

TOP TECH

Academy NCO named AF dental tech of the year. **Page 3**

PASSION SEMINAR

Cadet uses life experiences to help others find purpose. **Page 7**

FLYING HIGH

Academy gymnasts shine. **Page 9**

ACADEMY SPIRIT

WOMEN LEADERSHIP

Academy grads headline symposium. **Page 8**



Air Force to face top-seeded Yale in NCAA East Regional

For the fourth time in five years, Air Force will be playing in the NCAA Hockey Tournament. The Falcons (20-11-6) are the fourth seed in the NCAA East Regional and will face top-seeded Yale (27-6-1) on Friday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. ET at the Webster Bank's Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, Conn. The game will be televised live on ESPN U. Union and Minnesota-Duluth will play in the other regional semifinal game at 3:00 p.m. ET. The two semifinal winners will meet in the Elite Eight regional final on Saturday, March 26 for the right to play in the NCAA Frozen Four in St. Paul, Minn., April 7-9.

Air Force is playing in its school record fourth NCAA Tournament as the Falcons also won the Atlantic Hockey Association Tournament in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The Falcons are 1-3 in the NCAA Tournament with the only win coming against third-ranked Michigan, 2-0, in 2009. Air Force's last NCAA game was a 3-2 double overtime loss to Vermont in the 2009 East Regional in Bridgeport, Conn. Air Force is 1-2 all-time in Bridgeport. AFA was 1-1 in the 2009 NCAA Regional and the Falcons fell to Sacred Heart, 4-2, earlier this season in Bridgeport.

Air Force and Yale played earlier this season and the Falcons upset the third-ranked Bulldogs, 4-3, at the Cadet Ice Arena, Nov. 14. In that game, Yale scored early in the third period for a 3-0 lead, but the Falcons came back with four un-



NICK SERRATA

Air Force Falcons celebrate their fourth AHA Championship in the last five years after a 1-0 win over RIT Saturday in Rochester, N.Y.

answered goals. Scott Mathis scored on the power play and Paul Weisgarber scored a short-handed goal to make it 3-2. Jason Fabian tied the game and then Stephen Carew scored the

game-winner with 3:52 remaining. Freshman goalie Jason Torf earned his first career win, recording 34 saves. Yale outshot Air Force, 37-29, in the game. Yale climbed to No. 1

in the country three weeks later and spent much of the season holding the top spot. The Bulldogs are the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Firefighters' quick response snuffs Douglass Valley blaze

By Gino Mattorano
Academy Spirit Editor

Douglass Valley residents received quite a scare Monday evening when a wild land fire started nearly in their backyards.

Thanks to the quick response of Academy firefighters and a mutual aid agreement with local civilian fire stations, the fire was quickly contained.

The Academy's fire station #2 was notified of smoke from Douglass Valley housing late Monday afternoon and within three minutes, Marty Clinton, the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron's assistant fire chief of operations, was on scene assessing the situation.

Chief Clinton immediately called every available asset into action and quickly had three engine companies and a specialized wild-land fire truck

QUICK LOOK

- Fire Danger extremely high
- Pay attention to "Red Flag" warnings
- Be careful with cigarettes and BBQ grills

on scene fighting the blaze. At the same time, he requested support from nearby civilian fire fighters.

"We had been in red flag conditions for two days, which means that wind and environmental conditions were ideal for fires," Chief Clinton said. "I knew that we would need every asset available if we were going to keep the fire under control."

Thanks to the mutual aid agreement, civilian firefighters from Donald Westcott, Larkspur, Tri-Lakes, Black Forest, Palmer Lake, and the El Paso County Hotshot Crew quickly arrived on scene, bumping up the

See **FIRE** Page 6



ARMY STAFF SGT. WAYNE BARNETT

Firefighters from the local community were instrumental in limiting the fire to 6.7 acres.

Displaced reality: a wakeup call to why we're here

By Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS) -- Long shifts, little sleep and an operations tempo akin to attempting to sprint a marathon can make us lose sight of the bigger picture -- Japan is in its largest and most expensive crisis since World War II, and needs us more than ever before. Recently, I saw that need first-hand, and it put new perspective on my role here, now.

I remember disasters in the past, watching them on TV like some sort of demented television series, always disconnected from the devastation. Even the events of 9/11 never sunk in all that deep, despite growing up in Connecticut. As I sit here at my desk, writing this, head swimming with sleep deprivation and trying to get my head around what might come next in these busy times, I have to reflect on the surrealistic nature of the past few days.

I just moved here a little over two weeks ago, but I've been living in Japan for more than three years. Before this assignment, I was at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan. I did my best to travel around Japan when I could, visiting Aomori, Oirase Gorge, Towada, and even spending an entire day exploring downtown Sendai and the massive electronics store there. When it came time to move to Yokota AB, I opted to drive the roughly 700 kilometers rather than fly or take the train.

Then, the earthquake hit. Having lived in Japan for a while, I'm used to earthquakes. Usually, they are barely noticeable, feeling similar to that slight loss of equilibrium caused by mild dehydration or sleep deprivation. This started out that way, but slowly grew in intensity. I remember the moment that I realized this was no ordinary earthquake, and fear set in. I scrambled to the nearest door frame, and waited what seemed like a very long time before the shaking finally abated. I remember it being roughly on par with standing on one of Tokyo's metro rail cars while in motion.

As odd as it is to have solid ground move beneath your feet, things did not return to normal. Our public affairs office "spun-up" with a fervor. We began covering the aftermath immediately, starting with the civilian airliners diverted here from Narita International Airport. Still, the reality of the situation never really sunk in for me. Yokota AB was left intact, and we still had all the creature comforts from before the quake.



It wasn't until two days later that the gravity of Japan's suffering hit me. I was called upon to go with a survey mission on an HH-60G Pave Hawk, assigned to search for useable air strips where we could land planes for supplies closer to the affected area. This meant flying up the coast through Sendai. I was very excited at the prospect of flying since my job normally does not allow me to do so, and helicopters are my favorite. I was curious to see what had happened in the north, but did not really understand the impact it might have on me.

I had driven this route only two weeks prior when I moved to Yokota AB, and saw it countless times traveling to and from Tokyo, as the bullet train (called the Shinkansen) was my preferred means of travel. The landscape of mountains, farmland and cities was familiar to me, and I was recognizing the terrain we passed over. But, as we traveled further and further north, the landscape became more foreign to me. It started with rice paddies that were flooded more than usual, rivers devouring their banks and a few overturned or stranded boats. Gradually, I watched the peaceful Japanese countryside become a desolate wasteland.

I was able to see the land I had driven through superimposed through the carnage and was left dumb, unable to even explain my reaction to myself.

I have grown to love Japan, and it left a pit in my stomach to see such destruction sweep its coast. I captured the photographs I needed to, reminding myself of the importance of my mission -- providing decision-makers with quality imagery of airfields as well as informing the American

public of current events. It was small consolation though, as I found myself feeling incredibly small against the awe-inspiring destruction below my feet. It was hard to believe a few curved pieces of glass and a digital sensor could make any sort of measurable difference.

And yet, here I am. My small piece of the puzzle has helped rescue forces get the momentum they need to get to a forward airfield. I've been "pulling" some of the longest work hours in my career, ranging from 14- to 18-hour shifts, putting a face on the relief effort.

The times that I've encountered Japanese workers here at Yokota AB, they've thanked me for my contributions without asking what they were. I'm not always sure if what I do always makes a difference, but it would seem that being here and giving it my all means a good deal to the honor-bound culture of Japan.

I ask my fellow Airmen to take a step back during their day to reflect on what they do. Commanders regularly drill into us the importance of everyone for mission success, but it's not very often that the success is in our own backyard. We owe it to our host nation and to the honor of the United States, to work at the pinnacle of integrity, service and above all excellence. This is one of the few opportunities we have at home station to make a verifiable difference in the world, so don't give up because of long shift hours, and don't give in to complacency or a "good-enough" attitude because you're tired and haven't slept. Let's show the world the benevolent and awe-inspiring side of air power.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Gino Mattorano — Editor
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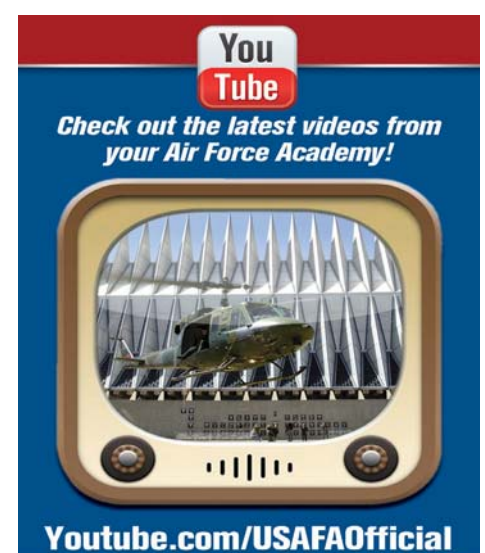
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The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.



Women's History Month: what woman most influences you?

"My mom. She raised me to be a strong woman of character, and now I am raising my daughter that way too."

Capt. Courtney Olson,
Vice Superintendent's Office



"Shirley Chism because I think she was an amazing and outstanding orator. I study her to see how she took and painted a picture with her words, and drew the listener in."

Moses Stewart, Diversity Office



"My grandmother. She over-came a lot of adversity. She came here from England at 14 by herself, got a job and raised 5 children."

2nd Lt. Amanda Castravet,
Admissions



"My mother. She came to the U.S. with little education and no work experience and managed to raise me. Her optimism has been a positive influence in my life."

Dr. Adis Vila, Chief Diversity Officer



Academy clinic home to Air Force dental tech of the year

By Leslie Finstein
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Cadets can smile with ease knowing that their own Cadet dental clinic houses an Air Force awarding winning dental technician, Master Sgt. Christaleen Hill.

"I have been in the Air Force for 14 years and never have I dreamed of receiving an award at this level," said Sergeant Hill on winning Air Force Dental Corps' Senior Dental NCO of the Year.

"My husband, Capt. Darren Hill, and I always joked that winning a wing level award had been elusive for me after 3 attempts, so when I got to the Academy and won a wing level award, I had accomplished my goal and could now place my award next to my husband's. Having won an award at this level is nothing short of divine intervention," explained Sergeant Hill.

Sergeant Hill had many achievements over the last year that earned her this award, here are just a few:

- Selected to be one of 13 Air Force delegates at the 2010 American Dental Association National Conference.
- Took a lead in development of new strategic plan for her dental squadron.
- Instituted first ever Air Force/Air Reserve dental exam program.

Prior to her arrival at the Academy in July 2010, Sergeant Hill was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base Texas, where she credits much of her development as a leader to the senior NCO's that she worked with.

Sergeant Hill's Academy commanders have had nothing but praise for her work and abilities.

"I have been so impressed with Sergeant Hill as a leader," said Col. Gregory Gates, deputy commander of the 10th Dental Squadron. "She has championed improvement of our key dental programs that pertain to ensuring quality patient care and safety, as well as, overall USAFA dental readiness."

Her abilities were also noticed by her squadron commander.

"When you meet her it only takes a moment to recognize her talent and ability," said Col. Douglas



BILL EVANS

"I have been in the Air Force for 14 years and never have I dreamed of receiving an award at this level."

-Master Sgt. Christaleen Hill

"I have been so impressed with Sergeant Hill as a leader. She has championed improvement of our key dental programs that pertain to ensuring quality patient care and safety, as well as, overall USAFA dental readiness."

-Col. Gregory Gates, deputy commander of the 10th Dental Squadron.

Wilson, commander of the 10th Dental Squadron. "She takes mentorship seriously and is passionate about developing those she works with. She is truly deserving of this award."

All the accolades aside, according to Sergeant Hill, it's really all about the team.

"Ultimately this award is a team award, as nothing that we do is ever a solo effort," she explained. "It's a snapshot of the hard work that we put in as a team and it feels great that the dental family from the 10th Dental Squadron and 82nd Dental Squadron brought one home!"

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Rethink Possible 

Security Forces Airmen advise Afghan counterparts

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
Regional Command-West Public Affairs

HERAT, Afghanistan — Since 1943, security forces Airmen have toed the line of defense for U.S. Air Force bases in America and abroad, and sometimes in hostile environments.

Helping to build capability similar to that of the U.S. Air Force security forces, airmen deploy on six-month rotations to Shindand Air Base, Herat Province, Afghanistan, and advise Afghan air force security forces there.

Currently a team of 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group officers and NCOs, made up of Airmen from the U.S. and Italian air forces, are guiding dozens of Afghan airmen.

“We have an important job advising Afghan airmen, because unlike many bases in our homelands, these guys have a constant threat of insurgent attacks here,” said Italian air force 1st Lieutenant Marshall (Chief Master Sgt. equivalent) Mario Grecco, an Italian air force provider team adviser.

Afghan air force security forces have developed to the point that they already stand watch at Shindand Air Base entry control points, said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Irwin Sealy, deployed from the Academy’s 10th Security Forces Squadron.

Due to progress in training, the

838th AEAG has transitioned to an advisory role, where Afghans train other Afghans, accomplish real-world missions, and the coalition provides feedback.

Fellow adviser 1st Marshall (Senior Master Sgt. equivalent) David Suligoj also advises the Afghan air force and is joined by American officers and NCOs.

Combined efforts of U.S. Air Force Capt. John Rose from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Tech. Sgt. Bryant Evans from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Tech. Sgt. Garrett Knight from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Sergeant Sealy and the two Italian advisers resulted in a two-week base defense training curriculum.

“In the future these (Afghan air force) airmen will learn to push outside the perimeter and take defence postures,” Captain Rose said. “Instead of being reactive to insurgents penetrating the base, they’ll keep the insurgents from ever reaching the base.”

Though coalition security forces members have executed these types of missions in real-world situations countless numbers of times, the Afghan air force is brand new and in its infancy. It was the Afghan National Army Air Corps prior to that.

Currently Shindand AB is home to about 300 Afghan airmen and roughly 400 Afghan National Army soldiers,



TECH. SGT. KEVIN WALLACE

Master Sgt. Irwin Sealy trains an Afghan air force security forces airman on close combat tactics with an M-16 rifle March 7. Sergeant Sealy, a security forces adviser with the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, is deployed from the Air Force Academy.

said Italian air force Lt. Col. Alberto Autore, a provider team adviser.

“We need to grow to a much larger capacity as in the future Shindand will likely support several thousand Afghan troops,” Colonel Autore said.

Thousands of troops will require support elements, and a flourishing base, said Italian air force Col. Gironamo Iadicicco, the provider team

commander, who is certain the professional advice his airmen and their U.S. Air Force counterparts provide will be the right ingredient to securing Shindand’s perimeter.

With security in place, the AAF will have a protected base from which to launch their Mi-17 Hip helicopters, which means protecting their homeland, supporting ground soldiers and securing their skies.



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Fire

from Page 1

total number of firefighters to more than 50. The chief wasted no time in assigning firefighters to positions to help contain the fire. The 10th CES Natural Resources office also assisted with two people and a brush truck.

"Wild land fires are very labor intensive," Chief Clinton said. "The assistance we received from the local fire departments was critical. Thanks to their help, we were able to prevent any damage to base housing, and contain the fire to about 6.7 acres."

With all the extra help, Chief Clinton and his crew were able to contain the fire within two hours, but spent an additional 10 hours on scene ensuring there were no flare-ups.

The Academy's 18,500 acres are mostly wooded and provide a unique challenge for Academy firefighters, but Chief Clinton was extremely impressed with the performance of his team.

"Our guys did a fantastic job," he said. "I've worked with firefighters all over the world, and our guys are definitely among the best. They are extremely knowledgeable and worked well together."

According to Chief Clinton, the cause of the fire is under investigation, but with the fire danger so high, he wants everyone to be extra careful and pay attention to the fire conditions announced on the news, especially when they announce red flag conditions.

"This fire season is starting early, so take extreme precautions with anything that produces a spark or a flame," he said. "Be particularly careful with cigarette butts and BBQ grills, which have both been the cause of many fires."

Summer jobs will increase at Academy

By David Edwards
Academy Spirit Staff Writer

The Air Force Academy will see a fivefold increase in the number of people it hires for summer jobs under a federal employment program for students and recent graduates with disabilities.

As part of the Workforce Recruitment Program, five people selected for temporary work at the Academy will begin their 14-week stint in mid-May. The Air Force is funding 50 positions under the program this year, and the fact that five of them were allocated to the Academy represents a significant accomplishment.

"We can handle even more spots," said Connie Brown, a supervisory human resource specialist at the Academy's civilian personnel office. "Our managers requested 20 summer hires under this program. We want the students here as much as they want to work for us. We certainly have the workload here ..., but we just don't have the authorized resources."

Last summer hiring season, the Academy received only one allocation. The increase to five this year reflects the efforts of Ms. Brown and the quality of the job performance of last year's lone program employee.

"The young lady hired last year so impressed her boss that they hired her immediately," Ms. Brown said.

The Academy has considerable incentive to participate in the program because it is co-funded by the Department of Defense. Since it began in 1995, the program has helped more than 5,500 students land jobs.

At the heart of the program is a database that changes annually. Recruiters travel to college campuses and interview prospective program participants. From there, the recruiters compile a database of eligible people.

That database is available to federal-government employers as well as employers in the private sector who request access to the database. Using the information in the database, employers directly contact the people they



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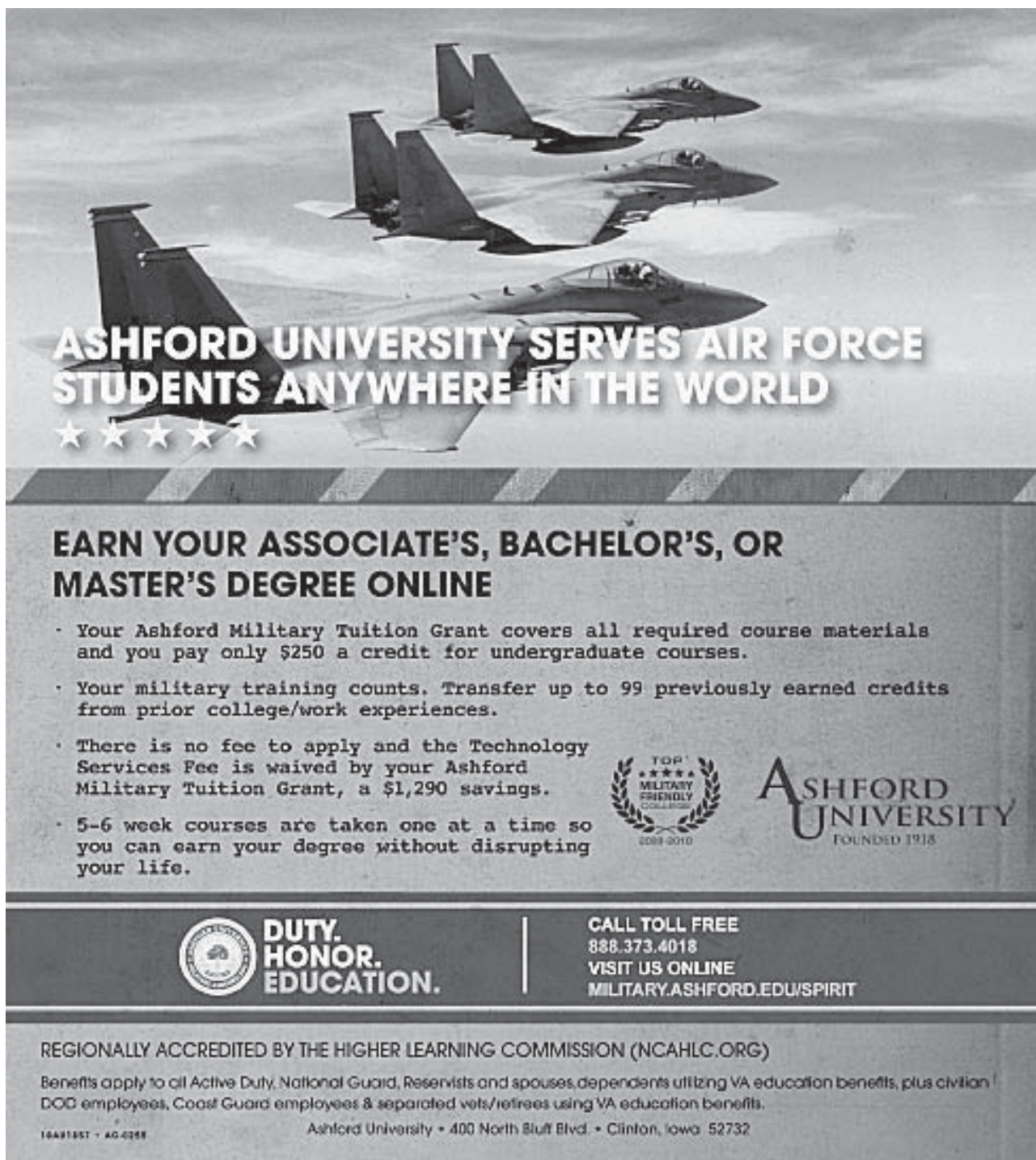
are interested in hiring.

Besides eligibility requirements relating to class standing or date of graduate, applicants must also meet the criteria of U.S. citizenship and substantial disability. With 10 percent of this year's total allocations, the Academy has put itself in the participation level of large regional Air Force personnel centers.

The Workforce Recruitment Program exists largely to maximize the opportunities for people with disabilities to show what they can do. According to a fact sheet from the Office of Disability Employment Policy, employers' reluctance to hire the disabled is still a problem.

"Myths, stereotypes, and misconceptions about people with disabilities often stand in the way when people with disabilities look for jobs, resulting in a high rate of unemployment," the fact sheet states.

The Air Force Academy has certainly done its part to reduce the unemployment rate among the disabled. In the years since the Academy started participating in the program, five students have been hired as a result. Four work for the medical squadron, while the other works in the 10th Force Support Squadron.



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One cadet's pathway to purpose

Cadet is dedicated to help others find their life's passion at Academy

By Leslie Finstein
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Cadet 3rd Class Esther Willet's journey to the Academy had a few more twists and turns than most. Her experiences outside and within the Academy helped her find her passion, finding purpose in life and now she is helping others find theirs.

"My passion for finding your purpose came from my own experience. You get out of high school and have things you think you are interested in, things that others want you to be interested in," Willet explained.

"For me it came down to trying a lot of things but when I figured out what I wanted, what excites me, what gets me willing to do whatever it takes to get there, it lit a fire under me."

“My passion for finding your purpose came from my own experience. You get out of high school and have things you think you are interested in, things that others want you to be interested in.”

-Cadet 3rd Class Esther Willet

Prior enlisting, Willet graduated high school in 2006 in Lancaster, Penn. and went on to begin her collegiate career at Houghton College in western



New York. She stayed for a semester.

"I realized that I didn't really know what I want to do and I am paying money to figure it out, and that was stupid, so I went home," explained Cadet Willet about her one semester of college.

"I worked for six months as a nurse's aide in a doctor's office and then I enlisted in the Air Force in 2007," she continued.

"I wanted to be a medic but came in open -general, which means you are either a cook or a cop and I didn't know that. I was security forces and I loved it, had a great time. I worked at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana for a year," on how she joined the Air Force.

"My supervisor, a Captain, told me about (the Air Force Academy). It had never been on my ra-

QUICK LOOK

- Cadet draws on life experiences to help others
- Partnered with community/Academy
- Next Passion Seminar March 29

dar. He gave me an application and I applied," explained Cadet Willet about how she ended up at the Academy.

After getting through her freshman year at the Academy, Cadet Willet began exploring her leadership potential after taking Social Sciences 495, Transformative Leadership. It connected her with the Center for Character and Leadership Development and in turn to the Colorado Leadership Alliance, a consortium of student led leadership programs from across the Front Range.

The CCLD and CLA cadets and permanent party helped Cadet Willet enact her leadership project, helping cadets find their pathway to purpose through "passion seminars."

The seminars ask cadets to figure out what drives them, what their goals and passions are through exercises, brainstorming and assistance from CLA volunteers. The goal is to create a purposeful and passionate cadet population.

"When you have people that know exactly why they are here and exactly where they are going, that really changes their whole perspective. If the cadets, the freshman, could find that, it would change the atmosphere of the Academy."

The first one took place in January with 32 freshmen attending.

Cadet Willet hopes to eventually hold seminars on a bi-weekly basis, reaching as many cadets as possible.

The next one takes place on March 29 in Arnold Hall from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and is open to all cadets.

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Academy grads headline women's symposium

By 2nd Lt. Meredith Kirchoff
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO — Uniformed women from all services of the U.S. military travelled to San Diego to participate in the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium March 15-16.

The Air Force keynote speaker list boasted the highest-ranking female officer in the Air Force, Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, former astronaut, Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, and the director of force management policy, Brig. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, all Academy graduates during the 1980s.

About 1,300 women and a handful of men embodied the symposium's theme "Connect. Empower. Succeed." during the two-day event led by the Navy. Keynote speakers, panels, and break-out sessions focusing on everything from women's roles in building global security to fitness to leadership development and mentorship characterized the first day. On day two, attendees separated into their respective services for more customized sessions.

For all the military women in attendance, the opportunity to be surrounded by other women is rare and was one of the objectives of the symposium organizers.

"In the military, women are normally a distinct minority," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Shue, president of the Sea Service Leadership Association that hosted the event. "Our goal at this symposium is to give women the opportunity to be in the majority, to be comfortable, and to be able to connect with those senior female leaders who are pioneers."

This was the first year the Air Force participated in the symposium, which attracted about 170 Airmen from all over the world.

General Wolfenbarger began her message to the Air Force crowd with a look into how her Air Force career began 34 years ago with a congressional decision to allow women to attend the U.S. service academies.

"I will tell you that being in the first class of women, there were some unique pressures and challenges," she said. "There were male cadets who firmly believed that congress was wrong to allow women to attend the Air Force Academy, and made it a personal calling to prove that."

"In hindsight, and even at the time, I can understand why this change was hard for these folks to accept. These guys, who were at the Academy, had



PHOTOS BY 2ND LT. MEREDITH KIRCHOFF
Air Force Academy Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born speaks with junior officers, from left, 1st Lt. Sarah Booth and Captains Angelia Sanders and Heather Greatting, during the opening sessions of the 2011 Joint Women's Leadership Symposium in San Diego, March 15.

QUICK LOOK

- Symposium's theme - Connect. Empower. Succeed.
- Event focus: global security, leadership development, mentorship
- Academy grads headline keynote speaker list

signed up for a different experience. They had signed up for an all-male experience at a service academy."

General Wolfenbarger was joined by her classmate, General Helms, and other women from the first few Academy classes to graduate women, including General Dunbar and Brig. Gen. Dana Born, dean of the faculty at the Air Force Academy, 1982 and 1983 graduates, respectively. Another notable Academy alumna in attendance was Lt. Col. Nicole Malachowski, the first female Air Force Thunderbird pilot.

Many of the Academy graduates pointed to their experience at the Academy as instrumental in gaining the confidence necessary to take on the challenges of their Air Force careers.

"My Academy experience was one of being thrust into situations that really stretched me; stretched me in any way I can think of--mentally, physically and emotionally," General Wolfenbarger said. "I felt as though I was put into situations I was not prepared for, but I came out on the other end of those experiences realizing I am far more ca-

pable than I ever thought I could be, that's the value of that experience for me."

Colonel Malachowski, a 1996 graduate of the Academy, echoed the sentiment describing her years at the Academy as a crucible experience; a concept modeled after a piece of chemistry equipment that can withstand extremely high temperatures, and refers to an intense, transformational experience.

"To me the Air Force Academy was the first real crucible experience that I went through," she said. "You go in with who you are, you deal with the situation and the circumstances, and you alter your path as the environment changes and you come out a completely different person on the other side. You come out of that fire stronger, and it's the first time I learned that I can do something that's different and unique, and I am capable of more than I previously thought."

General Helms touched on a theme common to many early female Academy graduates -- a sense of not wanting to stand out as women. She said she has learned much from the younger

ranks of Air Force women who embrace their roles as women and take advantages of opportunities like this Symposium.

One of those junior officers, and a symposium organizer, 1st Lt. Chrystina Short, said she strives to make an impact at any position or any rank. A C-130 pilot, she founded the Horizon East-Iraq Women in Aviation Chapter during her recent deployment.

"The Academy gave me a great big-picture perspective, and helped me understand the importance of language and culture on a strategic level," said Lieutenant Short, a 2007 graduate. "This enabled my ability to use my gender as a tactical advantage to engage with Iraqi women in a groundbreaking way, to encourage them to help Iraq rebuild its aviation sector."

For Academy graduates from the earliest classes to admit women to the most recent graduates, the symposium provided an opportunity to engage with one another. To talk about the career paths, family decisions, successes and failures each person has encountered since her hat toss months or decades ago.

General Wolfenbarger summed up her thoughts on her Air Force Academy experience with, "It was really invaluable to me, and it was just a wonderful start to my Air Force career."



Lt. Col. Nicole Malachowski takes part in a panel at the symposium.



Former astronaut and current 14th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, a 1980 graduate of the Air Force Academy, gives a keynote address during the Air Force day.

Five Academy records fall in men's regular season finale

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Highlighted by a new team total and freshman Colton Wulf's Academy-record on the floor exercise, the 10th-ranked Air Force men's gymnastics team wrapped up the regular season with an impressive showing Sunday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym. The Falcons set three event records, en route to a program-best team score of 347.500.

Wulf scored a 15.400 to win the floor exercise and move into first on the program's all-time list. Wulf's score – a personal improvement by 0.600 – broke Greg Stine's 2008 record of 15.200. The freshman, who also improved his all-around score to 86.500 to win the combined event competition, became just the second Air Force gymnast to crack the 15-point mark on the floor exercise, joining Stine who accomplished that feat on six occasions.

In addition to setting the new overall team score in their dual meet with a partial club squad from Washington, the Falcons also set Academy records on the floor exercise (59.600), still rings (59.400) and parallel bars (57.100).

Senior Nash Mills accounted for three first-place finishes on the day, including a career-best 15.300 on the still rings. Air Force accounted for at least the top three spots on all events.

Sophomore Tory Brown and senior Aaron Zaiser placed second (14.900) and third (14.800), respectively, on the floor exercise, while senior Dan Klimkowski and Wulf placed second and third on the pommel horse. Klimkowski tallied a season-high score of

QUICK LOOK

● Air Force returns to action today and Saturday, in Springfield, Mass., for the 2011 USAG Collegiate National Championships.



RAYMOND MCCOY

Junior Devin Menefee performs on the still rings as the 10th ranked Air Force men's gymnastics team wrapped up the regular season with an impressive win over Washington.

14.00, while Wulf improved his career score to 13.600. Klimkowski also placed second on the still rings with a season-high 14.800 and freshman Tyler Huebner improved his personal mark on that event to 14.700 to take third.

The Zaiser brothers claimed the top-two finishes on the vault, as Aaron placed second to Ben with a season-high 15.300. Mills scored a 15.200 to finish third on that event. Brown picked

up a second-place tally on the parallel bars behind a career-best 14.300, while Wulf and senior Matt Thorne tied for third with matching marks of 14.200. Wulf was the runner-up on the high bar with a 13.900, while sophomore James Okamoto scored a 13.800 to finish third.

The Falcons will look to defend their team title today, while the top finishers from the team competition will advance to the event finals on Saturday.

Dutton, Day and Georges Sweep MPSF Awards

Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

WOODLAND, Calif.— Members of the Air Force women's gymnastics team swept the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation awards. Senior Brittany Dutton was named the league's Gymnast of the Year, Doug Day was named the Head Coach of the Year and Kyle Georges was named the Co-Assistant Coach of the Year.

Dutton is just the second Air Force gymnast to earn the conference's top honor, joining Abbey Rogers who claimed the award in 2008 and 2009. It is the second consecutive year that Day has been voted as the league's top coach, while Georges, who shared the 2011 honor with UC Davis' Carolyn Kampf, captured his first coaching award in his first season. Georges' award marks the second straight year that an Air Force coach has been recognized as the league's top assistant (Nelle Barriteau, 2010).

Dutton, the senior captain of a team that features the most freshmen in all of Division I gymnasts, competed in every meet of 2011, including eight competitions in the all-around. She set career-best marks on the uneven bars (9.825), floor exercise (9.825) and all-around (38.625) during the year to lead the Falcons in all three. She was named the MPSF Gymnast of the Week on Jan. 25, following her performance against Seattle Pacific in which she won titles on the bars and all-around, as well as earning a runner-up finish on the vault. Dutton claimed seven first-place finishes over the season and four all-conference honors, including the all-around (38.130), vault (9.665), uneven bars (9.695) and floor exercise (9.725).

Day repeated as the MPSF Coach of the Year after guiding the 2011 Falcons to four of the 10 highest team scores of his tenure, including a high-matching score of 193.300 against Denver on March 14. Air Force picked up four dual meet wins this season, while surpassing the 190-point mark on five occasions heading into the conference meet. Day did all of this while coaching a team with the most freshmen in all of Division I gymnastics. Five Falcons combined for nine all-conference honors this season, including multiple awards from Dutton (four) and freshman Linnaea Hance (two).

Georges joined the program in December and has been instrumental in the program's success during the 2011 season. He helped Air Force to four of its highest team scores in the last five years, while coaching the five returning gymnasts to 12 career-best marks heading into the conference meet.

Dutton and Wong share beam title at MPSF Championships

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Highlighted by seniors Brittany Dutton and Lisa Wong sharing the conference title on the balance beam with career-best scores, the Air Force women's gymnastics team finished second at the 2011 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships Saturday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym.

Dutton and Wong tallied career-best scores of 9.775 on the balance beam to win their first conference titles. That score is a career-best for Dutton by 0.075 and a 0.025 personal improvement for Wong. The pair's first-place finish on the beam marks the third straight season that a member of the Air Force squad has accounted for a conference title.

The seniors were two of five Falcons to stand on the awards' podium of the balance beam, as Air Force posted its best team score of the season at 48.575. Freshmen Jen Larsen, Linnaea Hance and Jessica Hanner all scored matching marks of 9.675 to tie for sixth.

In addition to her conference title on the balance beam, Dutton was the runner-up on the floor exercise (9.725) and all-around (38.575).

Samantha Jones was the Falcons' top finisher on the vault and uneven bars. The junior tied for fourth on the vault with a career-best matching mark of 9.775, while tying for sixth on the uneven bars with a 9.650. Jones also tied for fifth on the floor exercise with a score of 9.675.

Larsen also earned a trip to the awards podium in the all-around, as she amassed a career-high 38.275 to place third.

QUICK LOOK

● Air Force senior Brittany Dutton, below, was selected to compete at the 2011 NCAA Regional Championships, and will make her third appearance in four years at the regional meet at Denver's Magness Arena April 2.



MIKE KAPLAN

Air Force baseball completes four-game sweep of Portland

By Nicholas Arseniak
Athletic Communications

Air Force baseball completed a four-game series sweep of Portland with a 10-2 win Sunday at Falcon Field. The Falcons have now won five of their last six and improve to 11-10, while the Pilots fell to 8-10.

Air Force completed its first series sweep of an opponent since 2003 and has its first four-game winning streak since 2002.

The Falcons continued to get solid starting pitching, with junior left-hander Michael Ceci (2-3) going six innings, holding Portland to two runs for his second win of the season. The AFA bullpen was even more dominant, as Matt Zettler, Alex Baker and Stephen Colangelo pitched scoreless innings each to close out the game.

The Falcon bullpen had an outstanding weekend as the group did not allow a sin-

gle run in the four-game series.

After allowing a run in the second, the Falcons put up two runs in the second to lead 2-1. The Falcons added two runs in the third, four in the fourth and one in the fifth to pull ahead 9-2. Air Force also added a run in the eighth.

The Falcons had 15 hits in the game. Blair Roberts led the offense, going 4-for-5, with two runs and two RBIs. Garrett Custons, Alex Bast, Vai Schierholtz and Matt Thorne had two hits each for the Falcons. Custons, Bast and Schierholtz also scored two runs each and Seth Kline and Matt Thorne had two RBIs each.

Portland starting pitcher Mat McCallister (0-2) took the loss, allowing eight runs in 3.1 innings pitched. The Pilots had nine hits in the game. Craig Smith, Matt Mardesich and Kris Kauppila had two hits each.

Solid pitching, strong Falcon bullpen help secure wins for first four-game winning streak since 2002; to Utah this weekend

Senior 1st Baseman Parker Mayo attempts a pick off against Portland's Kramer Scott as Air Force defeated the Pilots 12-4 at Falcon Field. The Falcons swept the 4-game series from Portland, improving their record to 11-10, while the Pilots fell to 8-10. Air Force completed its first sweep of an opponent since 2003 and has its first four-game winning streak since 2002.



RAYMOND MCCOY

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CLUES ACROSS

- Sections of a play
- Staff musical notation
- Rock TV channel
- Afrikaans
- Especially pungent pepper
- Macaws
- Short soloist song
- Largest S.A. country
- Auto
- Resembling a rope
- Old Italian money
- Arugula genus
- Huskier
- Pre-Roman Europeans
- Metal shackles
- Arabian overgarments
- University of Dayton
- Member of U.S. Navy building battalion
- Inflexible
- Ancient Persian provincial governor
- Article
- Fallow deer
- Barefaced
- Small African antelope
- Lower leg protectors
- Poisonous hemlock alkaloid (alt. sp.)
- Noah-like ships
- Arabic word for miracle/sign
- Social insect
- Bast fibers come from it
- Early TV comedian Imogene
- Sheltered side
- Stain for studying cell structures
- Robin's Friar
- Contribute to
- Glowing sign gas
- Greek portico

CLUES DOWN

- Oil obtained from flowers
- Chocolate alternative
- Formosan capital
- Dragon killer
- Trout-like fish (alt. sp.)
- Ms. Minelli
- NY Quarterback Manning
- Folder storage
- Sunspots
- Nerve pathways
- Spanish units of length
- Shouts out
- Restricts vision
- Pear-shaped medieval fiddle
- Writing implement
- Tree juice
- Spanish be
- Reversion
- Metrical units
- 6th note
- Like an angel in goodness
- Spoke in a monotone
- Old bucket
- Responds to
- Trial run
- 34470
- Crease between leg and abdomen
- and Venzetti
- Too
- Maori war dance
- Work the soil

SUDOKU

			7		1			
	1		8		3			
4	8	9	1					5
	2					4		
9					7			
3	5		7	2			1	
		8		5			9	
5	3							
			9	6				

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Solution on page 15

Air Force knocks Off No. 17 Loyola, 8-6

Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

Capturing its first ECAC win since joining the league in 2010, the Air Force lacrosse team held on for an 8-6 upset victory over 17th-ranked Loyola Saturday afternoon at Falcon Stadium.

In addition to winning its first conference game as a member of the ECAC, Air Force (2-6, 1-1) also posted its first-ever win against Loyola (3-3, 1-2), and its first win over a ranked team since defeating ninth-ranked Notre Dame in 2006.

The Falcons got out to a strong start against the Greyhounds, taking a 3-0 advantage in the first quarter with goals from Adam Paranka, Vinny Sandtorv and Mike Crampton before Loyola was able to get on the board with just under two minutes remaining in the period.

Air Force extended its lead in the second period, scoring three more unanswered goals, including two more from Sandtorv. However, Loyola found the back of the net with just 19 seconds remaining in the half to cut the margin to 6-2 at the break.

A score by the Greyhounds' Matt Langan early in the third period brought Loyola back within three goals, but Crampton tallied the next two goals to give Air Force an 8-3 advantage with 8:43 left in the third quarter.

While another third-period goal by Loyola brought the score to 8-4, strong defense by the Falcons kept the margin at four goals for most of the final stanza. Air Force was able to kill a two-minute penalty in the period, despite being down two men for a minute. However, the big play of the quarter came from Loyola goalkeeper Jake Hagelin, who tallied a man-down goal with 4:44 remaining.

Loyola was able to score once more in the period, tallying a goal with 2:31 remaining, but the Falcons were able to prevent the Greyhounds from getting any closer than two goals, holding on for their second win of the season.

Despite outshooting the Falcons 32-23 for the game, including 12-3 in the final period, the Greyhounds had a difficult time finding the back of the net. Air Force goalkeeper Brian Wilson notched 10 saves in the contest, while defenseman Dayton Gilbreath held Mike Sawyer, the leading goal scorer in the ECAC, without a goal.

Crampton led the Falcons with three goals and an assist, while Sandtorv added three goals and Paranka registered a goal and an assist.

The Falcons are back in action Saturday when they head up I-25 to take on in-state rival Denver in an ECAC match-up.



RAYMOND MCCOY

ABOVE: Freshman midfielder Erik Smith gains control from the Loyola Greyhound defense as Air Force held on for an 8-6 upset over 17th-ranked Loyola Saturday afternoon at Falcon Stadium. In addition to winning its first conference game as a member of the Eastern College Athletic Conference, Air Force (2-6, 1-1) also posted its first-ever win against Loyola and its first win over a ranked team since defeating ninth-ranked Notre Dame in 2006.

GAME NOTES

Air Force 8, No. 17 Loyola 6

Loyola	1	1	2	2	6
Air Force	3	3	2	0	8

Loyola Scoring: Goals: Hawkins, Butts, Langan, Basler, Hagelin, Murray. Assists: Langan, Sawyer, Ward.

AF Scoring: Goals: Sandtorv 3, Crampton 3, Paranka, McKeown. Assists: B. Gilbreath, Crampton, Paranka, Curran.

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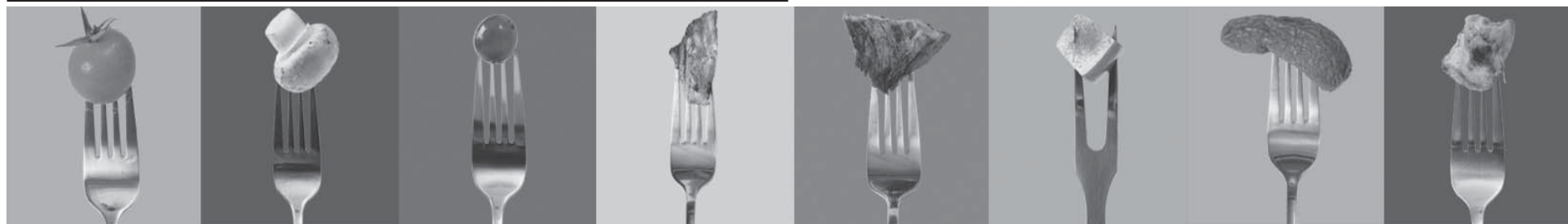
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Air Force claims 31st NCBA Regional title



MEGAN DAVIS

Junior Dan Starr boxed his way a Wing Open title on March 24. He picked up the Falcons' first championship win Saturday in Reno, winning his 139-pound bout.

RENO, Nev.— The Air Force boxing team earned its 31st regional title with a dominating performance during the final night of competition at the National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) West Regional Championships late Saturday in Reno, Nev. Five Falcons claimed individual titles, as the squad picked up their 31st title in the last 32 years.

With 74 total points, Air Force nearly doubled the combined scores of the second- and third-place teams. Host Nevada finished second with 25 points, while UNLV took third with 22 points.

Junior Dan Starr picked up the Falcons' first championship win, when he decisioned Santa Clara's Pat Welde in the 139-pound bout. For his efforts, Starr was named the Academy's Boxer of the Week.

"He boxed really well," assistant coach Capt Blake Baldi said. "Dan won a great decision in one of the best

bouts of the tournament."

Senior Mike McLain claimed his second consecutive regional title at 175 pounds, when the referee stopped his contest with Nevada's Dylan Crosby in the first round. Fellow senior Will Keuchler won his first regional title at 185 pounds by decisioning Cal's Mike Hastings. Freshman Zac Spranger also won his inaugural regional title, taking a decision from Ryan Wilson of UCLA.

Sophomore Drew Pineda (112 pounds) and senior Matt DeMars (119 pounds) claimed regional titles as unopposed contenders. Two other Falcons advanced to the national championships by finishing second at the regional meet.

Air Force will return to the Academy to train over spring break, before heading to West Point, N.Y., for the 2011 NCBA National Championships April 7-9.

MATCH NOTES

Championship Round Bouts

132-lbs.: Jerome Foster (UNLV) dec. Michael Mizes (Air Force)
139-lbs.: Dan Starr (Air Force) dec. Pat Welde (Santa Clara)
165-lbs.: Dalton Hall (Air Force) walkover Ramsey Ayloush (San Francisco)
175-lbs.: Mike McLain (Air Force) rsc-1 Dylan Crosby (Nevada)
185-lbs.: Will Keuchler (Air Force) dec. Mike Hastings (Cal)
195-lbs.: Zac Spranger (Air Force) dec. Ryan Wilson (UCLA)
Hywt.: Brett Rather (UNLV) rsc-2 Mike Chambers (Air Force)

3rd-Place Bouts

165-lbs.: Joe Silvio (Air Force) dec. Andrew Vasilij (Cal)

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A&FRC offerings

For information on these or other classes or to register, contact the Airmen & Family Readiness Center at 333-3444. Classes are held at the A&FRC unless otherwise indicated.

DAV Medical Records Review -

Today, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the Disabled American Veterans review their medical records. You must pre-register. Call for an individual appointment.

Tuskegee Appreciation

The Academy's Way of Life Committee hosts a 2011 Tuskegee Airmen Appreciation Weekend April 1-2. Events include a Confederate Air Force Red Tail P-51C Mustang Fly-over at 11:55 a.m. over the Terrazzo, and an appreciation dinner at 6:30 p.m. April 2 in Doolittle Hall. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and the guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., former commandant of cadets. To purchase tickets, call Maj. Julian Stephens at 333-4767 or Master Sgt.



Cadet Chapel

BUDDHIST

Sundays: 10 a.m.
Thursdays: 6:20 p.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Traditional: Sundays, 9 a.m.
Contemporary: Sundays, 11 a.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

Mass: Sundays, 10-11 a.m.;
Mondays, 5:45-6:15 a.m.;
Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7-7:30 p.m.
Confession and Adoration:
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.
Holy Days of Obligation: 7 p.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP

Shabbath: Fridays, 7 p.m.

Community Center Chapel

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

Mass: Saturdays, 4 p.m.; Sundays,
9 a.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, 11:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.
Religious formation: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
September-May

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Wednesday Night Live: 6 p.m.
Dinner followed by Religious Education
Evangelical: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
Gospel: Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Friday Stations of the Cross,
Lenten Suppers:
Today, 1, 8 and 15 April
5:30 p.m.

Bryant Ward at 333-8994. Advance purchase required. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Family Advocacy

Anger Management Class

Anger Management Class: April 7, 14, 28 and May 5, 8-9:30 a.m. This four-session class teaches how to manage anger in day-to-day

Dads 101 Class

April 5, 12, and 19, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This three-session class is for dads and taught by dads. Learn about becoming a dad and the role of a father. Topics include pregnancy, gender stereotypes, labor and delivery, communicating with your spouse, and caring for an infant.

All family advocacy classes are open to Active Duty, family members, DoD civilians, and retirees. Please call 333-5270 to sign up.

Passport day

The Academy Post Office will offer a special passport fair April 9 at its main location, 5136 Community Center Drive. The passport fair is being held to accommodate Air Force cadets and any other customers.

Golf tourney

The 10th Air Base Wing Commander's Cup Golf Tournament is April 1 at 1:00 pm. Format is a 4-person scramble and is open to all military, cadets, civilians, family members and guests. Call the golf course at 333-2606 to sign up.

Education news

Attention October 2010 and April 2011 CCAF graduates: Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree? Apply for the Pitsenbarger Award Scholarship of \$400 at <http://www.afa.org/aei/aid/pit.pdf> Submit your application to the Education Office by Friday, April 15. Winners will be announced at the ceremony.

A civilian tuition assistance program briefing is at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the civilian personnel office, Room 129.

Call the Education Office at 333-4821 to sign up.

Award nominees sought

The Academy is seeking nominations for the 2011 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award, which the superintendent will present to a service member, civilian or group whose contributions outside their official duties had a positive effect on the Academy.

Nominations must be submitted no later than April 1 to: HQ USAFA/CMA, 2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3200, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5002. Packages should include a single page with biographical data, including name, rank (if military), organization or company, telephone number and mailing address, and a typed narrative less than a page in length describing the nominee's accomplishments.

CCAF graduation

The Education Office will hold a Community College of the Air Force graduation and reception May 5 at the Falcon Club for the October 2010 and April 2011 graduating classes. For more information, contact the Education Office at 333-4821.

Soccer stuff

Intramural soccer preseason begins either the week of April 11 or 18. Contact Dave Castilla at the fitness center at 333-4078, for more information.

Lakes of Colorado

Join Ed Elkins and Jim Foster for a free presentation of "The Lakes of Colorado" at 6 p.m. April 7 at the Outdoor Recreation Center at the Community Center. The main focus will be on trout fishing, but pike, walleye and bass will also be discussed. Call 333-2940 for more information.

Civilian flu vaccination

Flu vaccine is available for 10 ABW civilian employees at the immuniza-

tions clinic. The clinic hours are as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

The clinic is closed for training the first Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. If you have any questions, call 333-5080, option 5.

Community Activity programs

Family Night Bingo - Friday, April 8 in the Milazzo Center ballroom. Cards are distributed at 5 p.m.; calling starts at 5:30 p.m. Cards, pack of ten, cost \$5. Snacks will be for sale (not dinner).

Free Movie Night - Community Center Auditorium on Friday, April 15. The first movie starts at 6:00 p.m. and the second movie at 8:00 p.m. Sodas and popcorn will be for sale. Don't have a schedule at this time.

Bridal Faire - Milazzo Center, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The faire offers venues, catering, wedding cakes, a fashion show, wedding coordinators, travel planners, florists, music, dance instructors, beauty consultants (day spa, hair, and make-up), photography and more. The faire has everything a couple needs to plan their special day.

USAFA Chess Tournament - Milazzo Center on Sunday, 17 April from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. There is no entry fee but participants must be a member of the US Chess Federation. This tournament is open to the entire community. Trophies will be awarded.

New York special election

Absentee voters in New York's 26th Congressional District can now request ballots for a special election. To be counted, ballots must be post-marked by May 23 and received by June 6.

Youth baseball program

Baseball registration for all ages, now through April 15. Call Falcon Trails Youth Center for more information 333-4169.

USAFA's 2011

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Luncheon/Panel Forum

Falcon Club Ballroom

Wednesday 30, March @1130

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Adis Vila

USAFA Chief Diversity Officer

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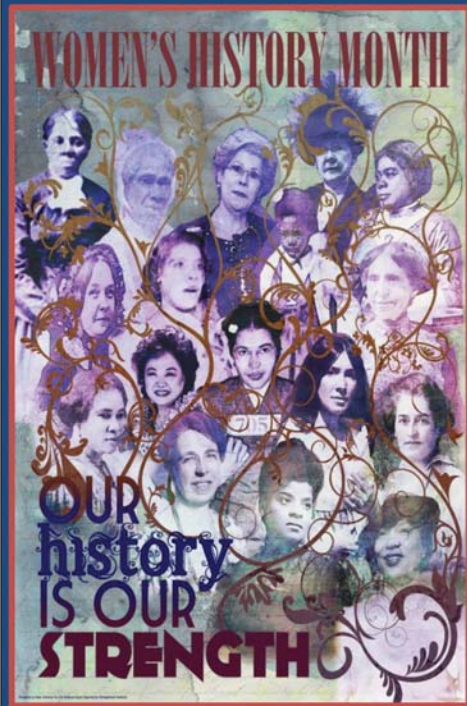
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