of the Moral Courage Project, Author, Speaker.

During lunch on day-1 I moderated a panel discussion with panelists: Joe Reeder, Pat Sculley and Fred Lough. Feedback indicated that the session was well received.

Evaluating speakers is personal and subjective. The students seemed to appreciate all the speakers. My top two: Scott Mercier and the Superintendents' tag team. Impacting me the least: General Odierno and Trisha Prabhu.

Observations:

Col. Scott Halstead under the guidance of General Caslen have raised the priority of the NCEA at West Point and have reshaped the model into a highly effective tool for reinforcing the ideals behind our class motto: "Serve With Integrity". They have beefed up the staffing of the SCPME. Both will be retiring this calendar year. Hopefully their hard work and influence will continue after they're gone.

West Point PAO captured tons of images and video of every minute of the NCEA. Unless I'm mistaken I've never seen any product or deliverable. I recommend we press the SCPME for some kind of presentation so we can share it with others and post it on website and social media.

The Daniels Group has helped us immensely. Their grant of \$500,000 has funded the last 3 NCEA and Col. Halstead believes there may still be a balance remaining. So our endowment has been able to grow untouched for 3 years.

Participation by Class 1970: My position on this format of a 3-man panel with moderator is excellent. I talked with Scott Halstead about inviting Class 1970 observers and he was enthusiastically supportive. He suggests inviting 15-20 observers. I recommend we think hard about how to select invitees.

Joe, Pat, Fred and I feel privileged to be part of this year’s NCEA. I thank Barney for tapping me as his understudy. Every year I am proud and grateful for the guys in our class who created this living gift to our alma mater.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toby Quirk
LTC(R) USMA 1970

Attachments:

Schedule:

Day 1



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Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (Day 1)

0700 – 0730	Breakfast	Hampton Inn, Central Valley
0730 – 0800	Load Busses/ Travel to West Point	
0800 – 0830	Arrival/Refreshments/ Find Seats	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
0830 – 0850	Welcome and Conference Introduction COL Scott Halstead <i>Director of the SCPME</i>	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
0850 – 0950	Opening Speaker Mr. Christian Picciolini <i>Founder of Life after Hate and Author of <u>Romantic Violence</u></i>	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
0950 – 1030	Break and book signing	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1030 – 1130	Keynote Speaker (Fireside Chat Format) GEN (R) Raymond Odierno <i>38th Chief of Staff of the Army</i>	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1130 – 1300	Lunch	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1200 – 1300	USMA Class of 1970 Panel Moderator: Mr. Toby Quirk Panelists: Dr. Joe Reeder, Mr. Pat Sculley, Mr. Fred Lough	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1300 – 1330	Load Busses	
1330 – 1430	West Point Tour	West Point, NY
1430 – 1500	Break/Find Seats	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1500 – 1600	Facilitated Discussion	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1600 – 1700	Mixer	Crest Hall, Eisenhower Hall
1700 – 1730	Load Busses/ Transport to Cullum Hall	
1730 – 1900	Dinner	Cullum Ballroom, Cullum Hall
1800 – 1900	Banquet Speaker Mr. Scott Mercier <i>Former Professional Cyclist</i>	Cullum Ballroom, Cullum Hall
1900 – 1930	Load Busses and Transportation to hotel	Hampton Inn, Central Valley
1930 – 2100	Personal Time	Hampton Inn, Central Valley

Day 2



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Wednesday, February 14, 2018 (Day 2)

0700 – 0730	Breakfast	Hampton Inn, Central Valley
0730 – 0800	Load Busses/ Travel to West Point	
0800 – 0830	Arrival/Refreshments/ Find Seats	Auditorium 454, Bartlett Hall
0830 – 1000	Superintendent to Superintendent LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. <i>59th Superintendent of The U.S. Military Academy</i> Lt. Gen Jay B. Silveria <i>20th Superintendent of The U.S. Air Force Academy</i>	Auditorium 454, Bartlett Hall
1000 – 1030	Break	Auditorium 454, Bartlett Hall
1030 – 1130	Keynote Speakers Ms. Becca Tieder and Ms. Kelly Addington <i>Founders of OneStudent.org</i>	Auditorium 454, Bartlett Hall
1130 – 1200	Walk to lunch	
1200 – 1245	Lunch	Cadet Mess Hall
1245 – 1330	Load Busses/ Return to Eisenhower Hall	
1330 – 1430	Trisha Prabhu Founder of the Rethink App <i>Earned joint offers on ABC's Shark Tank with Mark Cuban and Lori Greiner</i>	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1430 – 1445	Break	
1445 – 1545	Closing Speaker Dr. Irshad Manji <i>Founder of the Moral Courage Project</i>	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1545 – 1615	Break/ Book Signing	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1615 – 1700	Facilitated Discussion	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1700 – 1715	Closing Remarks	Ball Room, Eisenhower Hall
1715 – 1745	Load Busses and Return to Hotel	
1745 – end	Dinner	Hampton Inn, Central Valley

Images



Pat Sculley NCEA 2018



Joe Reeder, Fred Lough (Ash Wednesday ashes) Gen. Bob Caslen, Toby Quirk



USCC First Captain, Simone Askew, USMA 2018, Toby Quirk, Terry Hildebrand, surprise '70 guest visiting his son, LTC Terry Hildebrand, assigned to SCPME, Pat Sculley and Col.Scott Halstead SCPME Director, USMA 91.



Of Special note: Company E-1 legacy! **Reeder and Quirk, Co E-1 '70, Bob Caslen Co E-1 '75 and Scott Halstead, Co E-1 '91.**