

# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO **ACADEMY SPIRIT**

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## Astro prof lands coveted honor

By Ann Patton  
 Academy Spirit staff

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has selected Academy astronautics professor William Saylor for the prestigious 2009 von Kármán Lectureship Award in Astronautics.

The honor is presented to an individual who has performed notably and distinguished himself technically in the field of astronautics.

"It was a surprise because of the names on the list of previous winners," Mr. Saylor said. "They are a lot of heavy hitters."

Former von Kármán winners have included representatives from the European Space Agency, Johns Hopkins University, the National Aeronautics Space Administration and the California Institute of Technology.

The lectureship is named for Hungarian scientist Theodore von Kármán who gained fame in the use of mathematical tools to study fluid flow and the interpretation of those results to guide practical designs, as well as recognizing the importance of the swept-back wings common in modern jet aircraft.

Mr. Saylor is the first Academy instructor to receive the award while here. He will present a lecture to the AIAA Aerospace Sciences Con-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Wickersheim

**Astronautics professor Bill Saylor lends a hand to Cadet 1st Class Daniell Paya for the avionics of FalconSAT 6 in the astronautics lab.**

ference in January 2009 as part of his lectureship.

Mr. Saylor has been called the driving force behind the FalconSAT small satellite program on the Academy. He has been credited with taking the initiative to define software architecture for the flight and ground segments allowing completion of the mission.

Mr. Saylor also initiated formalized methods to develop, design and test

control systems and software and was critical in the development of an attitude control system.

A 1973 U.S. Military Academy graduate in engineering, he holds a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While on active duty with the Army he ran the Nuclear Power Plant Operator's School and served as assistant engi-

neer on multi-billion dollar construction projects in Saudi Arabia.

After active duty, he worked, among other assignments, as a nuclear engineer in the power industry and for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, working with energy and defense programs.

Mr. Saylor is the current Schriever Chair for the astronautics department and

**See AWARD, Page 4**

## Major changes on horizon at 10th MDG

By Col. Alan B. Berg  
 10th Medical Group commander

The Academy Hospital (10th Medical Group) will close its Emergency Department April 1 and open an Acute Care Clinic. This is the first stage in the conversion of the hospital to an outpatient clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

What does the ED closure mean to patients? For most, the difference will be negligible. Approximately 95% of the ED patients have non-emergent medical conditions. The new ACC will continue to treat these patients.

The ACC will begin operations on April 1, concurrent with the ED final closure, and be an appointment-based clinic providing acute/non-emergent, medical care to eligible DoD beneficiaries 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

After April 1, if you have an emergency, call 911 or seek medical care at the nearest hospital Emergency Department. Determine the location of your nearest ED so you're prepared in advance for an emergency. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries and active duty members enrolled to a military medical treatment facility should

notify their Primary Care Manager within 24 hours of receiving care so ongoing care can be coordinated.

The clinic will be staffed by both military and civilian family practice physicians, physician assistants and family practice nurse practitioners.

It will initially operate in the existing ED location until the 10 MDG's ongoing ACC facility renovation project is completed. This \$3.6 million project started in December 2007 and is scheduled for completion in June.

When completed, the new space will **See HOSPITAL, Page 4**



# ACADEMY SPIRIT CHIEF'S CORNER

## What's on your leadership RADAR?

By Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis  
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Someone once said, "Leadership is action, not position."

One of the expectations we have of every Airman, is to be a leader and an even better follower. Regardless of rank, position or job, we have an opportunity to lead every day.

We need to be squarely focused on personal responsibility 24/7, specifically aspects of being a positive role model, citizen and patriot. What leadership messages are on your RADAR: Respect for each other, Attitude, Duty, Accountability and Recognition.

**Respect:** Never lose sight of treating everyone, regardless of rank, with dignity and respect. More importantly, each of us must have self-respect, self-pride and not get caught up in activities that bring shame on ourselves, our unit or our United States Air Force. If it doesn't feel right in your gut, check yourself, it's probably not the right thing to do.

**Attitude:** We must begin each day with a renewed commitment to what I'll call a "mission-focused attitude." While you look into the mirror, remind yourself why we're at the Academy, and why you are serving in our Air Force. We all



Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis

set the example, we all set the tone. It's not just a paycheck we're collecting, it's a way of life.

**Duty:** Part of our way of life is a "sense of duty" we all have in common. It's echoed in our Core Values; Integrity, Service and Excellence. It's about character and behaving in a way that projects a bright light for all that come in contact with us. Don't just recite those values, apply them.

**Accountability:** Leadership at all levels is about action, providing Airmen with their expectations, observing those

expectations, then holding them accountable for not meeting those expectations. It's not just for folks we directly supervise, it's for enlisted, officer, cadet, cadet candidates and civilians as prescribed in Air Force standards, customs, courtesies and tradition. We indirectly supervise and mentor all of them.

**Recognition:** One of the most important things we can do is properly recognize our folks for their outstanding professionalism, tireless work ethic and positive commitment to character growth. We can't take these actions for granted. It's not about plaques or three-day passes. It can be a thank you note, filling out a customer survey card, sending an email to their supervisor or simply saying thank you on-the-spot for a job well done. We're never too busy to offer up a kind greeting or a crisp salute in the afternoon.

So ask yourself, is my RADAR turned on? Am I transmitting those messages with fervent action or just celebrating my position?

We must encourage our Airmen to take on greater responsibility and commit themselves to a life of character, respect for themselves and others and to apply our Air Force Core Values.

When they fall, we've failed as leaders.

### ACADEMY SPIRIT

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The *Academy Spirit* is published by Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Air Force Academy. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Academy Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Public Affairs. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to Air Force policy and Associated Press style. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

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Send submissions to: HQ USAFA/PAI, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5016 or deliver to Suite 3100 in Harmon Hall.

Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Tuesday for that week's publication date. Paid classified advertising is accepted by the publisher at 329-5236. The number to call for display advertising is 634-5905.

Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the *Academy Spirit* editor at 333-8823.

The *Academy Spirit* also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail: pa.news paper@usafa.af.mil.



**United States Air Force Academy Mission:**  
To educate, train, and inspire men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation.

## Character Corner NCLS, Feb. 20-23, Part 2

By Capt. David McManus  
Center for Character Development

Former New York Yankee catcher Yogi Berra said, "If you don't know where you're going, chances are you will end up somewhere else."

With that in mind, the Center for Character Development presents the 15th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium themed: "Impassioned Citizenship: Can One Make a Difference?"

The answer, of course, is YES!

Dozens of incredible speakers will be here to tell you how they answered "Yes." One of them is former

Los Angeles Dodger manager, Tommy Lasorda.

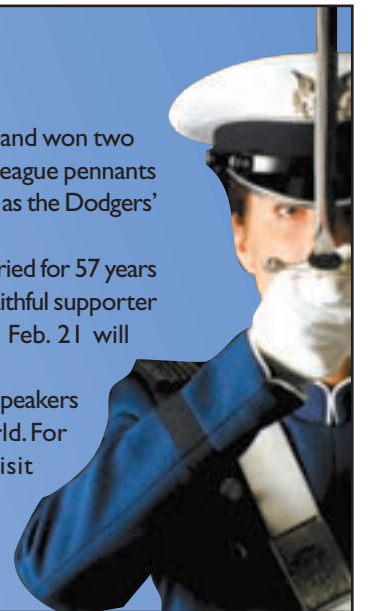
Regarded by many as baseball's most popular ambassador, Lasorda is now in his 59th season with the Dodgers and his fourth as special advisor to the team chairman. He was named Vice President of the organization in 1996 when he retired after 20 seasons as manager, and he was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1998.

In his current front-office capacity, Lasorda spends much of his time scouting, working with minor league players and spreading baseball goodwill as he makes more than 100 speeches and appearances to various civilian and military groups each year.

He compiled a 1599-1439 record and won two World Championships, four National League pennants and eight division titles during his tenure as the Dodgers' skipper.

Lasorda and wife, Jo, have been married for 57 years and still reside in California. Tommy is a faithful supporter of the Academy. His appearances on Feb. 21 will be his second at NCLS in four years.

At the NCLS, listen to thirty four speakers who are doing great things in our world. For more event information, visit [www.usafa.af.mil/ncls](http://www.usafa.af.mil/ncls).



Character Matters airs Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on KAFA radio, 97.7 FM.

## Do you prepare your own income tax paperwork?



"I have a family member who is a certified public accountant do mine."

Mr. Al Holland  
10th Mission Support Squadron



"I prepare my own taxes. It's still easy enough to do them but I would re commend on-base tax assistance for those not familiar with taxes. Representatives

know the most current laws and can get you rebates you didn't even know about."

1st Lt. Cederick Dark  
Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.



"I hire a person who has done mine for eight years. They're up on all the changes."

Ida Torquati  
Ret. Lt. Col.



"I use on-line software. If I run into complicated tax issues, I may use the base tax assistance office. Preparing it myself saves time and I have been doing it for quite a while so I'm not intimidated by it anymore."

Senior Master Sgt. Rick Melendez  
Cadet Group 3



# Injured Airman overcomes disabilities on slopes

By Senior Airman Stephen Collier  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

KEYSTONE, Colo. (AFPN) — For the average person, losing a limb while serving one's country might seem like the sacrifice of sacrifices. For Airman 1st Class Kevin Krogh, it's just another one of life's challenges.

Airman Krogh, an F-22 weapons loader assigned to the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., was one of several injured service members taking advantage of free ski lessons offered during the military's annual Snofest community event held Jan. 25 to 27.

"I never expected to do these things again," said Airman Krogh. "After snowboarding in the past, I never thought I would be back on the hill again."

An avid snowboarder prior to a March 2007 auto accident, Kevin first returned to the slopes of Breckenridge, Colo., in early December, just nine months after surgery, rehabilitation and physical therapy. And like many who try something for the first time, Airman Krogh admitted he was a little scared.

"It was something new," he said with a grin. "Going without falling was even better. It was something new, and you have to get used to it."

That grin comes from the spirited 22-year old, who only after two years in the Air Force, was the victim of a car crash near his Virginia base. He was admitted to a civilian hospital in March 2007 in a coma with two broken legs, a broken right arm, a broken nose and a shattered wrist.

Authorities later moved him to a

Naval hospital in Portsmouth, Va. When he awoke from his coma, he was transported to his home state of Minnesota to be near his family, and admitted to a Veteran's Affairs hospital.

"(Recovery) was difficult, but I couldn't give up," said Airman Krogh.

In September 2007, he was notified by the VA he was being transferred to a hospital in Texas that specializes in getting injured service members back on their feet. Today, he goes through regular physical therapy.

"It's going good," he said about this therapy. "I can walk around with a cane and sometimes without. I'm still not good at getting up because of my wrist."

Part of his therapy also comes from the close bond Airman Krogh said is formed between disabled veterans.

"(We're) all here for each other," he said. "There's a lot of support out there,

but it's most important to not give up on yourself."

But where this active Airman may lack in some lingering physical disabilities, he more than makes up with determination. After facing two mountains in the span of only two months, Airman Krogh prepared to tackle scuba diving Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

"He's looking forward to his future," said his mother, Sonya Krogh. "He never looks back."

After rebounding from a near-fatal accident, if he could go back to that day his life changed forever, Airman Krogh said he wouldn't give up his experiences.

"I do act differently since the accident," he pointed out. "If I could go back to having my legs I probably wouldn't, because I've gotten to meet the San Antonio Spurs, I've shaken the President's hand and gone scuba diving. These are experiences I'll never forget."



Photo by Senior Airman Stephen Collier

Airman 1st Class Kevin Krogh (center), with help from an Adaptive Adventures, Inc., instructor, mounts a modified ski basket built for disabled persons.

## UCI Tip of the Week

By Lt. Col. Robert Slaughter  
Inspector General, Complaints Resolution

The Academy recently published a new Strategic Plan outlining our vision and key institutional goals and objectives for the next five years.

The new document, modeled on the 2006 Air Force Strategic Plan, includes seven strategic goals that will influence Academy programs, budgets, and activities.

It's important for all Academy members to review this new plan and identify how their unit can best support

our institutional goals and objectives.

Additionally, work is underway to publish two new Academy instructions that will further provide strategic guidance; one outlining our strategic planning and budget programming process, and the second defining and implementing our institutional effectiveness program.

All of these efforts are in line with the Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century which aims to institutionalize continuous improvement as a way of thinking and doing our jobs as Airmen.

The Air Force and Academy plans are available online at the Academy's website: [www.usafa.af.mil/superintendent/xp/xpp/stratplan/index.cfm](http://www.usafa.af.mil/superintendent/xp/xpp/stratplan/index.cfm).

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## Hospital

From Page 1

offer an improved location for ACC operations. The ACC's relocation to the newly renovated space will not disrupt hospital operations.

A contracted ambulance service and the 10th Air Base Wing Fire Department will continue to operate on the Academy and respond to 911 emergency calls.

To schedule an appointment at the new ACC during normal duty hours (6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.), patients with acute/non-emergent care needs should call the Colorado Springs Military Healthcare Access to Care Line at 457-CARE / 457-2273 for an appointment with their PCM.

After hours (5:30 p.m. to 6 a.m.), patients with acute/non-emergent care needs should call 457-CARE for an appointment within the ACC. Acute care appointments will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis for all Active Duty, Cadets and TRICARE Prime/TRICARE Plus enrollees. Non-TRICARE Prime, DoD eligible patients will be booked on a space-available basis.

According to the TRICARE

Beneficiary Handbook, "TRICARE defines an emergency as a medical, maternity, or psychiatric emergency that would lead a prudent layperson (someone with average knowledge of health and medicine) to believe a serious medical condition existed, or the absence of medical attention would result in a threat to life, limb or sight, and requires immediate medical treatment, or which has painful symptoms requiring immediate attention to relieve suffering."

The bottom line is: don't play doctor. If you think you're having an emergency, call 911 or get to the nearest ED as soon as possible.

The next major change to the 10 MDG's mission is the hospital's conversion, as required by Base Realignment and Closure Law 2005, to an outpatient-based clinic with an ambulatory surgery center. This transition entails the realignment of inpatient services to Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson. The timeline for this change is being coordinated. Specifics will be published as soon as they're finalized.

The men and women of the 10th



Photo by John Van Winkle

**Senior Airman David Farris of the 10th Medical Operations Squadron checks vital signs on a emergency room patient. The Academy Hospital's emergency department and emergency room ceases operations April 1 as the result of a 2005 base realignment and closure commission directive.**

Medical Group are dedicated to providing their patients the highest quality medical care. Outstanding customer service and excellent medical care, remain the 10th MDG's unwavering commitment.

Call 333-5111 or 333-5043 with questions regarding the ED closure and ACC opening. For information regarding TRICARE benefits, call 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378).

## Award

From Page 1

teaches sections of the capstone satellite courses.

"I look at myself as an engineer who's a teacher," he said. "This is an opportunity to go back to the classroom and have fun teaching. There are not many other places where I'd want to teach."

He believes the von Kármán prize reflects more on the astronautics department than him personally.

"It's a recognition for the department and adds to the awards and kudos

it has been receiving," he said.

Mr. Saylor pointed out the 50th anniversary of the department next month will, appropriately, come on the heels of the award announcement and stressed the satellite and rocket programs are very unique and a reflection of everything in the program.

"It's an opportunity to tell people what we're doing. This is what undergrads are capable of contributing."

The capstone satellite program enables cadets to design, build, test and launch a satellite. In short, it is teaching by building real projects.

"The most important thing to learn is to get their hands dirty," Mr. Saylor said. "It's really much more than many things cadets have done in their time."

Not only do cadets complete design-to-launch projects, they also receive customer reviews for projects from high-ranking Air Force leadership and chief scientists, much the same as they would for projects outside the Academy.

The customer review focuses on the work, safety and engineering.

"We're doing something no one else does as undergrads," he said. "They get real pressure as in industry."

Mr. Saylor said at the beginning of the capstone courses the 45 or so astronautics majors usually fail to grasp the scope of what they are doing. As spring, and deadlines, approach their understanding grows.

"Then 'they get it'."

Even before graduation astro majors are often hand-picked for service by various Air Force bases for their ability to step right into a project and contribute to it.

FalconSAT 6 is already in the works, and FalconSAT 5 is scheduled for launch in Kodiak, Alaska, in 2009.



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# They wanted to be warriors who reached heaven

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The 50th Academy Assembly that began Monday and finishes today tackled the ongoing threat of terrorism around the world.

The Academy Assembly provides a forum for meaningful assessment of major national and international issues and helps educate future Air Force leaders and delegates as they prepare for leadership positions. This year's topic was "Dismantling Terrorism: Developing

Actionable Solutions for Today's Plague of Violence."

Seven prominent speakers were guests this week, including three former self-avowed terrorists.

The week featured Mr. Steven Emerson and Mr. Lawrence Wright, both authors; Mr. Michael Nolle, J-2 Intelligence for U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace command and Army Maj. Fred Nace, intelligence officer for Fort Carson's 10th Special Forces.

But the show-stoppers may have

been first-timers Mr. Zak Anani, Mr. Kamel Saleem, and Mr. Walid Shoebat. For the Academy's first time, three ex-terrorists conducted briefings. Mr. Zak Anani and Mr. Kamal Saleem spoke Wednesday morning.

Former Islamic terrorist Mr. Anani told a standing room only audience of primarily cadets and international students in a Fairchild Hall lecture facility that the United States "is the last line of defense" against radical Islamic militants.

"You are the best nation in the world," said the former terrorist.

He vocalized what he thinks America is up against, noting that he made his first kill at the age of 14.

"We wanted to be the warriors that reached heaven," he said. "I was a killing machine. Then I changed my life to Christianity. I got educated, married and became an executive."

He also had seven attempts made on his life.

"It was only a matter of time before they found us," said Mr. Anani. "This country is being invaded."

He told the 200-plus gathering of delegates from 50 colleges and 16 different countries that Islamic terrorism destroys lives.

"I came to America in the mid 70s, when America was still sweet," he said. "America is now the world's last resort

and has now been forewarned of the terrorist threat. Wake up America!"

He told the assemblage that his mother said the day of judgement won't come until Islamic terrorists are overcome.

He said he began hating Christians and Jews at the age of six when he joined the Muslim Brotherhood. He received intensive training.

Mr. Kamal Saleem, Wednesday morning's second speaker, became animated and shouted. "I'm in your face, what are you going to do?"

Mr. Saleem noted that the United States is built on people from all over the world.

"They gave us dreams and Islamics became citizens," said Mr. Saleem. "Why don't we see more of America's moderate Muslims? They have been hurt, and they are afraid. A lot of Muslims are good people looking for a good life. And I will be the first to tell terrorists to get out of here. But we need flag carrying Americans shouting 'we love America.'"

The report from this year's assembly will be sent to the desks of members of the U.S. Congress, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Rand Corporation, among other agencies capable of enacting meaningful change as a result of the Assembly's suggestions.



Photo by Dave Armer

Mr. Kamal Saleem, former terrorist, speaks to the 50th Academy Assembly on Wednesday.

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# Air Force lauds Medical Group trio

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

They will have to wait for the awards presentations in May, but three 10th Medical Group people have been notified that they have earned Air Force level medical awards.

## Avid supporter of programs

Maj. Penny Spaid, 10th Medical Group health care integrator will receive the Air Force Health Care Integrator of the Year Award.

She was nominated for her work as a superior population health consultant for 31,000 beneficiaries, 30 providers, and 22 nurses.

"My job is centered on the health of our Air Force community," said Major Spaid, a 13-and one-half year Air force veteran from Middleburg, Pa. "One of the greatest challenges in my job is finding creative ways to educate and motivate members of our community in making the best possible health care and lifestyle decisions to improve their health and well-being. This award is a true reflection of the dedicated individuals I work with in our Air Force community and in the Military Healthcare System."

Last spring she had the privilege of leading the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign for the 10th Air Base Wing.

"Being an avid supporter of programs that benefit our service members and their families, it was an honor to champion our unit in contributing to this



Maj. Penny Spaid

valuable cause.

"I am proud every day to wear the uniform and provide care to our active and retired military members and their families," Major Spaid said. "It is an honor to help those who serve our country so diligently."

## People our greatest asset

Senior Master Sgt. Cleveland Wiltz is the Air Force's Olsen Wegnet Outstanding Aerospace Medicine senior NCO of the Year.

Balancing the demands of the Air Force and the needs of people keeps the superintendent for the 10th Aerospace Medicine Squadron busy.

Sergeant Wiltz was cited for being a phenomenal leader and instructor. He supported 65,000 beneficiaries with an optimized \$5.6 million budget.

During an Air Force career that has already spanned 20 years, there is a key truth the NCO from New Iberia, La., has learned.

"We all know people are our greatest asset and I believe to accomplish the great things we do in the military we have to ensure that asset is protected," he said.

He recalls that first impression of the world of Air Force blue two decades ago.

"The first feeling I got was shock," he grinned. "There are so many exceptional people in the Air Force and to be recognized by my leadership is special by itself, but to be chosen as the best in the Air Force is awesome."



Senior Master Sgt. Cleveland Wiltz

You'll know him if you meet him. He's still the selfless sergeant, husband and father.

"My greatest satisfaction, besides watching my sons grow up, at the Academy has been watching my people get recognized for their outstanding accomplishments," he said. "It feels good to know that the people I helped develop will lead the Air Force of the future," Sergeant Wiltz said.

## We work all together

When Senior Airman Monique Bowens left Lynnwood, Wash., four plus years ago she had no clue she'd be awarded the Air Forces Outstanding Aerospace Medical Service Journeyman/Cadet Standards Award.

She was cited for being a top quality stand-out Airman with limitless abilities.

The Airman doesn't feel there's any overwhelming challenges to it.

"I work in a great section with great people," she said. "We all work together as a team to get the job done."

So far, her greatest satisfaction came on Graduation Day.

"I know that may seem strange since I am not the one graduating, but to look on the field and see almost 1,000 cadets and know that you completed their graduation physicals, to me that is a feeling of accomplishment," she said.

She said receiving this award in May will be a mixture of "excitement and disbelief."



Senior Airman Monique Bowens

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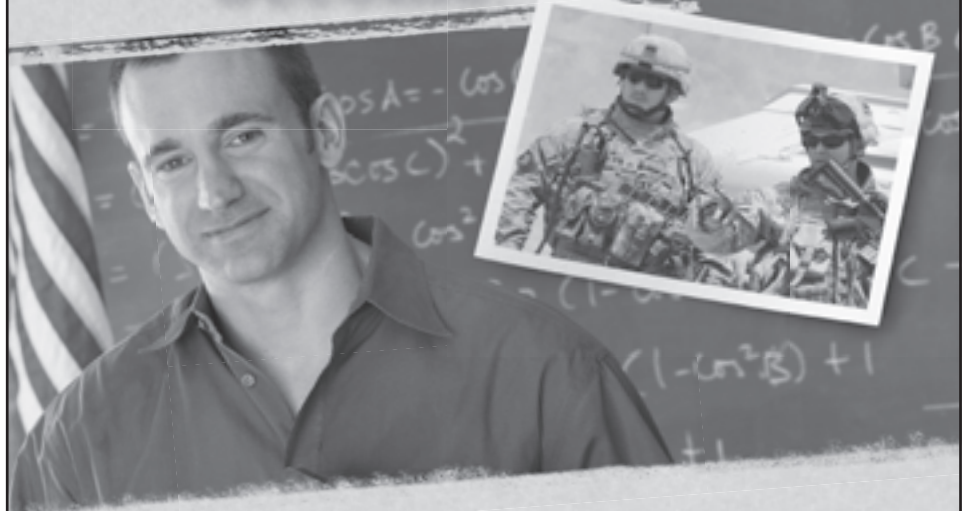
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# Education, prevention key healthy smiles, lower costs

By **Terry J. Goodman**  
TRICARE Management Activity

**Editor's Note:** February is designated National Children's Dental Health Month by the American Dental Association. This is the second of four articles designed to raise dental health awareness during the month.

Most educators agree teaching children early helps build a solid foundation for future learning success.

Part of a child's educational curriculum should include proper oral hygiene and prevention to ensure their smiles last a lifetime.

The TRICARE Dental Program, managed by United Concordia Inc., is supporting this education and prevention effort by promoting early enrollment of children in the dental program and encouraging dental examinations for infants by their first birthday.

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Gary C. Martin, director, Dental Care Division, TRICARE Management Activity, says children are automatically enrolled in the dental program at age four, but he recommends parents enroll them by age one to promote good dental habits and prevention of tooth decay and gum disease.

"Early prevention and treatment not only promotes a lifetime of proper dental care, but it can prevent unnecessary and expensive surgical procedures," said Col. Martin. "I can't emphasize enough the importance of enrolling children early in the TDP. It increases the



**CHILDREN'S  
DENTAL HEALTH  
MONTH**

probability of parents to use preventive measures for their children."

There are also no co-pays for children in this age group for diagnostic and preventive services, excluding sealants.

The American Dental Hygienist's Association says dental decay (cavities) is the most chronic disease of childhood, affecting 50 percent of youngsters by middle childhood (7-12 years of age), and more than 80 percent by late adolescence.

The best way to ensure that children do not get cavi-

ties or periodontal disease is to instill proper oral habits early.

Dr. Samir J. Naik, a UCCI network dentist in Falls Church, Va., shares Col. Martin's view on starting dental education and prevention early in a child's life.

"Parents should brush and floss their children's teeth until they are able to do it on their own," Dr. Naik said. "When they are able to brush and floss themselves, parents should watch them and ensure they are doing a thorough job."

According to the ADHA Web site, waiting until the first tooth breaks the gum tissue may be too late to ensure healthy teeth and gums.

Parents should regularly clean their baby's gums with a wet cloth. It stimulates the gum tissue and removes food. When the first tooth cuts through, parents should use a soft-bristled toothbrush and a small amount (about the size of a pea) of fluoride toothpaste to prevent dental and gum disease.

Providing fillings, crowns, and root canals are part of being a dentist, but Dr. Naik would rather his patients not require these costly and sometimes painful procedures, especially for children. Additionally, the earlier children start going to the dentist the more they will feel more at ease when going for their annual exams.

"They get used to being in a dental office early, and in my experience it definitely helps prevent dental phobia," he said. "Going to the dentist at an early age also reinforces good oral hygiene habits at home."



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# Leadership honors latest academic Aces

By Capt. Jason Ross  
Department of Economics and  
Geosciences instructor

The Academy Superintendent, Vice Superintendent, Commandant of Cadets, Dean of the Faculty, Athletic Director and Vice Dean of the Faculty recognized a special group of cadets Jan. 31 at a reception hosted by Brig. Gen. Dana Born at the Dean of the Faculty's quarters, honoring the newest members of the Dean's Aces List.

Of the 4,355 Cadet Wing members last semester, only 21 earned an A (4.0 Grade Point Average) in every class including physical education.

All four classes were represented on the list, which included a record number of intercollegiate athletes, high ranking members of the cadet chain of command and scholarship winners/candidates.

Ten of the 21 Aces are in the Academy Scholars Program. Thirteen different majors were represented among the seventeen cadets who have declared majors, led by three Aces from Systems Engineering Management, and two each from Physics and Mechanical Engineering.

"There's a remarkable group of seven future officers destined to graduate in just over 100 days," General Born said. "This is an extraordinary group of cadets



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

**First time Dean's Aces List honorees, Cadet 1st Class Shaun Sucillon, second from left, and Cadet 2nd Class Victor DiTommaso, far left, chat with Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born during the Jan. 31 reception honoring the 21 cadets who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the 2007 fall semester in every class, including physical education.**

who truly embody the Air Force's core value of "Excellence in All We Do."

Five Aces attended the United States Naval Academy last semester as exchange students, two Aces attended a preparatory school (Air Force Academy Prep and Marion Academy), two Aces continued the Long Blue Line started by their parents ('71 and '84 Academy grads), and one Ace is a prior enlisted Air Force member.

Leading the latest group of Aces, are three-time winners: Cadets 1st Class Hila Levy and Adam Stooke and Cadet 2nd Class George Sondecker, and two-time Aces: Cadet 1st Class Justin Raines plus Cadets 2nd Class Katharine Kalamaroff and Dustin Nedolast.

Among the seven graduating with

the Class of 2008, one will report to pilot training, one will join the Medical Service Corps to become a hospital administration officer, three will serve as Air Force scientists, one will become an acquisitions officer and CIC Levy will attend graduate school as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University where she'll major in Health Sciences.

"This is such a wonderful event and I am happy to have shared it with so many others this year," Cadet Levy said. "I hope the number of ACEs continues to grow across the wing."

"General Born and her husband were very kind to hold the event in their house, which as it turns out has quite a rich history," Cadet 4th Class Erik Robinson said. "It was a great experience

## Fall 2007 Dean's Aces List

Cadet - Squadron	Class	Major/Minor
Comrie Harris - 26	2007	English
Christin Hart - 6	2008	Astronautical Eng.
Sean Ketterick - 6	2008	Management
Hila Levy ** - 9	2008	Biology
Kevin Pastoor - 13	2008	Chemistry
Justin Raines* - 16	2008	Systems Eng. Management
Adam Stooke** - 35	2008	Physics
Shaun Sucillon - 7	2008	Behavioral Sciences/ Human Factors
Derek Candiotti - 11	2009	Systems Eng. Management
Victor DiTommaso - 14	2009	Political Science
Katharine Kalamaroff* - 39	2009	Physics
Joseph Miller - 28	2009	Mechanical Engineering
Dustin Nedolast** - 29	2009S	Systems Eng. Management
George Sondecker** - 20	2009	Mechanical Engineering
Anthony Chung - 25	2010	History & English
Robert Durbin - 24	2010	Mathematics & Operations Research/Chinese
Eric Herbort - 11	2010	Electrical Engineering
Jennifer Bandi - 29	2011	Undeclared
Jessica Drewicz - 20	2011	Undeclared
Sarah Horton - 30	2011	Undeclared
Eric Robinson - 18	2011	Undeclared

\* Double Ace \*\* Triple Ace

to shake hands with the Academy leadership and hear the many Academy and family stories of the senior staff."

Senior leadership attending the dinner at the Dean's home included Lt. Gen. John Regni, Col. Paul Ackerman, Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins, Dr. Hans Mueh, Col. Neal Barlow and their spouses.





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# Tax center makes filing less taxing

By Captain Jay Bragga

Chief of Legal Assistance and Preventive Law

The Academy Tax Center opened Monday to assist in tax return preparation for military ID card holders.

The center is in the Arnold Hall Alley Arcade, down the hall from the ticket office and Haps. It's open for business Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center's closed on Fridays.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives are certified to help with these forms:

1040EZ; 1040A with Schedule 1, 2, 3 and EIC; 1040 with Schedule A, B, EIC, R and non Complicated or Advanced Schedule D; 1040V; 1040ES; Forms 2441 (Child and Dependent Care Credit), 8863 (Education Credit) and 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit).

However, VITA reps can not assist with:

Rental income; personal businesses; employee business expenses; complicated and advanced capital gains; moving expenses; non-deductible IRAs; minors investment income; and requests for social security numbers.

Filers of 1040 and 1040A forms should call (719) 333-3905 to make an appointment. If staffing permits, a walk-in service may be available for 1040EZ filers. Call ahead for availability.

Before your appointment begins, make sure you have these items with you:

- military Identification card,
- social security cards for you, your spouse and dependents,
- birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return,
- current year's tax package if you received one,
- wage and earning statement(s) - Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers,
- interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099),
- a copy of last year's federal and state returns if available,
- bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit,

—other relevant information about income and expenses, including:

- total paid for day care,
- day care provider's identifying number.

Remember, to file taxes electronically on a married filing jointly tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

Congress passed a late temporary "fix" to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) which the President signed on Dec. 26. These forms, and the returns associated with them will be delayed in processing until Monday. It affects both electronically filed and paper returns with these forms attached:

- Schedule 2, Child & Dependent Care Expenses filed with Form 1040A
- Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits
- Form 8396, Mortgage Interest Credit
- Form 8859, District of Columbia First-Time Homebuyer Credit
- Form 8863, Education Credits

If you use the Academy Tax Center and anticipate filing any of these forms, schedule an appointment after Monday to insure you receive proper credit.

The Tax Center is continually looking for volunteer tax preparers. If you are interested in volunteering for this valuable service, call Tech. Sgt. Timothy Johnston at the Academy legal office at (719) 333-3940.

Don't wait to file your tax return. Call the Academy Tax Center at (719) 333-3905, Mondays through Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to schedule an appointment.

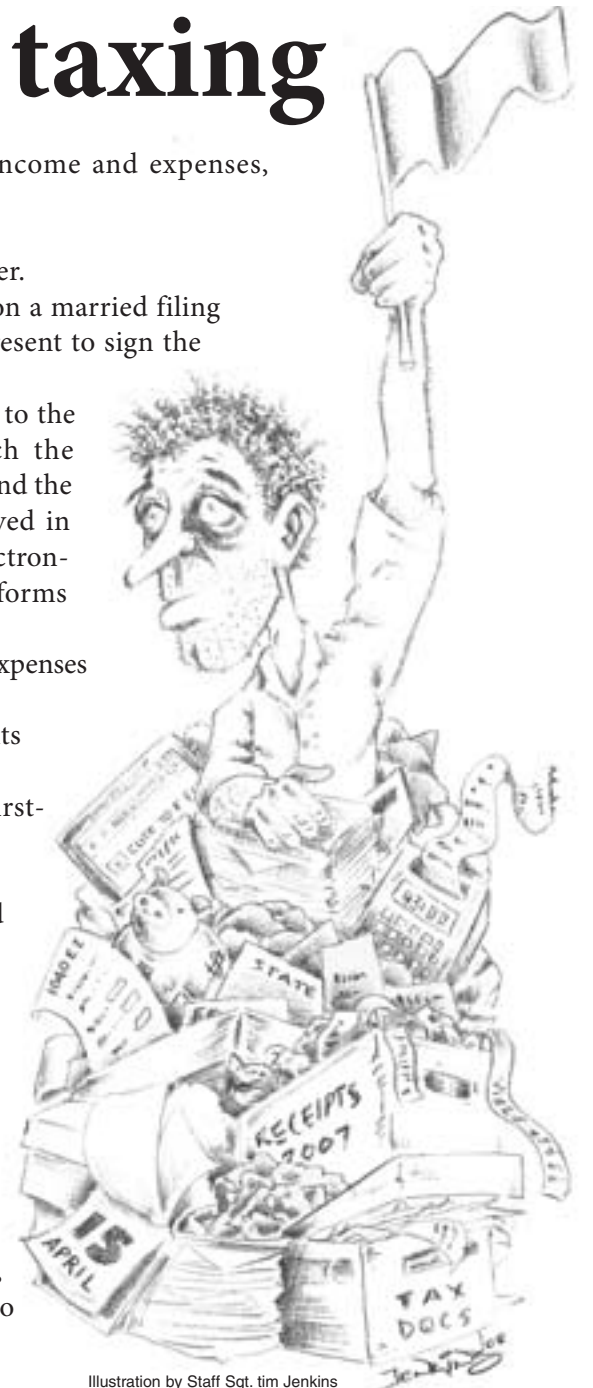


Illustration by Staff Sgt. tim Jenkins



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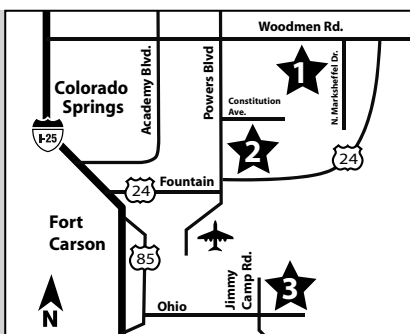
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# New tax rules lucrative for some Airmen

By Master Sgt. Scott Wagers  
Air Force News Agency

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) — Filing his family's taxes each year online, Master Sgt. Ron Przysucha says he normally receives about \$3,000 in tax returns. This year however, he was taken by surprise when the same Web site he traditionally uses calculated his return at nearly \$8,000.

"I immediately thought it was a mistake and I didn't want to owe the government money so I went to the IRS Web site to verify the information for military members and it told me that there was a change in the (earned income credit) rules," said Sergeant Przysucha, a television broadcaster assigned to Air Force News, Det. 4.

The tax laws affecting military taxpayers have changed significantly over the last few years, said Capt. Mary Ellen Payne, the officer in charge of the tax center here.

"In the past, military pay allowances such as variable housing allowance and cost-of-living allowance were traditionally included as part of your earned income, even though those allowances weren't taxed. This would put most military members over the annual income threshold of qualifying for the earned income credit," Captain Payne said.

"Also non-taxable combat pay is no



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers

**Master Sgt. Mikaela Grogg helps Airman 1st Class Michael Schindler in filing his annual taxes at the tax office on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Monday. Sergeant Grogg is a volunteer tax assistant assigned to the 435th Mission Support Squadron. Airman Schindler is with the 723d Air Mobility Squadron.**

longer included in your annual earned income. If someone was gone to the desert for a significant period of time then his or her annual income is going to be significantly smaller which may better qualify him or her for earned income credit," she said.

"Your best chances of qualifying are if you're a couple filing jointly with two children have an annual income threshold of around \$39,000," Captain Payne said.

There are six different income thresholds based on the structure and employment status of each family as well as the number of children included in the family.

The earned income credit is a law created to give tax breaks to working families. It's a refundable credit meaning even if you have no tax liability — in other words, you don't owe taxes for the year and you're scheduled to receive back everything you paid out over the calendar year, you can still qualify to receive earned income credit on top of the money that was withheld throughout the year. The maximum amount of income credit being paid out is \$4,716.

Airman 1st Class Michael Schindler of the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron saw

his annual return increase from \$2,300 to nearly \$5,000.

"I guess I wasn't filing my taxes right but now I am. I hope to use the extra money to buy a better car," he said.

"The last thing that's important to know is it's difficult for the tax office to estimate how much people will receive on their return without using a certain type of software because there are many variables that affect what you qualify for," Captain Payne said.

"That said, we encourage people to come to us and we'll help them understand exactly how much they qualify for," she said.

Other mandates for earned income credit qualification:

- You cannot file "married, filing separately" to qualify for earned income credit. Partners must file jointly.

- Both partners filing jointly and all claimed children must possess a U.S. issued social security number.

- If you have a foreign spouse, he or she must possess a U.S. issued social security number (not an "ITIN" — Individual Tax Identification Number)

- You have to have lived in the United States. for at least six months out of the year.

- Military assigned to overseas bases qualify for 6 months U.S. occupancy

- Civilians working at overseas bases do not qualify for U.S. occupancy.



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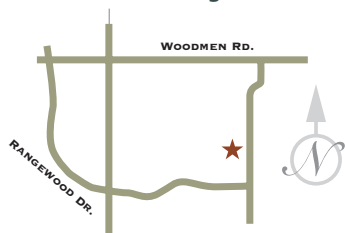
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# AFSC Spotlight

# JD the AMT

An NCO of many hats

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

Tech. Sgt. Jason "JD" Davis doesn't have a 7:30 am to 4:30 p.m., five-day-a-week job.

The Cadet Squadron 20's Academy military trainer carries a government issued cell phone that can, and does ring at all hours.

"Bottom line is I am there for the cadets anytime they need me," said the 15-year Air Force veteran from Detroit.

The former gunship electrician is in a position of authority to tomorrow's Air Force officers, but also fills roles as a big brother, father figure, close friend and often the one who tells them outright how things are.

"After graduation is when they walk out of the Academy gates, looking back and realizing where I stood," he said.

Cadets as young as 17 run into the same problems any young adults encounter while seeking a better future.

"I am gratified when they come to me to see how they can work through personal and professional issues," Sergeant Davis said. "I share what has worked and not worked for me."

He has seen cadets on a wrong path and beyond help.

"Seeing seniors leave can be a bitter-sweet experience," he said.

But working in the trenches with cadets day-to-day makes it easy for him to come to work.

"It's seeing the cadets develop and grow into productive and street-smart Air Force officers and knowing I have played a part in their journey. It's when you get that phone call or email with a simple 'thanks' that means the world to me and reinforces the fact that I've had a positive impact of their brand new careers," he said.

Sergeant Davis also is the NCOIC of falconry and has traveled with cadets outside of the cadet area.

"It is great to see them working with the birds," he said. "I'm thankful I'm part of falconry. Where else in the Air Force would I be able to work with the Air Force falcons"

The AMTs of the Academy come from every Air Force Specialty Code and bring their experiences to the job to better equip future officers and, hopefully, pave the way for a remarkable officer-enlisted working relationship.

He credits his wife, Cathy, for



Courtesy Photo

Cadet Squadron 20 Academy military trainer Tech. Sgt. Jason Davis.

good advice and helping to keep him grounded.

"I also have three great kids that have a way of recharging me after a long day, and Squadron 20's air officer commanding,

Maj. Raymond Boulter, and my mobilization counterpart Tech. Sergeant Donald Ledbetter," said Sergeant Davis. "Without their help and guidance, the job wouldn't be what it is for me."



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# McCoy's device revolutionized railroad industry

By Capt. Sabine Peters  
Department of Foreign Languages instructor

**Editor's Note:** In observance of Black History Month, notable African-Americans are highlighted during February in the Academy Spirit.

The story of an exceptionally talented inventor and railroad engineer began just north of the border, in the small town of Colchester, Ontario, Canada.

While the exact date is unknown, several sources cite Elijah McCoy's birthday as May 2, 1844. His parents, George and Emillia McCoy, had been slaves on a Kentucky plantation and escaped bondage via the Underground Railroad.

Canada, then part of the British Empire, abolished slavery in 1833 and George McCoy decided to enlist with the British forces during a rebellion in 1837. In return, he received 160 acres of farmland near Colchester where the growing family settled. Elijah was the third of 12 children.

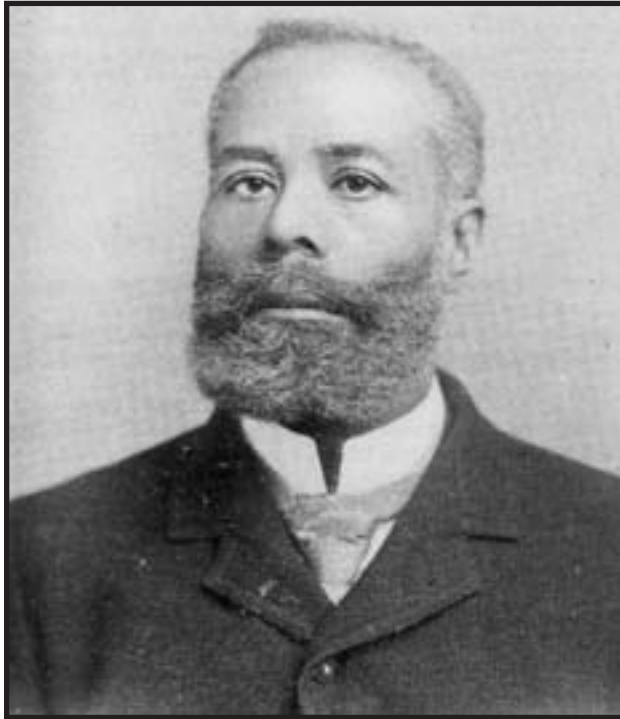
From an early age, Elijah was fascinated by tools and mechanical devices, frequently taking toys and other items apart and putting them back together.

After finishing grammar school in 1859, his parents sent him to study in Edinburgh, Scotland, to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. After completing his studies and having earned the title of "master mechanic and engineer," Elijah returned and his family moved to the United States to live near Ypsilanti, Mich.

Despite his talents and impressive credentials, Elijah was unable to find work as an engineer. Professional jobs were scarce for African-Americans. He was eventually hired by the Michigan Central Railroad as a fireman/oiler. As fireman, he was responsible for shoveling coal into the firebox of his locomotive at a rate of two tons per hour. His oilman duties included walking alongside the train and applying oil to axles and bearings.

At the time, this lubrication process was possible only when the train was stopped, making train travel and transport an extremely time consuming enterprise.

In a home-based machine shop, Elijah experimented with different methods of automating this task and in early 1872 developed a "lubricating cup" that would automatically apply oil to moving parts,



Courtesy Photo

**Inventor Elijah McCoy was awarded more than 50 patents, most relating to lubricating devices and air brakes.**

thus eliminating the need to stop the engine. The resounding success of his invention led to his first patent, "Improvement in Lubricators for Steam-Engines," in July of that year.

Sadly, 1872 also marked the death of his wife of only four years, Ann Elisabeth Stewart. One year after her death, Elijah remarried Mary Eleanor Delaney and they moved to Detroit.

His lubricating cup proved adaptable to other types of steam engines and different versions became standard components on many types of heavy machinery. He also applied his system to air brakes used on locomotives and other vehicles.

While Elijah McCoy's inventions made millions, very little of this fortune ended up in his pockets. Lacking the financial resources to produce his lubricators in large quantities, he often sold his patent rights to rich investors. Elijah only received enough money to continue his work.

After the turn of the century, he attracted the attention of other notable African-Americans. In *Story of the Negro*, Booker T. Washington recognized him as having produced more patents than any other black inventor up to that time.

In 1920, he formed the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company and his lubricators were



Photo Illustration by Patrick Harris

finally manufactured in his name. He was able to also patent inventions in France, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Russia and Canada.

He became a mechanical consultant for firms such as the Detroit Lubricating Company. He was frequently invited to speak at gatherings but many customers were unaware this brilliant inventor was a Negro. Many times scheduled appearances were cancelled at the last moment or doors closed in his face when he arrived. Others cancelled orders for parts made and distributed by a black man.

In 1922, he and Mary sustained severe injuries from a car accident. His wife of 50 years never fully recovered and died the following year. Over the next five years, Elijah's own health deteriorated, forcing him to move into a convalescent home in Eloise, Mich. Stricken with hypertension and senile dementia, Elijah McCoy died on Oct. 10, 1929. He's buried at Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery in Warren, Mich.

During his lifetime, Elijah McCoy was awarded more than 50 patents, most of them related to lubricating devices and air brakes. He's also credited with the development of a lawn sprinkler, vehicle tire tread and a folding ironing board.

In 1975, Detroit celebrated Elijah McCoy Day and placed a historic marker at the site of his home. A city street there also bears his name. Some sources credit the saying "The Real McCoy," meaning the genuine article, the real thing, to Elijah McCoy's inventions.

The impact he had on the industrial world would not go unnoticed. In 2001, Elijah McCoy was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.

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# Longtime face of AOG moves on to next 'adventure'

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Jim Shaw isn't ready to hang up his spurs.

The president of the Association of Graduates stepped down from his post last week after 15 years of service to the organization but is looking forward to what lies ahead.

"We'll be looking for at least one more 'great adventure,'" he said of the path in front of him and his wife, Cindy.

After retiring from active duty and as deputy chief of staff of the Academy's Plans and Programs in 1992, Mr. Shaw joined the AOG staff. His first assignment was as vice president for development.

He recalled it was a time "when we were just learning to spell 'fundraising.'"

Widening the AOG's horizon for funding, he feels, is one of his greatest accomplishments with the organization.

The AOG now supports the Superintendent's Chair in Character and Leadership, the Director of the Center for Space and Defense Policy, as well as two scholarships for mid-career graduates.

In addition, the AOG has added job placement,



Cadet Jim Shaw Class of '67

travel packages, reunion support and a Web site, among other services, all comparable to other service academy and university alumni associations.

"We grew an organization from adolescence to maturity during some very tough times on the Academy," he said. "The toughest challenge was to get people to understand what was happening, what the AOG was doing and why."

A 1967 Academy grad with a degree in engineering science, Mr. Shaw spent his 26 active duty years in operational, training and staff assignments, including tours of duty as a combat controller, rescue pilot, instructor, staff officer and aide de camp.

He also commanded the soaring and parachuting 94th Airmanship Training Squadron on the Academy. A master parachutist and certified air traffic controller, Mr. Shaw has more than 3,000 hours of flying time as a command pilot.

Besides a Bachelor of Science degree from the Academy, he holds a Master of Arts in government/international relations and a Master of Business Administration.

Academy graduates are much the same, yet different from previous generations.

"Grads of today are just as motivated as ever and have the same dreams and aspirations as all grads have had," he said. "Newer grads enter into a very complicated world. I think they are prepared, focused and will make us all proud."

When basic cadets in-processed at the AOG on their first day, Mr. Shaw has been there for them as



Photo Courtesy of Association of Graduates

**Col. (retired) Jim Shaw is a master parachutist and has more than 3,000 hours in the cockpit.**

well as for their parents who often find it hard to let go.

"I reminded them that many had already done this. I wanted them to know that the leadership here is human and really cares about their sons and daughters," he said. "I wanted them to know how valuable and life-changing the experience would be."

He reminisced about his own first day as a basic cadet.

"I was a bit shell shocked but was absolutely overwhelmed by the beauty of the Academy and its surroundings," he said. "I still feel that way today."

Mr. Shaw grew up in Delaware in a military family and was raised on "sports, airplanes and 'Twelve O'Clock High.'"

He and his wife have three daughters and are also proud grandparents of three girls.

He said the best part of his years at the AOG will always be the people.

"I have met and worked with wonderful people, grads and non-grads alike who really care about the Academy, its cadets, our graduates and this nation," he said.

"We have been honored and blessed to be a part of this school and its people for a significant part of our lives. We wish everyone the very best and hope the AOG will continue to move forward to do great things for the school, cadets, grads, the Air Force and the nation."



Photo by Ken Wright

**AOG president Jim Shaw speaks at in-processing for the Class of 2008.**



## Out of the shadows... into the record book

Falcon sophomore Melissa Beerse shattered the Academy women's pole vault record at the Air Force Invitational Track and Field Meet Saturday. Beerse won the event with a career-best NCAA provisional height of 13'2½", improving her own Academy record by seven inches. She became the first woman in program history to clear the 13-foot plateau. Besides setting the Academy mark, she posted the seventh-best height in the nation to-date, plus the second-best mark in the conference. Beerse is also sixth in the Mountain West Conference all-time standings and just ¼" shy of fifth (13'2½").

Photo by Mike Kaplan



# MDG NCO eyes American Idol dream

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

He survived the first cut. He survived the second cut and nearly made it to the stage on the television show American Idol.

Staff Sgt. Shelton Franklin, diagnostic imaging technician with the 10th Medical Group, was one of 8,000 original contestants following their dream to be an American Idol during August and October auditions at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Neb.

But he did finish in the top 100, which still put him way out ahead of most of the contestants.

It was his second time auditioning for the show, which has fueled the performing careers of such stars as Kerry Underwood, Clay Aiken and Kelly Clarkson.

"I was so close to be in front of the three judges," he said of last year's auditions.

The first time he auditioned and was cut he admitted he was angry.

"But it was nothing I did," he said. "It wasn't what they were looking for."

Sergeant Franklin was better prepared the second time around.

"I had to be over the top. I had to bring everything to the table—the outfit, the attitude and the music," he said.

His costume hit the target. Sergeant Franklin traded in his blues and BDUs for Cupid.

Assembling various items from a Colorado Springs costume shop, he created his outfit from a Roman-style robe and sandals, white wings, a leaf crown and a child's bow and arrow. To complete the ensemble, his mother painted red hearts on the robe and wings.

"That was a big step for me," he said of his potential for embarrassment. "But the judges

noticed and laughed at the costumes."  
His costume drew the attention of a local Omaha television station covering the auditions, plus the attention of a myriad of family, friends and even high school classmates who saw the news story.

His prepared song for the audition? "When I fall in love."

Music is with Sergeant Franklin most of his waking hours.

"My music drives me, literally," he said. "If you cut me, music will come out of my veins."

The vocalist and pianist, who came from a family of Air Force members, is constantly working on his music—singing it, playing it and composing it.

As a youth growing up in South Carolina, he joined family members who gathered in his home to sing every Sunday after church.

Sergeant Franklin began to come into his own musically in the fifth grade when he joined the junior choir of the Presbyterian Church in his hometown.

"From there they couldn't shut me up," he said.

When Sergeant Franklin is not writing or

Photo by Arnethia Watkins



Courtesy photo

Sergeant Franklin gets a little help from a friend, his mom, Arnethia Watkins.

singing his own songs, for which he draws on his own life experiences, he especially enjoys singing gospel, rhythm and blues and Christian contemporary pieces.

Eventually he would like to cut a CD.

His faith continues as a cornerstone of his life.

"It's really special to me. I know God has a plan for my life," he said. "He's a big part of it."

Every weekend he is at SNACCC, short for Saturday Night At the Community Center Chapel, where he and others provide musical support for the chapel praise service.

Sergeant Franklin's re-enlistment date is November this year. He has been in the Air Force for seven years.

"I'm down to the wire," he said of the time he needs to make a decision about staying in.

"The Air Force gives me a sense of belonging," he said. "This is my family."

He has nearly completed enough credits for a Bachelor of Science degree in care management.

On the job with the 10th MDG, his patients come first. He cares deeply for them by developing a rapport and talking to them if they are scared.

On request, he sings to them.

Sergeant Franklin plans to give American Idol auditions another shot.

"If nothing else comes out of it, I will have the experience," he said. "I know that's what I still want to do."



Photo by Ann Patton

Patients in the 10th Medical Group's diagnostic imaging center may request a serenade with their CAT scan.



# AF back in thick of AHA race

By Dave Toller  
Athletic Communications

The Air Force Falcons got second period goals from Jeff Hajner and Matt Fairchild en route to a 3-1 Atlantic Hockey Association win over the Bentley Falcons Saturday night at the Cadet Ice Arena.

Air Force improved to 13-10-5 overall and 10-8-4 in the AHA. Bentley fell to 6-14-6 overall and 6-8-6 in the league. The win moved the bluesuiters back into a tie for second place with Army with 24 points, two points behind the first-place Rochester Institute of Technology.

The victory also enabled Air Force to take three out of four points from the visiting Falcons.

Bentley pulled its goalie with 52 seconds left in regulation and scored with the extra attacker with nine ticks left on the clock to pull out a 4-4 tie Feb. 1 at the CIA.

"Every night is a battle in our league," Air Force head coach Frank Serratore said. "We just needed to get a win. Our kids gave a great effort for 125 minutes this weekend. Bentley is a tough opponent to play"

After a scoreless first period Saturday, Hajner's 10th goal of the season put the Falcons on the board at the 8:28 mark on

the power play. Four minutes later, Fairchild, netted his eighth of the year from below the bottom of the left circle. The shot deflected off the goaltender's shoulder and into the net for what would be the game winner.

"I was looking for a pass and ran out of space," Fairchild explained. "I just threw it on net, it hit something and went in. I'll take it, or course."

Bentley cut the lead in half with an early third period goal before Brent Olson recorded his team-leading 13th of the season at the 5:14 mark to cap the scoring.

The night before, Air Force opened the scoring at the 15:19 mark of the first period on a power-play goal by Josh Frider, his eighth of the campaign.

Frider added two assists and took a game-high six shots on goal to pace the Air Force attack. His line mates, Olson and Josh Schaffer, combined for three more points.

"Our line's been struggling lately," Frider said. "So we pulled together and said we've got to get intense and play hard every shift. We did that tonight."

Each team had some quality scoring chances in overtime but was unable to break the tie. Bentley had three shots on net in the extra period while Air Force had two.



Photo by Dave Armer

**Air Force line mates, left to right, Brent Olson, 13, Josh Schaffer, 28, and Josh Frider, 11, surround Bentley goaltender, Joe Calvi, Saturday at the Cadet Ice Arena. The Air Force trio combined for two goals and four assists the night before.**

Air Force out-shot Bentley, 34-13, in the final 45 minutes of the game and 40-24 in the contest.

"I want to focus on what we did rather than what we didn't do," Serratore said. "We played pretty darn well in the second and third period. We got 40 shots on goal against a good team. We came from behind and then scored with just over a minute left. We took a good step in the

right direction tonight.

"We have a tough stretch of games in front of us with four of them on the road," he said. "We need to get as many points as possible to secure home ice in the play-offs."

Air Force is at Mercyhurst today and Saturday in Erie, Pa. Mercyhurst is just one point behind Air Force in the standings, tied with Sacred Heart for fifth place.

## Bigger crowds not enough as AF drops pair

By Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

The Air Force women's basketball team (7-13, 1-7) lost to the San Diego State Aztecs (13-7, 4-4), 62-45, in Mountain West Conference action Wednesday night in front of a season-high crowd of 2,295 at Clune Arena.

The turnout eclipsed a then season-high crowd of 2,008 that showed up Saturday to witness the bluesuiters 67-49 MWC setback to the TCU Horned Frogs at Clune.

"It's been a great atmosphere here lately," Air Force head coach Ardie McInelly said. "The crowds made it fun and exciting. The players fed off their energy."

Senior guard Pam Findlay was stellar in both defeats.

The Glenview, Ill., product recorded her first double-double of the season, and third of her career, against TCU tying a career-high with 12 rebounds to go with her 14 points. She followed that with a 10-point, and team-high seven-rebound performance against the Aztecs

"I tried to be more aggressive on the boards," Findlay said. "Sometimes they would forget to box our guards out so I tried to flash and get rebounds as best as I could. We didn't get the win but we did play hard with a lot of energy."

TCU broke open a close, four-point halftime lead of 30-26, by going on a 15-4 run in the opening four minutes of the second half to pull away.

"That hurt us," Air Force head coach Ardie McInelly said. "We can play with anybody in this league if we play 40 minutes. That's what it's going to take to win these games."

Freshman Raimee Beck tied Findlay with 14 points, including 3-for-5 from three-point range and has now made 10 three-pointers in her last three games.

"My teammates have helped me get open. Their picks are really clean," Beck said. "At first I was a little nervous because I didn't know how quickly had to get my shot up. I feel more comfortable now."

The Falcons struggled to get their offense going against SDSU, shooting 31 percent from the field.

Meanwhile, San Diego State shot 50 percent from the floor and turned 18 Air Force turnovers into 20 points.

Air Force was held to a season-low 17 points in the first half, as they trailed the Aztecs, 30-17, at the intermission.

The Falcons did step up their play in the second half, scoring 28 points. Center Kim Kreke added seven points and five rebounds and guard Brooke Cultra returned to the starting lineup and had five boards

The Falcons out-rebounded the Aztecs 39-31, including 20 on the offensive glass.

Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

**Falcon senior guard Pam Findlay leaves TCU's Adrienne Ross in her wake.**



### INTERCOLLEGIATE

#### Men's Basketball

Feb. 2 at Fort Worth, Texas

**Falcons 56** TCU 46

Feb. 6 at San Diego, Calif.

San Diego St. 48 **Falcons 39**

#### Women's Basketball

Feb. 2 at AFA

TCU 67 **Falcons 49**

Feb. 6 at AFA

San Diego St. 62 **Falcons 45**

#### Hockey

Feb. 1 and 2 at AFA

**Falcons 4 (OT) -3** Bentley 4-1

#### Boxing

Jan. 26 at Seattle, Wash.

Washington Athletic Club NCBA Invitational

**Falcons 6-3**

\*158 lbs. **Daryn Nelson, dec.**

\*AF Boxer of the Week

#### Wrestling

Feb. 2 at West Point, N.Y.

14th annual All-Academy Championships

#### Falcons 54.5 points, 3rd

#### Women's Tennis

Feb. 1 at AFA

#45 Denver 6 **Falcons 1**

Feb. 2 at AFA

#43 Washington St. 7 **Falcons 0**

Feb. 3 at AFA

Wyoming 5 **Falcons 2**

#### Track and Field

Feb. 1 and 2 at AFA

#### Air Force Invitational

(Weight Throw)

**Kirk Devine, 60' 2 1/2"**\*\*

\*Academy record

(Pole Vault)

**Melissa Beerse 13' 2 1/4", 1st\***

\*Academy record

#### Diving

Feb. 1 and 2 at AFA

Air Force Diving Invitational

(Combined Platform)

**Kyle Van Valkenburg 268.00, 1st**

#### Gymnastics

Feb. 1 at West Point, N.Y.

**Falcons (Men) 331.350** Army 331.900

Feb. 2 at AFA

**Falcons (Women) 188.100** MIT 180.950

Feb. 3 at Springfield, Mass.

**Falcons (Men) 337.500** Springfield College 333.000



# Heading for 'greener' pastures

This is my last entry to the Academy Spirit as its editor and sportswriter.

I'm moving on to greener pastures, as in Jerry McGuire "show me the money" green.

After having covered the Academy sports beat since June 2005, I've been offered a public affairs position at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio that, as my creditors will attest, was too good to pass up.

I won't bore you with a laundry list of folks I could thank for helping me raise the bar of sports coverage here. Suffice to say everyone in the Academy sports community, along with the second-to-none Academy Public Affairs staff, have been the keys to elevating the Academy Spirit into a multiple-award winning Air Force publication.

That brings me to what this swan song is really about.

My vacated cubicle may collect dust for a little while until the next editor is hired.

But rest assured, there won't be a



Spirit Sports  
Commentary

Wayne  
Amann

noticeable change in the amount of sports coverage.

The Spirit will still deliver the most up-to-date Scoreboard results and Arena information plus in-depth game and feature stories involving the intercollegiate and intramural sports scenes our weekly space will allow.

Our readership deserves the best, and will continue to get it

That's where you come in. Not only is your loyal reading appreciated, but so is your help.

If you have any story ideas, sports or otherwise, call 333-8822. The Academy Spirit staff welcomes your input. If you'd

like to be a sports stringer (someone outside the Academy Spirit staff who writes stories), call the paper.

The Academy is the most unique Air Force "base" around. Where else can you find Division I intercollegiate sports on a bluesuiter installation?

That alone warrants the most comprehensive coverage resources will allow.

While hunting and pecking at this keyboard, I was given the autonomy and authority to carry out that responsibility. In other words I covered sports the way I thought they should be covered. My credo: "local covers local." Translation: if your local paper doesn't cover what's happening in your own backyard, who will?

During my 20-plus years on active duty, primarily as a sportscaster with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, I always wondered why base newspapers didn't place more emphasis on local sports coverage?

My tenure here answered that question. It takes a lot of time and passion. You've

got to want to do it more than anything. I did.

Judging by the kind words I've received from folks around campus, I brought greater enjoyment, awareness and appreciation for the sports programs here, at all levels.

That was my job satisfaction. That kept me going during my two year, eight month separation from my family in the Alamo City.

One of my former bosses, Wayne Bryant, who tragically passed away recently, always said, to a degree tongue-in-cheek, to put things in perspective, "the newspaper was here before you arrived and will be here after you leave."

In this case, I feel a little selfish taking so many great professional and personal memories of the *Academy Spirit* with me as I end this self-proclaimed stateside deployment.

This place will soon be out of sight, but never out of mind.

Thanks for the ride.

# Commander's Cup returns to Hill

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

How sweet it is.

The Commander's Cup is back home on the Academy.

Cadet skiers and snowboarders curved and sliced their way down Keystone Resort slopes and captured the top prize against area Air Force installations during SnoFest Jan. 25.

"It was exciting to win for the Academy," said team advisor Capt. Erich Kunrath. "It's now back in our hands where it should be."

It has been three years since the Academy owned the trophy. The sculpted prize will be presented to the Cadet Wing Monday during lunch in Mitchell Hall.

During the Keystone competition cadets raced on a flatter, straighter and shorter course than they were accustomed to, Captain Kunrath said.

The weather and snow cooperated and contributed to the cadets' win. It was a sunny Colorado day with a well-groomed snow surface over a hard pack.

The ski team added five snowboarders to swell their ranks for the SnoFest competition.

Cadets received permission to miss class on Friday. They departed the Academy at 5:30 a.m. to make the race



Photo Courtesy Academy Ski Team

Academy skiers and snowboarders gather to celebrate bringing home the Commander's Cup during SnoFest.

registration deadline.

Competition scores were added for the fastest two individual skiers' and fastest two individual snowboarders' race times for each installation.

Brian Farmer came in first for men's skiers and Jane Evans second for women's. Austin Baker captured first in men's snowboarding.

Team-wise, the Falcons, the cadet women's ski team racing for cadet clubs,

finished first, followed by USA FAST, the men's ski team racing for the commandant. Aurora, the snowboard team racing for the Dean of the Faculty, came in second overall.

The cadets also overcame challenges. It was a last-minute decision to enter the competition and one made by the cadet skiers who were determined to bring back skiing awards to the Academy.

It was also an extra stop on the ski team's alpine ski team schedule. The next

day the team was scheduled to set their skis against other teams in a collegiate competition at Telluride, Colo.

The Academy's alpine ski team began their season Nov. 30 at the Loveland Ski Resort with team tryouts, leading to training two weeks later also at Loveland.

With competitions at Telluride and Winter Park Ski Resort completed, Academy ski team members are preparing for competitions leading up to regional college competitions at the Brundage Ski Area in McHall, Idaho, and national competitions beginning March 3 at Sunday River, Maine.

"It's a great opportunity for cadets to be part of competitions representing the Academy and to showcase their talents," Captain Kunrath said of the team.

He is not shy when it comes to bragging rights.

"It's the best competitive club at the Academy. Team members enjoy what they do and are good at what they do," he said.

Captain Kunrath, who also is assistant director of soaring instructor pilot training for the 94th Flying Training Squadron, stressed that while it may appear ski competitions focus on individuals, this is not the case.

"It's more of a team sport rather than for individuals. It's not individuals who go on to the nationals."

INTRAMURAL			Over 30 (Final)			Jan. 31			Retirees		
<b>Basketball</b>			<b>Team</b>			MDG 61			10 SVS		
<b>Intramural (Final)</b>			MDG*			306 FTG 63			LGR		
<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	MSS/DRU*	7	5	MSS/DRU 43			DFBL		
MDG #1*	16	3	NSSI*	7	5	MDG forfeit win			LG		
306/MSG*	12	7	306 FTG*	5	7	Feb. 5			DFC		
CES*	11	8	DFL	4	8	MDG 57			DF		
MDG #2*	6	13	Prep**	5	7	MDG 47			MDG #1		
SFS**	1	15	CW**	3	9	306 FTG 43			DFCS		
**Forfeited out	*In Playoffs		**Forfeited out	*In Playoffs		306 FTG 32			DRU		
<b>Championship Tournament</b>			<b>Championship Tournament</b>			<b>Bowling</b>			MDG #2		
(Double Elimination)			(Double Elimination)			Thru Feb. 4			Prep		
Jan. 31			Feb. 7			Team			BYE*		
MDG #1 64			Game(s) played after press time.			CW			26 134 0		
MDG #2 61						W L Pins			*Accumulates points if team bowling the BYE		
306/MSG 77 (OT)						108 52 59481			week does not roll a certain score.		
CES 71											
Feb. 5											
MDG #2 61											
CES 55											
306/MSG 65											
MDG #1 53											
Feb. 6											
MDG #1 71											
MDG #2 57											



# MDG back-to-back Over-30 champs

By Dave Castilla  
Intramural Sports director

The 10th Medical Group survived the losers bracket to earn its second consecutive Over-30 Basketball League Championship Wednesday, grounding the 306th Flying Training Group, 47-32, in the "if necessary" game of the double elimination playoff tournament at the Academy Fitness and Sports Center gym.

MDG forced the extra game by rallying from a



FTG's Ed Lombard leads a fast break against MDG. Lombard netted 14 points in the first game of the championship round.

nine point halftime deficit in the first game of the title round to defeat the FTG, 57-43.

The medics led the second game 19-16 at the break, before they went on a 14-5 run to open the second half. The spurt was triggered by three straight 3-pointers by Greg Schneringer.

Patrick Heflin, who had a game-high 23 points, kept the flyers aloft by scoring 11 straight points. But, MDG's speedy team defense stifled any comeback the 306th had in mind.

"As soon as we went from a man-to-man defense to a 1-2-2 trap, they turned the ball over," MDG coach Todd Garland said. "The defensive adjustment created at least four steals which led to fast-break opportunities for us."

Schneringer netted a team-high 17 points while Mike Davis chipped in with 12. Doug Applegate had 6 points for the FTG.

In the championship round opener the Med Group trailed by nine points at the break.

But thanks to six steals in the second half, most pilfered by Davis, MDG went on a 13-0 run to ice the game.

Davis was equally strong offensively, finishing with a game-high 24 points, 20 coming after intermission. Teammates Stephen Baker, Garland and Schneringer added eight, seven and seven points respectively.

Heflin and Ed Lombard paced the FTG attack with 17 and 14 points respectively.

The Med Group was the tourney's top seed following its 11-1 regular season championship. FTG, meanwhile, grabbed the last playoff berth after a 5-7 campaign.

FTG upset MDG, 66-58, to open the tournament and knock the medics into the losers bracket.

Once there, the Med Group ousted NSSI, 61-39, and

MSS/DRU by forfeit, to get the rematch with the 306th.

After a five minute break between championship round games, the "IF" game format was utilized, two 12-minute halves instead of the normal two 20-minute halves.

Next up for many MDG players will be the Rocky Mountain Military Championship at a site and date to be determined.



MDG's Mike Davis rebounds during the Over-30 Championship round against the 306th FTG. Davis totaled 36 points in the two-game title round.

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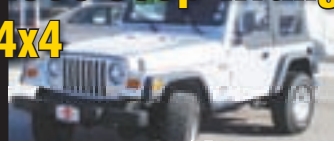
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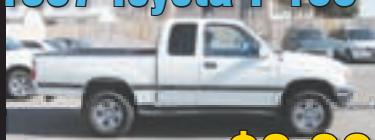
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**Black History Month**

In celebration of Black History Month, the Academy presents:

**Black History Month luncheon;** Wednesday, noon at the Falcon Club: Titled "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," the luncheon features Dr. La Vonne Neal, Dean of Education for the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. People must RSVP by Monday.

**A Lighter Side of Cooking;** Feb. 19, 5-6:30 p.m at the Health and Wellness Center: Demonstrates how to prepare healthy and delicious dishes. Attendees receive free recipe cards for the presented meal, a health heart cookbook and a sample of the prepared food. The theme is soul food. For more information or to register, call 333-3733.

**Food tasting;** Feb. 22 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Community Center



**CADET CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Sunday**  
Reconciliation 9:15-9:45 a.m.  
(or by appointment)  
Mass - 10 a.m.

**Weekday**  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.

**Wednesday**  
Catholic Adoration - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Mass - 6 p.m.

**Protestant Services:**

**Sunday**  
Traditional - 9:00 a.m.  
Hill Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

**Jewish Services**

Fridays - 7 p.m.

**Buddhist Worship**

Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - All Faiths Room

**Muslim Prayer**

Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room, Chapel Basement

**COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Saturday**  
Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.  
Mass - 4 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Mass - 9:30 a.m.  
Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.  
(Sept. - May)

**Tuesday-Friday**

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

**Protestant Services:**

**Saturday**  
Contemporary - 6 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Traditional - 8 a.m.  
Gospel - 11:15 a.m.  
Religious formation - 9:30 a.m.  
(Sept. - May)

**Military Academy Pagan Society**

Third Thursday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
(For more info, call TSgt. Longcrier at 333-6187.)

For more information, call 333-3300.

Ballroom.

**Storytelling in the African American tradition;** Feb. 27, 2:15-3:30 p.m. at Pine Valley Elementary School: The event features Opalanga D. Pugh as the storyteller.

**Movie Night;** Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. in Fairchild Hall (F1): The event offers a double feature: A Soldier's Story and Stomp the Yard.

A Black History Exhibit will be available in the Cadet Library for the remainder of the month.

For more information on any of the Black History Month activities, call Master Sgt. Ingrid Williams at 333-9412.

**SARC presents**

The Academy Sexual Assault Response Coordinator presents Can I Kiss You, by Mike Domitrz, Tuesday from 2-5 p.m. in the Arnold Hall Auditorium. The event features an interactive and entertaining presentation on how to ask for what you want sexually and intimately. For more information call Lisa Anderson at 333-6199.

**Going once ... going twice**

Douglass Valley Elementary School presents a Silent Auction and Art & Music Show Feb. 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. The event features a silent auction on items donated from Academy people and local businesses. Students' artwork can be viewed throughout the school and students will provide entertainment with vocal and instrumental performances in the school gym. A complimentary dessert will be provided and all proceeds from the auction benefit the Douglass Valley Elementary community. People, home-based businesses or local establishments who would like to donate items for the silent auction can contact Stephanie Ritter at 235-8861 or [tslcritter@comcast.net](mailto:tslcritter@comcast.net) or drop off items at the DVE main office by Feb. 19. Include contact information and an estimated value of the donation.

**OSC offers brunch, Bunko**

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club offers a brunch Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. in the Falcon Club. The event features a wreath-making demonstration. For more information or to RSVP, contact Deb Coppock at 574-1485 or [kedekeka@aol.com](mailto:kedekeka@aol.com) by Feb. 18 at 10 p.m. The OSC also offers "Bunko for the Cure" with the Peterson Air Force Base OSC Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Peterson AFB club. All proceeds from the event will go to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jeanine by Feb. 23 at 243-3887 or [pikespeakcsc@yahoo.com](mailto:pikespeakcsc@yahoo.com).

**Peter Pan here**

Academy Concerts presents the Broadway musical Peter Pan today at 7:30 p.m. in Arnold Hall. For tickets, call the Academy Concerts box office at 333-4497. Special children's pricing is available.

**Awards banquet nears**

The Academy 2007 Annual Awards Banquet is Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. in the Falcon Club. Cost is \$25 for club members and \$27 for non-members. Dress for the event is mess dress or semi formal for military, formal for civilians. To RSVP

to a first sergeant by Feb. 19.

**Honor Guard recruiting**

The Academy Base Honor Guard is looking for new members to participate in two details per month while being an active member of a flight of 10-15 guardsmen. There are no grade requirements for memberships. The next training flight is scheduled for Feb. 25-29 from noon-4 p.m. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Hugo Reinor at [hugo.reinor@usafa.af.mil](mailto:hugo.reinor@usafa.af.mil), or Staff Sgt. John Hoffman at [john.hoffman@usafa.af.mil](mailto:john.hoffman@usafa.af.mil).

**Scholarships offered**

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club offers 2008 Merit Scholarships for high school seniors and non-military spouses of 0-3 equivalent and below. Eligibles include dependents or spouses of active duty stationed at the Academy, dependents or spouses of retirees eligible for membership at the Academy Club, dependents or spouses of active duty on remote tour, dependents or spouses of POW/MIA or deceased Academy affiliates and dependents or spouses of civilian employees eligible for membership at the Academy Club. The application period runs through March 31. Applications are available at the Academy Education Office, area high school counseling centers and the Academy Thrift Shop. For more information, call Sally Mueh at 599-0694 or Carrie Oliver at 488-9625.

**AFAS grants available**

The Air Force Aid Society is accepting applications for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program, which provides \$2,000 grants to sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; stateside spouses of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies. Applications are available at the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center, 6248 West Pine Loop or online at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org). Applications must be submitted by March 7. Awards are announced in June 2008. Use of funds is limited to tuition, books, fees or other curriculum-required materials.

**Estate claims**

If anyone has a claim for or against the estate of Cadet 3rd Class Lindsay M. Brown, contact Lt. Col. Nerisse Fernandez, Cadet Group 2, at 333-6824 or [Nerisse.Fernandez@usafa.edu](mailto:Nerisse.Fernandez@usafa.edu).

**Memorial fund**

Donations to the Air Force Academy in honor of Mrs. Donna Head should be sent to: HQ USAFA/CMA, Attn: Mrs. Donna Head Memorial Fund, 2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 3200, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5002. Make checks payable to the Air Force Academy.

**Nominations wanted**

The Academy is seeking nominations for the 2008 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented annually by the superintendent to a military person, civilian or group

whose contributions (not as part of their official duty) have had a distinct impact on the morale or well-being of the Academy. Anyone who has contributed significantly and directly to the morale or well-being of the Academy through the generous donation of time, resources or influence is eligible. Nominations must be submitted by April 1 to HQ USAFA/CMA, 2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 3200, USAF Academy, CO, 80840-5002. Nomination packages must include a single page with biographical data to include name, rank, organization or company, telephone number and mailing address, in addition to a typed narrative justification, not to exceed one page, describing the nominee's accomplishments. For more information call Steve Simon at 333-8827.



**Volksmarch club walks**

The Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club will hold their first event of the year Saturday in Florence, Colo. People can register anytime between 9 a.m.-noon at the Florence Community Senior Center at 100 Railroad St. 10k and 5k courses will be offered, mainly on city streets and sidewalks. People are welcome to walk at their own pace. Large-wheeled strollers can complete the course but wheelchairs are not recommended. For more information, call Kaye Widger at (719)372-3541 or Russ Bechtold at (719) 557-5662, email [walking@falconwanderers.org](mailto:walking@falconwanderers.org) or visit [www.falconwanderers.org](http://www.falconwanderers.org).

**Father/Daughter dance**

A Military Father/Daughter Dance will be Feb. 15 from 7-10 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs. The event is open to all military ID card holders — active duty, reserve, guard and retired. Tickets are \$20 for E-5 and below and \$30 for all others. There is a \$10 fee for each additional family member and children younger than 3 are free. Tickets must be purchased by Monday. They include a light dinner, dancing and a memory DVD. Photos will be taken and available for purchase. Dress is mess dress or class A for military, business attire for retirees and civilians and party dresses for daughters. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Southeast Armed Services YMCA at 622-9622.

**Running series steps off**

The 10th Annual Grand Prix of Running series kicks off March 15 with the "5k For St. Patrick's Day" run in downtown Colorado Springs. More than 1,400 runners are expected on the flat course that ends in Acacia Park. There will be Irish music and refreshments available at the finish line, plus a "Leprechaun Fun Run" for children 12 years old and younger. Registration for the 5k and children's run is available at [www.csgrandprix.com](http://www.csgrandprix.com). People can also register at the Runner's Roost store at 107 E. Bijou St. The runs will be followed by the 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade at noon.





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