

'IN THE STAIRWELL'

Cadet a cappella group performs at White House. **Page 6**

GETTING 'CRAFT'-Y

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U.S. Olympic Committee announces event's return to Colorado Springs in 2012. **Page 12**

ACADEMY SPIRIT

HEREBY INVITED ...

Superintendent offered induction into prestigious Order of the Sword by Academy's enlisted. **Page 4**

Class of 2011's Final Four



RAYMOND MCCOY

Cadets 1st Class Braylon Gurnell, Patrick Hennessey, Alexander Hess and Kenneth Lamendola swear their oaths of office during a graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy Wednesday. The four are the final additions to the Academy's Class of 2011, which now numbers 1,035. For full coverage of the graduation, see Pages 8-9.

Cadet killed in car accident

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

A cadet assigned to Cadet Squadron 20 was killed in a single-car accident on Academy Drive Saturday morning.

Cadet 2nd Class Stephen Williams was a manager for the Air Force Falcons football team and a systems engineering management major.

"Our Air Force Academy family suffered a tragic loss over the weekend," Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Richard Clark said Monday. "That Stephen's death occurred on the eve of the holidays makes this an even greater tragedy. Please keep Stephen's family, friends and wingmen in your thoughts."

The cause of the accident is under investigation.



Cadet 2nd Class
Stephen Williams

Gould joins local education leaders for panel discussion

By David Edwards
Academy Spirit staff writer

The Colorado Springs World Affairs Council shined a spotlight on education in the United States at a panel discussion Dec. 8, and the Air Force Academy was well represented.

Leading the way as the moderator was Dr. Sky Foerster, the new president of the Springs' World Affairs Council and also the Brent Scowcroft professor of national security studies at the Academy.

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould and his civilian counterparts at the city's three other major universities formed a presidential panel to address education and global competition in the present and future.

To segue into the discussion, Foerster read an excerpt from New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman: "It is more vital than ever that we have schools elevating and inspiring more of our

young people to become better and best, because good won't cut it anymore and average is definitely over.

"So that's the competitive edge that we want to try and get a little bit at tonight," Foerster added.

He cited a litany of grim indicators about the state of education in the United States and the detriments to global competitiveness that Americans are experiencing as a result. Gould agreed about the consequences but cautioned against reading too much into the statistics.

"If we cannot continue to compete as a nation and develop young men and women to go up and take our places, then we have failed them, and they'll fail us," Gould said. "I'm an optimist on this. ... What I think we see is that kids today are learning in a different way, at a different pace than we may have. And if anything, I think maybe our measurements are off a little bit."

See EDUCATION Page 3

Support Air Force in Military Bowl

By **Troy Calhoun**
Air Force Football Coach



Troy Calhoun

This year's football team has earned an incredible leadership opportunity to represent the Academy with an invitation to the 2011 Military Bowl.

The chance to play in a significant bowl game happens because of the terrific accomplishments of our cadets, along with the guidance and backing of the fine leadership of our Academy general officers and staff.

This year's Military Bowl will kick off at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 28 at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., vs. 8-4 Toledo on ESPN. Such postseason and bowl opportunities provide an unparalleled opportunity to globally share our mission of the Air Force Academy.

Air Force fans, we need your help to fill RFK Stadium with the great Falcon spirit by purchasing bowl tickets. Even if you cannot attend, the tickets you buy will be passed to Airmen and Soldiers stationed at the Pentagon and other bases throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area.

We earned this bowl invitation in part because of the deserved reputation we have gained the past four years as a school that strongly backs our teams in postseason contests. To get to it, each December our conference-affiliated bowls diligently work to invite the Air Force Academy. The reasons they do so include: first and foremost, the respect bowls have for our commitment to the mission of building leaders of character; we play a good brand of football; and Academy backers display their support by purchasing bowl tickets.

As many know, this has been an amazing four-year run by this group of senior cadets. In their officer development, each is on track to become a second lieutenant as a part of the greatest team — the United States Air Force. And on the football field their accomplishments have been remarkable, including: their fourth winning season, five straight service academy wins, four bowl game appearances, back to back Commander-in-Chief's Trophies and consecutive bowl championships.

It's time to go after our third in a row. We kick off in three weeks, so let's purchase tickets and make sure we have the Military Bowl full of Falcons pulling for America's future leaders. Thanks for your help, and as always — Go Air Force!

Editor's Note: Tickets are available for purchase at www.goairforcefalcons.com or www.militarybowl.org.

'What's wrong with today's Airmen?' NCOs: Look in the mirror

By **Senior Master Sgt. Chip Coleman**
902nd Contracting Squadron superintendent

I often hear NCOs and senior NCOs discussing some of their work issues. Undoubtedly part of the conversation revolves around the question, "What's wrong with these Airmen today?"

My answer is, "Us!" We NCOs and senior NCOs need to take a good look in the mirror!

No matter where I am on base, picking up uniforms at the cleaners, the base exchange or the commissary, I am constantly wondering what happened to us as NCOs. Why are so many Air Force and military standards not being followed or enforced? Where's the discipline and accountability?

I was in the exchange looking at the new DVDs and noticed a staff sergeant at the other end of the aisle looking at the video games. As I got closer, I noticed he had a pair of sunglasses on top of his head, his airman battle uniform shirt pocket and cargo pocket were unbuttoned, and his hat was sticking halfway out of his cargo pocket. As I continued to get closer to this individual, two NCOs walked right by him and did not say a word. I was dumbfounded; I thought for sure they would have corrected him.

I approached the staff sergeant and told him exactly what he needed to fix and, by the expression on his face, he was shocked someone corrected him. The staff sergeant quickly corrected his uniform as I carefully explained the errors of his ways.

I see these types of violations every day, and more often than not, I find myself correcting NCOs and senior NCOs, not the junior enlisted Airmen. I can understand



Our most precious resource is our Airmen. We, as leaders, must never forget it!"

— Senior Master Sgt. Chip Coleman

correcting some of our newer Airmen, but not our NCOs and senior NCOs. What has happened to our core values, Integrity First — doing what's right when no one is looking — and Excellence in All We Do?

Airmen are desperately seeking leadership. In an "exit poll" of Airmen leaving the Air Force after their first term, the number one reason for getting out is "lack of leadership." I see more and more senior NCOs waiting for retirement and NCOs who just don't seem to care about our Airmen. The Airmen pick up on this attitude and then reflect that attitude.

The next time we NCOs and SNCOs start to question the quality of "today's Airmen," we need to take a long, hard look in the mirror. We should question the quality of our leadership, dedication and the sincerity we provide to our young Airmen and junior officers. NCOs and senior NCOs are charged with the influential development of Airmen. As a prior military training instructor of 10 years, I can honestly say there is nothing wrong with our Airmen; they simply need our attention and mentorship on a daily basis.

Our most precious resource is our Airmen. We, as leaders, must never forget it!

ACADEMY SPIRIT

To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould — Academy Superintendent
Lt. Col. John Bryan — Director of Public Affairs
Gino Mattorano — Editor

Don Branum — Staff Writer
David Edwards — Staff Writer
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The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.



Lt. Col. Daniel Nielsen
Air Officer Commanding
Cadet Squadron 20

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Education

From Page 1

Dr. Pam Shockley-Zalabak, chancellor of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, mentioned the shift in perception that has caused education to be viewed more as a private good than a public good.

As a result, the percentage of public funding for qualifying colleges and universities is decreasing, and that means individual students must shoulder more of the costs of earning a degree.

Shockley-Zalabak said that the United States' global competitiveness is diminished because of it, in part because key competitors India and China are taking the approach to education that America once did.

But she also shared a story that illustrates how motivated both traditional and nontraditional students are to find the means to earn a degree. And that, she said, gives her hope for the future.

Gould piggybacked on those comments by describing the admissions process at the Air Force Academy.

"We have to make sure we have a football team that can beat Army and Navy," he deadpanned before adding: "We try really hard to make our Academy look like the America we serve. And so diversity is important to us, but standards are extremely high."

Jill Tiefenthaler, president of the host institution, Colorado College, elaborated on a popular theme at the panel discussion: STEM education, a reference to science, technology, engineering and math. STEM happens to

be an area of emphasis at the Academy.

Tiefenthaler, an economist by trade, referred to a recent editorial she wrote in rebuttal to suggestions by Florida Gov. Rick Scott that state funding there should be directed exclusively toward STEM. She said that limiting higher education to those four fields of study would be shortsighted and counterproductive.

Tiefenthaler's technical-school colleague on the panel — Bruce Harmon, dean of engineering at Colorado Technical University's local campus — agreed.

The first question from the audience called attention to the "elephant in the room." The questioner was referring to the large number of American students who pay little heed to their elementary and secondary education and enter college totally unprepared.

"I couldn't agree more that the K-12 issues are really a precursor to some of the problems," Harmon said. "People are not as well prepared as they need to be (in order) to be successful in college, but beyond that to be successful in life in the field that they want to choose. I once sat next to a mathematics professor who would turn to me every now and then and say, 'I wish they had taught them math instead of feeling good about



DON BRANUM

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, second from left, discusses the state of higher education in the United States at Colorado College Dec. 8. The Colorado Springs World Affairs Council organized the panel, which included (from left): Dr. Pam Shockley-Zalabak, chancellor of the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs; World Affairs Council President Schuyler Foerster, Colorado College President Dr. Jill Tiefenthaler and Dr. Bruce Harmon, dean of engineering at Colorado Technical University.

their bad math."

The audience member who asked the next question thanked his predecessor for "taking us to first base" and said he would like to "attempt to get us to second base." He raised the issue of children and teens who are deemed somehow incapable of being students.

Shockley-Zalabak nearly stole the show with her response as she recounted her first teaching job. Beginning at age 21, she spent three years giving GED instruction to inmates in federal prison.

"This is called baptism by fire," she said. "The fact that I'm still in education is a miracle."

Then she balanced the realist in her with the optimist that is found in ev-

ery good educator.

"I absolutely acknowledge that there are a few students who probably are not going to be learners in any kind of environment," she said. But she added that society should devise and encourage more sophisticated teaching methods such as those being used with autistic children, and people should exercise caution so they don't give up on youngsters too soon.

"Those young men (in prison) were a tough group to reach," Shockley-Zalabak said. "But they taught me a valuable lesson."

And even with four top administrators at universities and a well-educated audience in the room, there were plenty of valuable lessons to go around.

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Superintendent invited to join Order of Sword

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould was invited by the Academy's enlisted corps to join the Order of the Sword during an emotional ceremony at the Falcon Club Tuesday.

Chief Master Sgt. Todd Salzman brought the Academy's enlisted Airmen together in the Falcon Club ballroom under the guise of an enlisted call. He filled everyone in moments before Gould entered.

"This morning, we're going to do what enlisted people do best, and that's take care of our leaders," said Salzman, the Academy's command chief. "(Gould) has a passion for the enlisted corps and has for a long, long time: He had it while he was at 2nd Air Force, training our young enlisted men and women, and he had it before that at 3rd Air Force."

Gould entered the ballroom and spoke briefly, urging Airmen to take care of one another.

"There are lots of things to look forward to this holiday season, but at the same time, we collectively struggle with the stressors that come along with the holiday season," he said. "Our job is to look one another in the eye and make sure everyone's okay."

Citing Lee Ann Womack's "I Hope You Dance," Gould encouraged the audience to make things happen.

Salzman addressed the ceremony's sergeant-at-arms, who, along with other chiefs, Air Force Academy band members, the Academy's honor guard and two Airmen from the 10th Security Forces Squadron, made

things happen.

The honor guard stood with sabers at present arms as Senior Airman William Magill and Airman 1st Class Joshua Bailey carried a five-foot sword to the foot of the stage where Gould stood with his wife, Paula, and with Salzman and other chiefs from around the base. Salzman officially invited Gould to join the Order of the Sword -- an invitation that Gould, fighting back tears, accepted.

"I hope you dance," he said, then paused to collect himself. "Speechless is not even the word. You impress me so much, all of you. I don't know what to tell you other than thank you."

Inducting a senior leader into the Order of the Sword is the highest recognition enlisted Airmen can bestow, Salzman said. The induction process started some time earlier, but only a select few people knew about it more than an afternoon in advance. Magill was one of those few.

"I don't know of any better person to receive it," Magill said. "He takes care of the cops, and he appreciates all of us (enlisted Airmen)."

Mrs. Gould found out the day before the ceremony, which she said worked out well.

"You can only receive the Order of the Sword once in your life, so Todd approached me yesterday and asked me if Mike had ever received it before," Mrs. Gould said. "But that gave me the chance to bring the family out here for the ceremony this morning."

The award, established by Military Airlift Command's enlisted corps in 1967, is presented to individuals whom the NCO corps wishes to honor. Gould is the 234th recipient,



Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, right, embraces his wife, Paula, during a ceremony at the Falcon Club Dec. 13. The ceremony was billed as an enlisted call, but was instead an invitation by the Academy's enlisted corps to induct Gould into the Order of the Sword.

according to the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute at Maxwell Air Force Base-Gunter Annex, Ala., and Air Force reports. His induction ceremony is scheduled for March 19.

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould (back center) thanks the Air Force Academy's enlisted Airmen for offering him induction into the Order of the Sword during a ceremony at the Falcon Club Dec. 13. Senior Airman William Magill and Airman 1st Class Joshua Bailey (foreground) held the ceremonial sword. Gould is the Academy superintendent. Magill and Bailey are assigned to the 10th Security Forces Squadron. Also pictured are, from left: 10th Air Base Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, Paula Gould and Academy Command Chief Master Sgt. Todd Salzman.



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'In the Stairwell' performs at White House

By Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy's a cappella group In the Stairwell performed at the White House for a holiday reception Dec. 9.

The group's cadets were notified they had been selected for the performance a couple of weeks after being approached by the White House Social Office to submit samples of their music compared to other performers.

Cadet 1st Class Julian Gluck got the news through an email from Cadet 2nd Class Erik Clark. Gluck and Clark are the group's cadets in charge.

"I remember getting the email ... saying, 'You're not going to believe this. We just got contacted by the White House,'" said Gluck, who beat-boxes and sings bass. "I said, 'The White House? Like where the President lives?'"

"I thought it was a joke," said Cadet 1st Class Kevin McMullen, one of the main baritones in the group. "It was kind of just a prospect at first, but once we got the final word, we were pumped."

Even with finals right around the corner, the cadets weren't about to pass up the opportunity.

"As cadets, we're used to being under a lot of pressure with our academic and athletic requirements," Gluck said. "A lot of us have been working ahead of time, and we'll have time to study on the plane."



The Air Force Academy's a cappella group, In the Stairwell, performs at the White House for a holiday party Dec. 9.

During the performance, the group plans to go back and forth between traditional holiday songs and some of their current pop routines, according to Gluck.

"That way we'll keep things interesting and lively, and hopefully keep the audience entertained," he said.

The event also allows the group to showcase some of the many talents of cadets at the Academy.

"When you think of the Academy, you don't

think of the male a cappella group," said Cadet 2nd Class Trey Lowman, mid-range singer for the group. "This gives us a unique opportunity to show people we're not just about military training and athletics; we have so much more we bring to the table."

In the Stairwell was created when members of the Air Force Academy's Class of 2007 had to find a location for freshmen who enjoyed singing together. The name came from where the group met for rehearsals.

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14. Day or rest & worship
15. King of Magadha (273-232)
16. Satisfy an appetite
17. Stage signal
18. Durable aromatic
19. Something used to lure
20. Actress Basinger
21. A rare and exceptional person
24. Quick head movement
25. Yeddo
26. Mythological bird
27. Root mean square (abbr.)
28. Chart of the Earth's surface
29. Fish eggs
30. Recto
37. The cry made by sheep
38. Pitcher
39. Supports climbing plants
40. Arbitrager
41. Winglike structures
42. Singer Ross
43. Belonging to Barney & Betty
45. "Promises" author Wendi
46. Swindles
47. In widespread existence
48. Those opposed to
49. Used to be U__

CLUES DOWN

1. Grace's Principality
2. No longer seated
3. Translate into ordinary language
4. Point that is one point E of SE
5. Linen vestment worn by priests
6. A B vitamin
7. Ryan O'Neal's daughter
8. Dull steady pain
10. Seaport on Osaka Bay
11. Cowpunchers
13. Mend a sock
14. Ship's canvas
16. Aformentioned
19. Big man on campus
20. English actress Stark
22. Malaria mosquitoes
23. Many
24. subconsciousses
26. A scrap of cloth
27. Cry loudly
28. Actress Farrow
29. S. Korean Pres. Syngman (1948-65)
30. Rectangular grooved joint
31. "___ the night before Christmas"
32. Male parents
33. Earlier in time
34. Rampart of felled trees
35. Scoundrel (Yiddish)
36. Pencilmark remover
37. Danish ballet dancer Erik
40. Blood clams genus
41. Substitutes (abbr.)
44. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan

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Arts and Crafts Center hopes to attract cadets

By David Edwards
Academy Spirit staff writer

The Air Force Academy is all about hands-on learning, as any cadet can tell you. What the Academy's Arts and Crafts Center director hopes to see is more cadets' hands on the pottery, stained glass, saws and frames at the Academy's Arts and Crafts Center.

Paula Dickinson said she guides the most comprehensive such facility found at a military installation in Colorado Springs.

"We touch families at all stages of their military and personal lives," Dickinson said. "In the course of providing custom framing services, we get to see and frame pictures, mementos, uniforms, fine art, all sorts of items."

Besides military members, the Academy's civilian employees can also take advantages of the services and classes offered at the center. So the audience covers a fairly wide swath of the community. A big benefit of the Academy's arts and crafts center is that it offers customers better prices and a larger selection of framing options than they would find at similar businesses in town, Dickinson said.

Areas of customization include engraving and matting and framing. Dickinson said the center's employees have come across all sorts of personal effects, including diplomas, commissioning certificates, shadow boxes and flag cases for veterans.

One customer brought in a parchment document from England dating to 1678. Employees at the center are currently working on matting and framing it.

The center also boasts the only pottery and ceramics shop located at a local military base. Potters can work with molds, kilns, glazes, pottery wheels and other tools and accessories.

Videos and posters instruct users in the basics,

with more detail offered in the classes.

Several varieties of clay for projects are also available for sale. Customers can buy 25-pound bags or small chunks as their needs dictate.

In addition, the center supports annual command-level art and photography contests, which cover a range of media and categories. Winners move on to compete in Air Force-level competitions.

A wood skills development center is housed in a room at the rear of the building. Equipment includes a plethora of saws and also shapers, routers, sanders, a miter and a drill press. The center is staffed by trained instructors during its open hours.

Woodworking classes are among the most popular offerings at the center. The Rockin' Airplane class for woodworkers is a longtime pre-Christmas hit.

Dickinson also singled out the assorted activities in the medium of stained glass, saying that they are popular with adults and children alike.

"We even provide open studio time for stained-glass enthusiasts," she said. "They (can) come to the shop, use tools, work on their projects, with one of the glass instructors providing advice if needed."

Offerings are publicized through local media channels, and Dickinson said she and her co-workers are constantly trying to think of new programs that would draw more folks to check out the center. She mentioned a "fun art paint party" in the works



DAVID EDWARDS

Dell Crawford works at the Arts and Crafts Center at the Air Force Academy, and her specialty is picture framing. The document she is cleaning and preparing to be framed is an English parchment that was drawn up in 1678.

for early 2012.

Competing demands on cadets' time likely prevent them from getting more involved than they otherwise might, but Dickinson said that she would like to make more cadets aware of a great outlet available to them to express their creativity. The trip to the south end of the base can be well worth it.

"They are so busy with specific tasks," Dickinson said. "I just want them to know what classes and activities are here at the arts and crafts center and wood shop. And these programs are for them, too."

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Academy adds 4 to Class of 2011

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Four cadets joined the Air Force Academy's Class of 2011 Wednesday during a graduation ceremony in Arnold Hall.

Joining the Long Blue Line were 2nd Lts. Kenneth Lamendola, Braylon Gurnell, Patrick Hennessey and Alexander Hess.

Athletics Director Dr. Hans Mueh delivered the commencement address, filling in for Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, who could not attend the ceremony.

Mueh offered the graduates four pieces of advice: First, he said, never look back; always look forward. Second, do what you love.

"You'll have jobs you don't want to do forever, but do them to the best of your ability," he said.

Third, Mueh advised the graduates to take some risks.

Finally, he told them to never compromise their integrity. "It's harder to pull off in the big, bad world out there, but always take the high road," he said.

Mueh and Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born presented diplomas to the graduates. Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Richard Clark administered the oath of office and awarded the graduates their commissions.

Retired Brig. Gen. Ruben Cubero, a former dean of the faculty representing the Class of 1961, also spoke at the commencement.

"I would have worn my uniform, but there's a phenomenon called 'closet shrinkage,'" Cubero joked.

He went on to present the graduates with their first set of second lieutenant bars, engraved with "61-11" to represent the bond between the graduating classes.

"This gift is symbolic of your progress through the ranks, but more importantly, it's symbolic of the solidarity of all the classes to the Oath of Office," he said. "We wish you the very best and godspeed."



RAYMOND MCCOY

Air Force Academy Athletics Director Dr. Hans Mueh delivers the commencement address at a graduation ceremony for four Class of 2011 graduates in Arnold Hall. Mueh, a 1966 Academy graduate, delivered the commencement in lieu of Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, who could not attend.

Brig. Gen. Richard Clark, left, speaks with members of newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Braylon Gurnell's family after a graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy Wednesday. Gurnell, a Houston native, was one of four cadets to graduate and earn their commissions, raising the total number of Air Force Academy graduates to 43,915. Clark is the Academy's commandant of cadets.



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

RIGHT: Retired Brig. Gen. Ruben Cubero holds one of the second lieutenant bars presented from the Class of 1961 to graduating cadets. The Class of '61 is the Class of 2011's legacy class.

FAR RIGHT: A B-1B Lancer from the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., performs a flyover for the graduation ceremony.



RAYMOND MCCOY



ELIZABETH ANDREWS



Meet the Grads

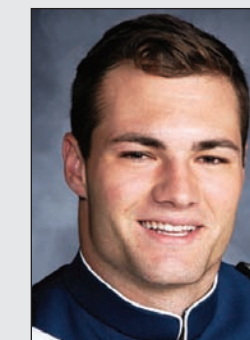
Wednesday's graduation brings the Class of 2011's total number to 1,035 and the Academy's total number of graduates to 43,915.



2nd Lt. Braylon Gurnell

Hometown: Houston
Degree: Engineering
Career Field: Developmental Engineering
Next Assignment: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

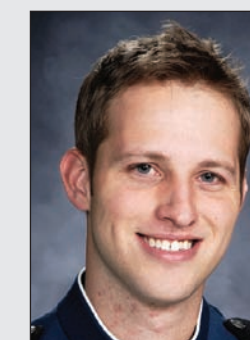
"I would like to thank my family for being there for me through all of my triumphs and failures over the past four years. I would also like to thank my friends for caring about me when nobody else did. Romans 8:18-28."



2nd Lt. Patrick Hennessey

Hometown: Strongsville, Ohio
Degree: Management
Career Field: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Piloting
Next Assignment: Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

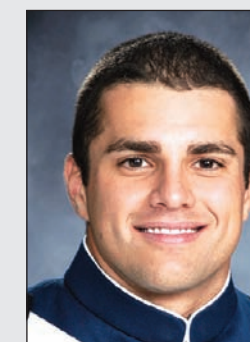
"Do Work." - Bulldog



2nd Lt. Alexander Hess

Hometown: Panama City, Fla.
Degree: English
Career Field: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Piloting
Next Assignment: Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

"Nothing's impossible, except for dinosaurs." - 30 Rock



2nd Lt. Kenneth Lamendola

Hometown: Westlake, Ohio
Degree: Management
Career Field: Acquisitions
Next Assignment: Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive, and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile. It can be done." - Vince Lombardi

Falcons host Blue-Silver Open

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Highlighted by seven additions to the program's top-10 lists and seven first-place finishes, the Air Force track and field team had a strong start to the 2011-12 season during the inaugural Blue and Silver Open at the Academy's Cadet Field House Dec. 9.

The women's team made five additions to the program's record book, backed by a pair of incursions from Lesly Torres, who moved from seventh to fourth in the Academy's high jump standings while debuting in ninth on the 60-meter hurdles' list.

Torres cleared a career-best 5'7" to place second in the 15-member high jump competition, while clocking a career-best time of 9.20 to finish sixth in the hurdles event and become just the second Falcon since 2005 to impact the hurdles' top-10 list.

Freshman Wren Bonner tied for first in the pole vault with a debut clearance of 12'11½", the third-best clearance in Academy history, while classmate Alexis Jones-Hardy recorded the sixth-fastest time ever in the 60-meter dash (7.87 seconds)

during her introduction to collegiate competition.

Kassie Gurnell, the Academy's outdoor record holder in the triple jump, moved into second on the program's indoor standings for that event, as she recorded a Sophomore Class Record-distance of 39'5" to finish fifth.

On the men's side, junior Rob Simmons cleared 17'8½" in the pole vault to move into third on the program's all-time list, while placing first among collegiate competitors and tying for the overall lead. Sophomore Jalen Fooster cleared a career-best 54'11¼" in the weight throw to debut in a tie for 10th on the all-time list.

In addition to Simmons' win in the pole vault, the men claimed four first-place finishes during the season-opening competition. Junior Anthony Delgado won the 300-meter dash in a time of 35.19, while seniors Manny Smith and Alex Zubey won the 500-meter dash (1:05.71) and mile run (4:21.69), respectively. The two-mile relay quartet of freshmen Zach Perkins and classmate Jared Elly and sophomores Matt Cladwell and Alex Lindsay won that event in 8:09.65.

Delgado was one of four Falcons to finish within the top six of

the 300-meter dash, as freshman Jake Spuller (35.20) finished second and Smith and junior Uzor Udensi placed fifth (35.58) and sixth (35.60), respectively. In addition, Udensi finished fourth in the 60-meter dash (6.97), while Smith ran a leg of the mile relay (joining sophomore David Ptacek, freshman Casey Riggs and sophomore James MacAndrew) that placed second in a time of 3:20.95.

In an all-Air Force mile, sophomore Jake Hawkins finished second (4:21.94) to Zubey. Junior Zach Wood cleared a career-best matching 6'8¾" to finish third in the high jump, while junior Cale Simmons and sophomore Elliott Beski finished third (17'0¾") and fourth (career-best 16'6¾"), respectively, in the pole vault.

From the throwing cage, senior Kyle Schwochow (52'5¼"), junior Brian Ford (52'2½"), senior James Cole (51'1¼") and senior Sean Herbison (50'0") finished third through sixth in the shot put.

On the women's side, juniors Melissa Fuerst and Jen Bremser placed first (3:04.71) and second (3:06.47), respectively, in the 1000-meter run, while senior Phaelen French finished fourth (3:09.99). Bonner tied with se-

nior Kimber Shealy for the top spot in the pole vault (12'11½"), while senior Tawny Lambuth placed fifth at 11'5¾".

Torres' second-place finish in the high jump paced the Falcons to three of the top four spots in that event, as sophomores Regan Rogers and Rachel Herald finished third (5'5") and fourth (5'3"), respectively.

Sophomore Heather Shepard, senior Emily Cotharn, freshman Eric Carson and classmate Morgan Malone were the runner-up squad in the mile relay (4:05.13), while sophomore Annette Eichenberger joined freshmen Michelle Ferguson, Rebecca Esselstein and Taylor Drolshagen to take second in the two-mile relay at 9:57.61.

Sophomore Amanda Blain and freshman Emily Hazen finished third (5:45.21) and fourth (5:47.71) in the mile run, while Paige Blackburn picked up a pair of third-place finishes in the throwing events. The senior placed third in the shot put (46'5¼") and weight throw (46'5¼").

The Falcons return to action after the holiday break when they host the 2012 Air Force All-Comers Meet Jan. 13 at the Cadet Field House.

RIGHT: Sophomore James MacAndrew takes off in one of the track events Dec. 9. MacAndrew finished 17th in the 60-meter dash (7.21 seconds) and 19th in the 300-meter dash (36.41 seconds).

FAR RIGHT: Junior Jared Barkemeyer competes in the weight throw competition, in which he placed eighth with a throw of 16.39 meters. Barkemeyer placed 10th in the shot put competition with a distance of 13.26 meters.



Sophomore Lesly Torres, left, races in the women's 60-meter hurdles during the Blue-Silver Open at the Air Force Academy's Cadet Field House Dec. 9. Torres placed sixth, finishing in 9.20 seconds. Torres also placed second in the high jump with a height of 1.70 meters.



Falcons cruise over Golden Lions, 63-51

Michael Lyons scored 17 of his game-high 23 points in the second half as Air Force cruised to a 63-51 victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff Saturday night.

Lyons was 7-for-10 shooting from the field with two 3-pointers after halftime for Air Force (5-2). Mike Fitzgerald scored a career-high 19 points with six treys, the most by a Falcon since Tom Fow had six against UC Davis on Dec. 22, 2009.

"I thought the guys did a real nice job of finding him (Fitzgerald)," Air Force coach Jeff Reynolds said.

Fitzgerald missed only two shots in all. He put together three straight 3-pointers near the end of the first half.

"I hit those 3s and I think that really gave us a boost in the first half," Fitzgerald said.

Savalace Townsend had 16 points on 10 of 11 free throw shooting to lead Arkansas-Pine Bluff (1-5). Lazabian Jackson had 13 for the Golden Lions who have lost three straight.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff scored only 12 points in the paint against the taller Falcons and had only 12 points off 20 Air Force turnovers.

"We stayed close to them and seemed like we had some momentum," said Arkansas-Pine Bluff coach George Ivory. "They got hot with some 3s at the end of the half and carried over some momentum into the second half."

The Falcons started off slowly, but picked up steam at the end of the first half to lead, 29-20.

At one point they had more turnovers than field goals (8-7) and still

managed to be ahead 18-17. Jamar Harris had brought the Golden Lions to within one with a rebound basket with 6:45 left.

The Falcons didn't have a turnover the rest of the half. Chris Carter had a coast-to-coast layup and Fitzgerald sank three 3-pointers over the final 5:08 and Air Force outscored Arkansas-Pine Bluff 11-2 over that stretch.

The Golden Lions made only 8 of 29 shots in the first half and had only two baskets by Lavioris Weathers to show for themselves in the first four minutes of the second half. Air Force turned the ball over three times and couldn't extend its lead over that stretch.

Lyons finished a layup and after the Falcons defense forced a turnover and two missed shots, Fitzgerald hit his fifth 3-pointer of the game and Lyons followed with two more treys and the lead was expanded to 42-25.

A free throw by Taylor Broekhuis gave them their biggest lead at 46-27. Demetrius Smith got the Golden Lions as close as 61-51, hitting two free throws with 47 seconds left.

"We thought we had them at several points in the second half," Townsend said. "We couldn't execute enough offensively and they'd come back at the other end and score baskets."

The Falcons to a man were not happy with their turnovers.

"I am disappointed," Lyons said of the turnovers. "We had a lot of turnovers, and I'm not very happy about that."

The Falcons host Maryland-Eastern Shore Saturday at 7 p.m.



RAYMOND MCCOY

Falcons guard Michael Lyons makes his way down the court Saturday in the game against the Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions. Lyons went on to score a game-high 23 points in Air Force's 63-51 victory.

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CELEBRATING OUR 12 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Former Staff Sgt. Matt Sanders competes in the wheelchair basketball competition of the inaugural Warrior Games at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 18, 2011. Some 200 wounded warriors and disabled veterans from all the military services competed in paralympic-style athletic events. The Warrior Games are scheduled to return to Colorado Springs in 2012.



STAFF SGT.
DESIREE N. PALACIOS

Warrior Games to return to Colorado Springs

The annual Warrior Games, featuring wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans competing in several sporting events, will return here in 2012, U.S. Olympic Committee officials announced Dec. 6.

The USOC-hosted games, which also receive support from the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments, the Fisher House Foundation, the Bob Woodruff Foundation and Deloitte, will take place April 30 to May 5.

"We are excited to welcome our service members and veterans back to Colorado Springs for the third annual competition," said Scott Blackmun, USOC's chief executive officer. "These games truly

exemplify the fighting spirit within each and every one of these athletes, all who have sacrificed for our great country."

The Warrior Games event was created in 2010 as an introduction to paralympic sports for injured service members and veterans. The games have become a springboard for many service members and veterans to continue participating in sports programs in their communities.

Since the games' inception, officials said, medical treatment facilities, warrior transition units and wounded warrior battalions have seen a more than 20-percent increase in sports program participation by wounded, ill and injured service members,

officials said.

More than 200 wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans are expected to compete in seven sports: archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field, and wheelchair basketball. All eligible athletes will be drawn proportionately from the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard and Special Operations based on their disability.

The U.S. Marine Corps has earned the Chairman's Cup as the service branch that won the most medals in the two previous Warrior Games.

(Information provided by the U.S. Olympic Committee.)

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Cadet Chapel

BUDDHIST

Sundays, 10 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Combined Worship Service:
Sundays, 9 a.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

Mass: Sundays, 10 a.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP

Normal schedule
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.
Formation Classes: For students in grades K-8. Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Evangelical: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
Gospel: Sunday, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Live: For ages 3 to adult. Begins with a meal. Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.



Dispose of your recyclables

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron is holding its annual electronics recycling event through January.

Each Wednesday and Thursday, electronic items can be taken to Civil Engineers' Complex (Building 8125) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for recycling. Recycling is free.

For more information, call Derek Damien at 333-3224.

Commissary holiday schedule

The base commissary will have the following schedule of operations for the next few weeks:

Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dec. 19, extra opening: 9 a.m.-7 p.m., early bird shopping 8-9 a.m.; Dec. 24, early closure, 4 p.m.; Dec. 25, closed; Dec. 26, closed; Dec. 31, early closure, 4 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed.

Community center activities

Double-feature movie night - Community Center auditorium, tonight. The first movie, "Moneyball," rated PG-13, starts at 6 p.m. The second movie, "Dream House," rated PG-13, starts at 8 p.m. Sodas and snacks will be on sale.

Santa suits for rent - During the holidays. Cost is \$25 per day.

Lunchtime table tennis - Monday through Friday starting at 11 a.m. in the Milazzo Center. Sponsored by the 10th Medical Group. Call beforehand to sign up, 333-2928.

Dance classes - Line dance classes are taught in six-week increments. Ballroom dancing consists of four lesson blocks, one hour per block. Classes for both take place Mondays in the Milazzo Center ballroom. Line dance classes start at 5 p.m., ballroom dance classes at 6:15 p.m.

Entry decal discontinued

In accordance with recent guidance from the Department of the Army, Fort Carson has eliminated the use of the Department of Defense vehicle decals (DD Form 2220) for access to the installation.

Personnel requiring access to Fort Carson will be required to present their DOD-issued ID card (Common Access Card, retiree ID or family member ID) or have an extended pass and a state-issued photo ID.

Effective immediately, the vehicle decal, is no longer available at the Pass and Registration Center. The PRC will now issue Cadet Area stickers weekdays, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The PRC will also continue to issue colonel to general stickers upon request.

Any questions can be referred to Brad Wilson at 333-8420.

Register to stay at SnoFest

SnoFest 2012 lodging is now on sale. Call 800-258-0437 to book. Provide Group Code GC8PRB and base affiliation.

Assortment of skiing options

The Outdoor Recreation Office has ski passes available for purchase. The list of options is as follows: Monarch, Loveland, Patriot Pass (unlimited Copper Mountain and Winter Park), Patriot Pass Plus (unlimited Copper Mountain and Winter Park and six days at Steamboat), and Liberty Pass for Keystone and A-Basin. Call 333-4475 for more info.

Save the date: Air Force Ball

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter of the Air Force Association will hold its annual Air Force Ball on Jan. 20 at The Broadmoor. Tickets and more information will be available soon. For the latest information, please check the Lance P. Sijan chapter website at www.afasijan.com.

Health clinic holiday closures

In observance of Christmas and New Year's Day, the 10th Medical Group will be closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 2. This will include the Community Center Pharmacy.

Care for Academy cadets and Prep School students will not be affected by these holiday hours and will be available.

If you have an emergency, please call 911 or visit the closest emergency room. After hours, contact your on-call Primary Care Manager by calling 524-2273, option 3 and they will coordinate your care.

Cadet Area gate closure

At 2 p.m. Dec. 17, the Sijan entry control point will be closed. The closure will last until 6 a.m. Jan. 3. All Cadet Area traffic will be required to

enter through the Vandenburg gate, next to the cadet tennis courts.

The 10th Mission Support Group is asking people to inform vendors and contractors of the closure and to adjust their driving routes while traveling at the Academy while the closure is in effect.

For further information, call Maj. James "Doug" Couch at 333-3685.

Breakfasts at the Academy

Falcon Club: Holiday Brunch, Sunday, 10 a.m. Regular price is \$29.95, with \$8 off for Members First.

Ten Pin Grill inside Academy Lanes: Monday-Friday, 7-11 a.m. All breakfasts include drinks. Call in your breakfast order at 333-4252 by 6:45 a.m. to get your order delivered at curb side.

Signup for Santa trackers

NORAD is gearing up for Santa's yuletide journey around the globe. To sign up to be an Official Santa Tracker, follow the link below to select a two-hour time slot for either Dec. 24 or 25. Time slots are available from 4 a.m. Dec. 24 through 3 a.m. Dec. 25.

Volunteer registration is open only to area military personnel and their family/friends at this time. Please do not forward the registration link.

The NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center is located at the Peterson Air Force Base Leadership Development Center, building 910. A detailed

email, including a map, will be sent to each volunteer the week prior to the event.

To register, you must include the birthdate for each volunteer. Official Santa Trackers must be at least 13 years old. Also, there will not be a kids' room available this year.

To register to volunteer, visit <https://noradsantavolunteers.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php>.

Nominate your Red Cross hero

Every day, ordinary people perform extraordinary acts of compassion or life-saving. The American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter needs your help to identify and recognize these local heroes in our community.

The Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross will accept nominations through Jan. 15. Winners will be selected by a committee of community leaders.

You can go to www.pparc.org/Heroes to nominate your Hometown Hero. Categories include adult, youth, military, animal, community partner agency and community service volunteer.

Event sponsorship opportunities are available. Call Catherine Bardé at 785-2711.

Change of telephone number

The 10th Medical Group clinic will have two new numbers for customers, 526-CARE and 524-CARE (2273).



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

Chiefs rumble over Commanders, 59-32

The Chiefs' Rick Ross breaks past the Commanders' Andy Wightman for a layup during the Chiefs vs. Commanders basketball game at the Academy Fitness Center Dec. 8. The Chiefs beat the Commanders, 59-32.