Andy Gordon ’98

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As a member of the Class of 1998 and a true “lifer,” Andy Gordon ’98 still recalls attending classes on USM’s south campus, before it consolidated into one building in the current location. As a student, he was drawn to history, inspired by dynamic teachers like Steve Breummer and Kenneth “Doc” Smith. He also played on the school’s soccer and hockey teams, contributing to a soccer program that captured three consecutive state championships. But perhaps more important than any athletic achievement was the academic foundation he gained. “The expectations, the rigor, and the focus on character and leadership set me up for success,” he said.

That preparation was evident while Andy was a student at the United States Military Academy at West Point, seeking what he describes as “the best of both worlds”—a rigorous education paired with the opportunity to serve. He graduated in 2002 as a second lieutenant, and was deployed to Iraq in February 2003 as an infantry officer with the 101st Airborne Division.

At just 22 years old, Andy was a platoon leader responsible for 40 soldiers. His troops completed complex and high-stakes missions in Baghdad and beyond, including securing Saddam International Airport in 2003 (now named Baghdad International Airport). His second deployment to Iraq occurred in 2005, and he finished his Army career as a captain in 2009.

After the military, he returned to Milwaukee to pursue his other long-held interest: law. “The military and the law were the two career paths that I always envisioned for myself,” he said. A graduate of Marquette University Law School, he now practices business litigation at Godfrey & Kahn, where he has built his career since 2014.

Although Andy’s path took him from New York to Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Louisiana, Milwaukee ultimately drew him back. “It’s a big city, but small enough to feel connected,” he says. That same sense of connection led him back to USM, this time as a parent. His children, August ’36 and Harrison ’38, now attend USM. Andy recalls things he experienced, like senior speeches and conversing with others at lunch tables, and is thrilled to see his kids being challenged and encouraged in similar ways. “I see them gaining leadership experience through lunch tables and the ‘buddy’ system in Lower School, and gaining public speaking skills by presenting projects in class. It’s phenomenal.”

Andy’s commitment to service has continued in his civilian life. A former president of the USM Alumni Association, he credits that experience with helping him reconnect with the school community. Today, he serves as chairman of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center board of directors, where he helps guide efforts to honor fallen service members and support veterans through education, programming, and community outreach.

Despite a résumé filled with leadership roles, military service, and volunteer contributions, Andy speaks of his Alumni Impact Award with humility. “It’s truly an honor,” he says, “especially to be included among the incredible alumni who have received this award before me.”

“Andy consistently shows up for the USM community, whether it is to help organize hockey gear, host a career lunch and learn event, or attend March to the Memorials as a veteran. He also impacts the Milwaukee community by serving on the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center board as president, not to mention his service to our country. Andy never looks for recognition or accolades; he helps because he wants to make a difference. He is so deserving of this award and we are lucky to have him in the USM community.”

-Emily (Harrington) Vruwink ’04



From left Col. Lee Rochwerger ’65, Col. Scott Miller ’68, and Andy Gordon, captain, at USM’s monument to military service, unveiled in 2024.



Andy and his wife, Melissa, are the parents of August ’36 and Harrison ’38 Gordon.