

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLORADO

ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 48, No. 21

MAY 28, 2008



CLASS OF 2008

50TH

GRADUATING
CLASS

Class of 2008: Mission Success

By Lt. Gen. John F. Regni
Academy Superintendent

I congratulate the Academy Class of 2008 on their accomplishments as they depart to face the challenges that await them.

As the Academy's 50th graduating class, their demonstrated commitment and abilities bode well for the national and international community. Through dedication and determination, they have shown they can maintain a challenging course while focusing on tough mission requirements.

The Class of 2008 departs the Academy knowing that the freedom enjoyed by their family and friends depends on their continued selfless devotion and integrity.

Some will go on to pilot training, graduate studies and other schools;

others will go on to technical training before beginning service in one of many Air Force career fields. Soon, many will enter hostile environments to serve the United States by defending freedom. As they depart, they do so knowing they have built a strong foundation for all aspects of officership through professional military and leadership training, intellectual development, athletic programs and character development.

During the past four years they have weathered many challenges and leave behind a legacy that faculty, staff and future cadets will admire for years to come.

The Class of 2008 has achieved great success. They have passed the tests and will excel in whatever challenges lie ahead. I thank their families and friends who have given them the

steadfast support and encouragement needed to sustain them through the rigors of the past four years.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." You carry forward our greatest hopes and expectations for success in preserving freedom and for our continued success in the fight against fear and tyranny. Now is the time to take the knowledge you have gained here and apply it to the continuous process of improving our Air Force. I expect great things from the Class of 2008!

Congratulations to the Karl Richter Class – the Class of 2008. Welcome to the Long Blue Line!



Lt. Gen. John F. Regni

AOG salutes the Class of 2008

By Gary Howe, Class of 1969
President and CEO
Association of Graduates

The Association of Graduates and its more than 26,000 members extend their congratulations to the Class of 2008 and welcome them to the ranks of the graduate community. Your dedication to commit your lives to service to the nation in a time of war already reflects the high standards the Air Force and American people will expect from you.

The men and women who have gone before you have left a lasting impact on the Air Force and the nation. In the Academy's short history, it has established a tradition of producing quality leaders for the country.

One hundred and seventy Academy graduates have made the ultimate sacrifice in America's battles. Nine have lost their lives in the Global War on Terror. Graduate valor and bravery

have garnered this nation's highest awards, including one Medal of Honor, 16 Air Force Crosses and 266 Silver Stars. Thirty-six graduates have been prisoners of war. Exceptional graduate leadership has saved lives and produced victories in conflicts around the globe.

Graduates have made an impact in every walk of life. Many of our alumni are astronauts and more than 500 are doctors. Others are lawyers, entrepreneurs, inventors, teachers, ministers, government officials, coaches, authors and one is a member of Congress.

Your future and that of the country changed with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Our homeland now faces a real and constant threat of attack. Men and women of our Armed Forces are far from home and are deploying at a rate not seen since Vietnam. These are extraordinary times that demand extraordinary leadership to not only win the war against terrorism, but to

guide our economy and inspire confidence in all sectors of society.

The Academy's and the Air Force's core values - Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do - will guide you for the rest of your life. Now, more than ever, the country needs leaders of character to lead the nation.

The Association of Graduates stands ready to support you in the future as it has during the last four years. During your tenure here, the AOG has given more than \$11 million to the Academy to support cadet programs the government was unable to fund. This money comes from donations and membership dues. We have funded character development programs, club activities, guest speakers, symposia, foreign area studies and a host of other programs that made your Academy experience unique and special.

We are extremely proud of the new Association of Graduates Memorial Pavilion and Locator Building at the cemetery which was funded solely through the generosity of the graduate community. We hope you will visit this beautiful building before you graduate. We also strongly encourage you to join the AOG to insure that future cadets have the same extraordinary experience you enjoyed.

As you embark on your career, it is important to note that you are entering the most technologically-proficient force in the world. America's citizens expect the Academy to provide qualified men and women to lead that force in the new millennium.

The AOG and its members are confident that the Class of 2008 is ready to meet the challenge. We extend our best wishes to all of you as you join the Long Blue Line of graduates who have made their mark before you.

For information on the AOG, visit the AOG Web site at www.usafa.org.



Photo by Ken Carter

Mr. Gary Howe, Class of 1969, and Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni reveal a Memorial Day wreath during a ceremony at Stillman Parade Field Monday.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

Directorate of Public Affairs mission:
To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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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.

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.

Submissions

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.

On the Cover:

Photo by Cadet 3rd Class Luke Connolly

Design by Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins

President Bush to address Class of 2008

By Academy Spirit staff

The Honorable George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, is the guest speaker at this year's Academy graduation.

This will be the commander-in-chief's second visit to the Air Force Academy in this role. He last spoke here for the Class of 2004 commencement ceremony.

"As your generation assumes its own duties during a global conflict that will define your careers, you will be called upon to take brave action and serve with honor. In some ways, this struggle we're in is unique," the president said in his 2004 speech. "In other ways, it resembles the great clashes of the last century — between those who put their trust in tyrants and those who put their trust in liberty. Our goal, the goal of this generation, is the same: We will secure our nation and defend the peace through the forward march of freedom."

As a speaker, the president is well known for his comments following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. With his words "in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment," President Bush declared war against terror and made victory in the war on terrorism and the advancement of human freedom the priorities of his administration.

Since then, President Bush has taken

unprecedented steps toward protecting our homeland and creating a world free from terror. He is grateful for the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform and their families. The president is confident that by helping build free and prosperous societies, our nation and our friends and allies will succeed in making America more secure and the world more peaceful.

"Our nation — this generation — will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future," he said. "We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter and we will not fail."

Prior to leading the nation, the president served for six years as the 46th governor of Texas. During his governorship, he earned a reputation as a compassionate conservative, who shaped public policy based on the principles of limited government, personal responsibility, strong families and local control.

The president was born July 6, 1946, in New Haven, Conn., and grew up in Midland and Houston, Texas.

He received a bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1968, and then served as an F-102 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard.

"For four years, you have trained and studied and worked for this moment. And now it has come,"



Photo by Ken Carter

President George W. Bush addresses members of the Class of 2004 during his last speech at the Academy.

President Bush said to the Class of 2004. "You are the ones who will defeat the enemies of freedom. Your country is depending on your courage and your dedication to duty. The eyes of the world are upon you. You leave this place at a historic time, and you enter this struggle ahead with the full confidence of your

commander-in-chief. I thank each of you for accepting the hardships and high honor of service in the United States military."

The June 6 edition of the *Academy Spirit* will feature coverage on the president's speech from today's ceremony.

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Fightin' Fourth garners first

By Academy Spirit staff

Cadet Squadron 4 was selected as the Cadet Wing's "Outstanding Squadron" for 2007-2008 in a special presentation Thursday at the Academy Falcon Club. The "Fightin' Fourth" captured top honors at the 49th Annual Outstanding Squadron banquet sponsored by the Air Force Association and the Association of Graduates.

Guest speaker for the event was Maj. Gen. Robert Allardice, Class of 1980.

The unit's Air Officer Commanding is Maj. Craig Harmon, Class of 1994.



The squadron commanders are Cadets 1st Class Andrea Bush and Zachary Tindall. All three provided remarks at the event.



Photo by Ken Carter

The Fightin' Fourth passes Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni and the reviewing stand during the organizational parade on Stillman Field Monday.

Academy recognizes more outstanding squadron performances



Outstanding Squadron Academic Achievement



Outstanding Squadron Leadership and Scholarship



Outstanding Squadron Drill & Ceremonies Comp



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Class of 2008 ring symbolizes graduate values

American Flag – The eight stars represent the pride our class has for our country, the freedoms we are protecting and as a constant reminder of who we are.

Polaris – As the “north star” of our class, this symbol serves as the guiding light for our class towards our future. It was the guiding light for those who came before us and will continue to be the guiding light for those who follow long after us.

Eagle – The eagle serves as a reminder to our class that we are the defenders of our country, ready to strike at a moment's notice for any alarm.

Class Year – L is the Roman numeral representing the 50th class to graduate from the Air Force Academy.

Graduating Year – 2008 is displayed boldly on our ring. It stands out prominently on the ring so that all who view our crest will forever remember the **Class of 2008!**



Aircraft – One F-35 Lightning II and one F-15E Strike Eagle adds up to 50, our class year. These planes represent the past and the future of which our class is about to move forward from and embark on.

KWR – Karl W. Richter our class exemplar's initials are embedded in the feathers of the eagle as a statement of his impact on our class and the example of leadership and dedication he has engrained in our hearts.

Saber – The blade is wrapped tightly by the scroll of our class motto as our class holds fast to the core values and discipline instilled from our time at the Academy.

Chapel – This is a reminder of the beautiful view we live in now and the beauty we will fight to protect in the future.

Class Motto – “Elige Sortem Tuam” means *Choose Your Fate*, a motto our class has chosen to live by since the very first day we entered basic.

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Top graduates honored for accomplishments

By Academy Spirit staff

The best of the best in the Academy Class of 2008 were recognized in ceremonies Monday in Clune Arena.

Cadet 1st Class Hila Levy was named overall top graduate, earning an overall grade point average of 3.791.

Cadet 1st Class Thomas Stuart earned a cumulative 3.960 GPA, for best academic performance.

Cadet 1st Class Ian Helms received kudos as top military performer with an MPA of 3.766.

Cadet 1st Class Jonathon Reynolds earned the top slot as number-one athletic graduate with a 3.831 average.

Qualifications for the top awards are scored on a four point system similar to grade point averages.

Other individual awards this year went to these Cadets 1st Class:

Outstanding Cadet in Aeronautical Engineering

Jacob Hall

Outstanding Cadet in Airmanship

Erik Gonsalves

Outstanding Cadet in Astronautical Engineering

Todd Small

Outstanding Cadet in Basic Sciences

Adam Stooke

Outstanding Cadet in Behavioral Sciences and Leadership

Kara Thoreson

Outstanding Cadet in Biology

Hila Levy

Outstanding Cadet in Chemistry

Nicholas Herr

Outstanding Cadet in Civil Engineering

Jason Adams

Outstanding Cadet in Communications

Ryan Shaughnessy

Outstanding Cadet in Computer Engineering

Scott Mixdorf

Outstanding Cadet in Computer Science

Matthew Onxley

Outstanding Cadet in Eastern Language Minor

Jonathan Waterlander

Outstanding Cadet in Economics

Eric Jesse

Outstanding Cadet in Engineering

Ian Helms

Outstanding Cadet in Electrical Engineering

William Deike

Outstanding Cadet in Engineering Mechanics

Joseph Sabat Jr.

Outstanding Cadet in English

Joshua Reagan

Outstanding Cadet in Environmental Engineering

Anna Schnitger

Outstanding Cadet in Foreign Area Studies

Jonathan Waterlander

Outstanding Cadet in Geosciences

Jeremy Geyer

Outstanding Cadet in History

Ryan Shaughnessy

Outstanding Cadet in Humanities

Robert Whipple

Outstanding Cadet in Legal Studies

Kasey Wilson

Outstanding Cadet in Management

Sean Ketterick

Outstanding Cadet in Mathematics

Kenneth Gosselin III

Outstanding Cadet in Mechanical Engineering

Jacob Lambach

Outstanding Cadet in Meteorology

Brian Elliott

Outstanding Cadet in Military History

Lance Tucker

Outstanding Cadet in Military Strategic Studies

Michael Byrnes

Outstanding Cadet in National Security Studies

Micah Redfield

Outstanding Cadet in Operations Research

Thomas Herold

Outstanding Cadet in Parachuting

Christopher Reynolds

Outstanding Cadet in Philosophy

Robert Whipple

Outstanding Cadet in Physics

Thomas Stuart

Outstanding Cadet in Political Science

Michael Snelgrove

Outstanding Cadet in Powered Flight

Eric Foster

Outstanding Cadet in Soaring

Brittain Caldwell

Outstanding Cadet in Social Sciences

Kelly Lewis

Outstanding Cadet in Space Operations

Paul Caruso

Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering

Rachel Owen

Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering Management

Joseph DiPaolo

Outstanding Cadet in Western Language Minor

James Bresnahan

Outstanding Cadet in Character

James Hayes

Outstanding Cadet Citizenship

Benjamin Pass

Outstanding Cadet Element Leader

James Elliot

Outstanding Cadet Fall Wing Commander

Ian Helms

Outstanding Cadet Spring Wing Commander

Jonathon Reynolds

Outstanding Cadet Summer Wing Commander

Kenneth Gosselin III

Outstanding Cadet Group Commander

Zachary Pierce

Outstanding Cadet Honor Committee Chairperson

James Hayes

Outstanding Cadet Squadron Commander

Joseph DiPaolo

Outstanding Cadet Flight Commander

Kemery Gies

Outstanding Cadet Who Best Exemplifies the Highest Ideals of Loyalty, Integrity and Courage

Hila Levy

Outstanding Cadet, United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School Graduate

Abraham Umanah

Outstanding Former Regular Enlisted Cadet Graduating with Highest Class Honors

Michael Byrnes

Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Leadership

Frank Schiavone

Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Excellence

Timothy Anderson

Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Achievement

Peter French

Outstanding Cadet in Physical Education

Robert Carter

Outstanding Cadet, Scholar-Athlete

Jonathon Reynolds

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88 cadets bound for Grad School

Harvard and Oxford waiting on latest Academy Rhodes Scholar

From staff reports

Both Harvard and Oxford are waiting for one Academy graduate.

Cadet 1st Class Hila Levy is one of 88 members of the Academy's Class of 2008 who have earned entry into graduate school programs.

Hailing from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, she is the first Puerto Rican resident and 35th Academy cadet to be named a Rhodes Scholar.

That scholarship will allow for Cadet Levy to further her education at the University of Oxford in England.

"I will use the scholarship to obtain two masters degrees. The first will be a Masters of Science in Global Health Science. I will spend my second year obtaining a Masters of Science in Medical Anthropology. Upon completion of these degrees, I plan on attending medical school," said Cadet Levy.

For medical school, she's got even more choices to make. Cadet Levy has been accepted to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania; Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Harvard.

Through the National Competitive Scholarship Program, highly-qualified graduating cadets are selected each year to complete an advanced degree as their first active duty assignment.

"This is the best-ever number of cadets awarded National Competitive Scholarships—a total of 47," said Dr. Kenneth Lavin, director of graduate studies.

Several new programs have added to the graduate school opportunities

"The Department of Physics worked with NASA and established a new scholarship in Space Weather," said Doctor Lavin. Based on his demonstration of academic prowess in meteorology, Cadet 1st Class Bryan Elliot is the first recipient of the NASA Space Weather Scholarship.

"Working with the Air Force Personnel Center and (the Air Force Institute of Technology), 22 of our graduates volunteered to fill Air Force Advanced Academic Degree billets after attending 18-month (Air Force) sponsored degree programs," said Doctor Lavin.

Under this program, the following cadets will attend AFIT in-residence: Cadets 1st Class William Bauer, Austin Bergstrom, Robert Call, Preston Goodrich, Shawn Hackett, Nicholas Herr, Matthew Hornung, Robert Jones, Jeffrey Massman, Woody Miller, Anson Park, Joseph Sabat, Michael Trotter, Jill Ward and Anthony Young. Also under the same program, the following cadets will attend civilian universities: Cadets 1st Class Elizabeth Belleau, University of Texas-San Antonio; Alexander Marquez, University of California-Davis; Kevin Pastoor, Oklahoma State University; Leah Pound, University of Kansas; and Noel Trew, Florida Atlantic University.

One more graduate program prepares Academy graduates to take the lead in cyberspace. Cadets 1st Class Nicholas Fritts and Aaron Gross will be the first Academy graduates to go directly from the Academy to the AFIT cyber warfare track, by attending the new AFIT In-Residence Degree Program in Cyber Operations.

The remaining Nationally Competitive and Endowed Scholarships include:

■ **Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Ian Helms. Cadet Helms will study convective and conductive heat transfer in jet engines, at Exeter College, Oxford, England. The candidate chosen for this scholarship comes from the Academy's pool of Rhodes Scholar candidates.



Cadet 1st Class Hila Levy

■ **Graduate School Program, an Air Force sponsored 12-month degree program to develop a pool of officers prepared for faculty duty:** Cadets 1st Class Brandon LaRoche, AFIT-in-residence; Meghan Lansford, Penn State; Michael Smith, AFIT-in-residence; Maximilian Hinton, University of Texas at Austin; and Kara Thoreson, San Diego State University.

■ **Hertz Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Adam Stooke, who will attend University of California-Berkeley. Intellectual excellence and a willingness to contribute their skills and abilities to the defense of the United States in times of national emergency are key components of this fellowship.

■ **National Science Foundation Fellowship:** Cadets 1st Class Jason Adams, John Richmond and Benjamin Worrall. Applicants are evaluated based on all available evidence of ability, including academic records, recommendations regarding the applicant's qualifications, and potential to make significant contributions to the sciences in the United States.

■ **Superintendent's Rand PhD Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Kenneth Grosselin, Eric Jesse and Jordan Ostwald. All three will attend the Pardee Rand Graduate School in Santa Monica, Calif., for a doctoral degree in Policy Analysis.

■ **Draper Labs Fellowships at Massachusetts Institute of Technology:** Cadets 1st Class Thomas Herold, Rachel Owen, Todd Small and Ashley Snyder. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program at a Draper Laboratory while satisfying university thesis requirements.

■ **Departmental Scholarships at Massachusetts Institute of Technology:** Cadets 1st Class Christin Hart, John Richmond, Joseph Robinson, Kimberly Kallabis and Christopher Boyer. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program in one of the departments while satisfying MIT thesis requirements.

■ **Lincoln Labs Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology:** Cadets 1st Class William Deike, Jacob Hall and Jared Krueger. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program at Lincoln Laboratory while satisfying MIT thesis requirements.

■ **Departmental Scholarships at Rice University:** Cadets 1st Class Joel Martin, Creighton Moorman and Samuel Wright. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program in one of the departments while satisfying Rice thesis requirements.

■ **Draper Labs Fellowships at Rice University:** Cadets 1st Class Eric Mees, Danielle Paya, Adam Sievers and John Wilder. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program at a Draper Laboratory while satisfying university thesis requirements.

■ **Engineering Department Scholarship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University:** Cadet 1st Class Benjamin Worrall. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program in one of the departments while satisfying Virginia Tech thesis requirements.

■ **Harvard University Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Alexander Pedersen, Anna Schnitger, Thomas Stuart and Michael Yakima. Recipients attend the John F. Kennedy School of Government, a graduate school designed to train top students for a Master's degree in Public Policy.

■ **General John F. Gerhart Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Heather Clemens. Competition is open to cadets in the top 25 percent of the class who have demonstrated strong abilities in the French language, along with leadership, integrity, initiative, imagination, and general adaptability.

■ **National Collegiate Athletic Association Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Kenneth Grosselin (Track and Cross-Country). This scholarship is awarded by the NCAA to graduating student-athletes who have

performed with distinction in both athletics and academics. The NCAA awards just 174 scholarships annually to the best of more than 384,000 NCAA athletes who compete in Division I, II, and III sports.

■ **Nutter Trust Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Emmanuel Delacruz, who will attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Two types are given, in alternate years, one to the top graduate in the Order of Merit who has not been awarded another scholarship, and one to the outstanding graduate who served a minimum of nine months active duty as an enlisted member of any branch of the armed services.

■ **Franklin C. Wolfe Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Robert Whipple will attend Arizona State University. Applicants must be outstanding in one of the humanities disciplines and recommended by the Humanities Division.

■ **General Richard L. Lawson Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Ryan Shaughnessy, who will attend Ohio State University. This scholarship is open to all academic majors and usable at any university in the United States. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in communications.

■ **University of Washington Engineering Fellowship:** Cadets 1st Class Brian Heemstra, Andrew Melander and Jacob Rohrbach, who will each attend the University of Washington. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored program while satisfying the University of Washington requirements.

■ **University of Maryland Scholarship at University of Maryland's School of Public Policy:** Cadets 1st Class Justin Raines, Benjamin Schaftel, Michael Snelgrove and Matthew Yarrington. This scholarship is open to cadets in all majors. An important selection criterion is a continuing interest in public policy and service in the public sector. This program awards a Master's in Public Policy.

Fifteen cadets will attend medical school after graduation, and many have been accepted to multiple schools. The Academy's newest medical students and their college choices are: Cadets 1st Class Alexander Bedard, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Clinton Borchardt, Texas Tech; Nickolas Cattaneo, Temple; Douglas Cho; University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Erin Coakley, University of Texas-San Antonio, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Loyola; Fortune Egbulefu, University of North Carolina; Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Howard, University of Texas-Houston, University of Texas-Southwest; David Garcia, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; University of Texas-Galveston, University of Virginia, University of Texas-Houston, and Virginia Commonwealth University; Kallyn Johnson, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Amanda Lopez, University of Texas-Houston, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Texas Tech, University of Texas-San Antonio, and University of Texas-Galveston; John Pavlus, Georgetown University, Tulane, Miami and Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Katherine Slogic, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Christopher Steel, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Christopher Walker, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and University of North Carolina; Megan White, Georgetown University; John Wuellner, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; and Hila Levy.

Two cadets have been accepted to nursing school. Cadets 1st Class Erin Hiveley and Laura Millener will attend the Vanderbilt University of Nursing.

Meanwhile, Cadet 1st Class Ryan Gustafson has been accepted to dental school at seven universities, including Creighton, Temple and University of California-Los Angeles.

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Academy's accomplishments for past year long, distinguished

By Julie Imada
Research publicist

It has been a banner year for the U.S. Air Force Academy faculty and cadets.

This year's graduating class has the honor of hosting President George W. Bush at their graduation ceremony. But beyond the buzz surrounding this year's graduation, there are many high notes from the past academic year which reflect the Academy's contributions and continued commitment to the Air Force mission. The Academy's focus on core values and air, space and cyberspace education shapes future Air Force officers in support of the Air Force and nation.

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born, said, "Our cadets and faculty at the Air Force Academy are incredible. In addition to our unified focus on developing leaders of character for the Air Force, every day there seems to be another national-level award, fellowship or scientific breakthrough happening here. The Air Force and the wider academic community are taking notice."

Academy faculty members have much to be proud of. Not only have they mentored and led cadets to many academic victories over the past year, but many were also honored for their commitments to educational excellence by their peers both here and in our Air Force, as well as by educators from around the state and nation.

Forty-nine faculty members have deployed in support of Air Force missions around the world this academic year. The Academy has assisted in the formation of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan where General Born spent time in April and was able to witness first-hand the remarkable efforts and successes of Academy faculty working with Afghan instructors and military leaders. The Academy was also proud to send faculty members to Iraq to assist in the training and rebuilding of the Iraqi Air Force, as well as sending 15

“Cadet involvement in research is a priority here.”

— Brig. Gen. Dana Born
Dean of the Faculty

this month to assist in reviewing the curriculum for the Kazakhstan Air Defense Forces Institute.

Some of the highlights of faculty accomplishments over the past academic year include the naming of Lt. Col. Thomas McGuire of the Department of English as the Colorado Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He was also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Ireland.

Dr. Bill Saylor of the Department of Astronautics was honored with the 2009 von Kármán Lectureship in Astronautics. Lt. Col. Lynnanne George in Astronautics was named as the Air Force-level winner for the 2008 Women's History Month Science Technology Engineering and Math Role Model Award and was also named the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Rocky Mountain Section Educator of the Year for 2008.

Several faculty members were also awarded U.S. patents for their Academy research efforts. Dr. Geoff Andersen in the Department of Physics received a patent on his holographic wave front sensor. Doctor Andersen's invention provides a new way of measuring distortions in optic beams. Dr. John Wilkes in the Department of Chemistry also received a patent for his work on a new lightweight device to store and generate hydrogen. The project, a joint effort between the Academy and Ball Aerospace Corporation in Boulder, Colo., has been in development since 1995 and this is the second of two patents for this shared hydrogen energy research.

The Academy Center for Cyberspace Research was granted a renewal of its status as a National Center for

Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. This outreach program and recognition is operated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

In the areas of research and academic competitions, the successes from this past year are too numerous to mention. Some of the highlights include a first-place finish at the National Security Innovation Competition and, for the first time in Academy history, a first-place finish in the American Society of Civil Engineers Rocky Mountain Regional Conference's concrete canoe competition. Cadets competing in national forensics and mock trial competitions also performed strongly with fifth and ninth place finishes nationally.

The Academy welcomed its first international university Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Nanyang Technical University in Singapore. Several members of the faculty, as well as General Born, attended the signing of the agreement in Singapore. The event was well covered by various Asian media outlets and the agreement will offer cadets and faculty new academic and research opportunities.

Cadet research at the Academy has also continued to shine. The infusion of research into the Academy's learning-focused curriculum has produced a new class of excellent Air Force officers with the ability to put their research knowledge to immediate use.

In the past year alone, cadet research efforts have contributed to projects for the Air Force, the Department of Defense, NASA, the U.S. Navy, various federal laboratories and to public sector CRADA partners including Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and MITRE.

"Cadet involvement in research is a priority here," said General Born. "It helps them to develop skills we need in our future Air Force leaders such as the ability and confidence to tackle ill-defined problems. Their success is our success."

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Through a Pakistani-American's eyes

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Sometimes it may widen one's perspective to view our nation through the eyes of the foreign-born and their children.

An American-born Muslim is graduating with the **Class of 2008**.

Cadet 1st Class Waleed Ashiq's father grew up in a poor, Pakistani village in a family where no one had any schooling. But the cadet's grandfather convinced his son to pursue a better life through education.

By earning a scholarship, the father attended the University of Agriculture at Lyllapur, Pakistan.

"Times were tough in Pakistan, so my father came to America in 1976 for opportunity, freedom and the chance for a better life for himself and his family," said Cadet Ashiq, a management major. His father is now a successful veterinarian and a patriotic American citizen. "His patriotism and my own love of America inspired me to seek to serve as an Air Force officer and pilot."

Born and raised in Cypress, Calif., the cadet had a typical American childhood.

"My dad worked, my mom was a housewife and I quarreled with my little

brother from time-to-time," he said. "We lived comfortably in a house with a white picket fence and had two cats."

His high schools years and beyond, however, were tough after the tragic events of 9/11 occurred.

"I was frequently discriminated against and was called a terrorist by complete strangers," said the cadet who will train to become a pilot. "I remember one day on a cross-country run in the week after 9/11, random people in a car pulled over to the curb, threw trash at me, and told me to get out of America."

It was difficult for his entire family. "We faced discrimination and hatred for several years, which was also the case for other American Muslims," Cadet Ashiq said. "But I always felt like I had to be the better person and set the example by being kind to others, doing good, and continuing to be a patriotic citizen. For a long time it was a hurdle before I felt like I would be 'accepted' by fellow Americans."

A dream that began in the youngster at age 4 to become an Air Force officer and pilot, survived.

"The Academy was the only school I ever wanted to go to since the 8th grade," the cadet said.

Low test scores caused his first attempt



Courtesy Photo

Cadet 1st Class Waleed Ashiq signals thumbs up before launching in an incentive flight.

at admission to fail. The determined young man earned a Falcon Foundation Scholarship and attended the Northwestern Prep School in 2003.

But test scores still sagged.

"It was probably one of the biggest hurdles in my life," he said.

Then he passed the last test.

Lieutenant Ashiq will be the first in his entire Pakistani family lineage to serve in the military.

"The Academy staff, faculty and cadets have received me very well," said the budding pilot. "I have been respected and treated kindly by everyone. I have had the same opportunities as my peers."

He has served on the 3rd Group staff, two terms on wing staff, participated in the Cadet Summer Research Program and was selected to do a semester exchange to

the U.S. Naval Academy in Spring 2007.

"My friends and the faculty are proud that I am serving with them, especially as the only American-born Muslim at the Academy," he said. "Every now and then I would joke around with people that I was an international exchange cadet from some unheard-of country, but my American accent and mannerisms would give it away. I always felt like I was part of the team as a fellow wingman. Most importantly, I have made lifetime friendships and great memories through the fun and sometimes never-ending challenges here and I will forever be grateful and proud to serve with America's best. This country has been great to me and my family and it only fuels my desire to give back to it by protecting the people and freedoms that we all hold so dear to our hearts."

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Future Air Force doctor displays heart

Editor's note: *There were many stories to be told from the Class of 2008. Some were humorous, others highly emotional. Still others were against all odds. Here is one where we'll let the graduate tell his own story.*

By Cadet 1st Class John Pavlus



Cadet 1st Class John Pavlus

The smell of freshly-mixed concrete filled the air. The room became cloudy as my father slowly dumped the 65 pound bag of thinset mortar into the water bucket. I made my way through the dusty cloud to my slowly accumulating stack of tile boxes in the corner of the room. I was exhausted, my 13-year-old arms could not take it anymore; I was already fatigued and it was only morning. As the boxes became higher I glanced at my father, who was 45 years old and had a herniated disc, and watched the sweat bead from his wrinkled forehead down to his callused hands as he vigorously continued to install tile. I remember two thoughts: give up and quit to alleviate my discomfort, or continue with the same self-sacrifice, dedication and passion that my father has shown and proven throughout his life. I chose the latter and consistently followed his example, which eventually lead me to the U.S. Air Force Academy and the path to becoming a doctor.

The Academy has challenged me as no other institution would. I have had to

budget my time among academics, athletics and a multitude of leadership responsibilities. I was able to apply my father's philosophy as I tested myself and my internal motivation. I pushed myself to the limits and beyond what I thought capable, all the while incorporating our core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. I was able to relate the inspiration of my father with my experience as an Academy cadet. Being a cadet has offered me the opportunity to shadow surgeons, lead in command positions, serve the community and be a part of a team of individuals who have opened my eyes to the healthcare profession, the EMT Team. My most trying time, however, was not at the Academy; it was

when I had to leave it.

The phone rings; mom is crying. Pop had an accident; what was one herniated disc became five. Facing the family's monetary realities, Pop still continued to work on his hands and knees, installing tile despite his agonizing pain. We lacked the income to survive while my father received an operation and the long recovery period that would follow. At that moment, I saw my father as I did that day when I was 13, working so selflessly for the family. I knew what I had to do: I must set aside my dreams of practicing medicine; I had to support my family. Service before self, a credo which I believed was the center to my whole drive to being a physician, placed me in the shoes of my father. I sweated, built up calluses on my hands and painfully learned what it really meant to be dedicated.

Lance Armstrong once said, "Tough times don't last, but tough people do." After my father's recovery from surgery, I found that I had experienced what most of my peers would be likely to obtain, the notion that dreams never die. I reapplied to the Academy and found myself wandering back through the gates of what I left behind, more dedicated, passionate, and ready to serve. I attacked academics and all the challenges presented with full vigor and perseverance. Research at the Academy has been one of the most exciting and most frustrating experiences I have

encountered, enduring tedious hours to make standard solutions only to realize I have made almost an insignificant step toward discovering the truth: a wonderful letdown. Additionally, unexpected challenges have presented themselves in emergency medicine. As a result of my resilience in these adverse circumstances I have been awarded the position of education and training officer for the emergency medical technicians at the Academy. With persistence I have realized the rewards that result from hard work and commitment.

Looking ahead, the new challenge of medical school affords me the opportunity to once again test the reality of my father's philosophy and my core values. I retain the desire to have integrity, serve others, and exhibit excellence in all I do. I hope to have the chance to exercise those values while at medical school and as a practicing physician, just as I have with the opportunities presented thus far and the family, and father, I so very much love.

This fall 2nd Lt. John Pavlus will enter Georgetown University's School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. with an eventual goal of practicing orthopedic medicine. An Academy biology major, and his parents, Larry and Theresa, brother, Jake and sister, Dara hail from Palm Beach, Fla. Mr. Pavlus has continued to recover and joined the family for Lieutenant Pavlus' graduation.

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Graduation: when two sisters part

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 1st Class Brynn Thoreson believes she had more fun at the Academy than any other cadet thanks to the proximity of her sister, Cadet 1st Class Kara Thoreson.

Graduation means that both will say farewell and part ways for the first time ever.

Brynn has summer plans.

"There are friends' weddings," she said "Then flying to Spain."

The general engineering major from Littleton, Colo., is 18 months older than Kara and entered the preparatory school more than four years ago.

They fenced under their father's coaching their junior and senior years of high school. He was a modern pentathlete and member of 1980 Olympic Games team, but they did not compete because of boycott.

The Academy's head fencing coach called on New Year's Eve of her senior year in high school and asked if she would like to fence for the Academy.

"I said yes," said Brynn. "Here I am."

The memories parade through her mind.

Like the fencing team, with whom she traveled since her freshmen year for both NCAA and individual national level competitions, with strong friendships forged with some of the pentathletes training at the Olympic Training Center.

There was the spring break trip with the Academy to Brazil and the summer civil engineering Operation Air Force program in Japan.

"It was hard to balance civil engineering classes and intercollegiate practice," Brynn said. "I made the difficult decision to give up my pursuit of a civil engineering degree and commit my time and energy into my team and squadron."

She will leave the Academy changed from when she arrived.

"When I entered the prep school, I did not know I would graduate the Air Force Academy as a commissioned officer," said the senior sister who will attend pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. "I am so excited to graduate with a secured and significant future. I have pride and purpose in something bigger than myself. It is difficult to leave each other but excited to see us fully take on

our own passions."

At first from the sidelines, Kara closely observed Brynn's experience at the prep school.

"I could see a difference in her life and realized the amazing opportunities that the Academy would provide and a chance to be a part of something bigger than myself," Kara said.

Most of their favorite shared memories involve spending time at the coffee shop eating breakfast or meeting up between classes on a daily basis with their shared roommate, Cerre Glenn. Brynn and Cerre were roommates their first year and then were shuffled to other squadrons.

"Cerre and I ended up in the same squad and have been roommates for the past three years," Kara said. "Now Brynn and Cerre will be stationed together at Laughlin for pilot training. We were all in basic training together as well and we even shared a tent in basic training - I had Brynn on the cot on one side of me and Cerre on the other. It has really been the three of us getting through these past four years together."

Just before graduation, memories flow.

"The 100's night weekend was a great memory for us - the three of us did the typical cadet thing and got a house in Breckenridge with about 10 other people and went skiing, snowboarding, hot-tubbing, cooked meals together and just hung out and relaxed together," said Kara. "Our dorm room upon our return was probably the best in the wing as our freshmen spent eight hours completely filling it from floor to ceiling with newspaper to the point where we could literally swim around in it and jump off of furniture into the sea of newspaper and had a newspaper party. There are still newsprint handprints on our ceiling!"

The sisters spent a lot of time at their home in Denver together with family and friends from high school.

"We are so lucky to live so close to the Academy and have the ability to go home on the weekends to get away or to bring friends from the Academy home with us," the cadet said.

She recalls fencing trips to San Diego, San Francisco, Duke and New Mexico.

"They have all been a blast," said Kara.

No one ever promised her a rose garden.

"I had to manage my time and prioritize my life to work hard but still have fun - there were a lot of things



Courtesy Photo

Sisters Kara and Brynn set to go their separate ways.

that I wish I could have been more involved with but just didn't have the time," she said.

Kara feels like she has stayed true to herself and held on to her same beliefs and values. "But I have also developed a lot as an individual. I have found what I am personally interested in while at the same time realizing how I fit into the bigger picture of being in the Air Force and serving my nation."

Graduation means a chapter in their lives ends.

"I am sad and nostalgic and going to miss Brynn a lot next year, but I am also extremely excited for both of us to move on to this next phase of our lives. I am excited to watch us both work hard, develop as individuals, and succeed in our separate careers—especially as she is going to pilot training and I am attending grad school this upcoming year. It will be a difficult transition because we are so used to having each other for everything, but I know it will be good for us and we will see each other back home in Colorado and Brynn will come visit me in San Diego."

They have planned a consolation at parting.

"We are taking a road trip to Minnesota with our family to visit with and celebrate with our extended family for a week and then plan on taking a hop to Europe and traveling around," Kara said. "We will go to Spain first to stay with my Chilean host family who moved to Costa del Sol this past year, visiting one of our friends in Morocco who will be on summer immersion with the Academy, and then hopefully just traveling around Europe for the rest of the time and hopefully make it to Italy."

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Academy firstie welcomes younger sister

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

During in-processing in Doolittle Hall 2004, a stern upperclass cadet ordered Jennifer Kinsey to "move along."

Mistaken for an incoming basic cadet, the high school freshman was accompanying her brother, Jon, to his in-processing.

But she was hooked, and her dream of coming to the Academy began taking shape.

Four years earlier, Jon Kinsey had a dilemma. If he attended a local university, his sister couldn't afford college.

"Do I do college or does my sister go to college?" the now cadet 1st class asked himself.

If he received an appointment to the Academy, the dilemma would resolve itself. The final resolution was doubly remarkable. Not only did he receive his appointment, four years later, Jennifer received hers as well.

Cadet 1st Class Jon Kinsey graduates today. Appointee Jennifer will arrive June 26 for Basic Cadet Training.

Jon will have 24 family members celebrate his hat toss. "I had to work to get them," he said, with great satisfaction, of his ticket count.

The siblings spent many of their childhood years on a horse farm in Belton, S.C. The "Start 'Em Right Ranch" breeds horses, primarily quarter and paint horses, and trains both riders and horses with sound, positive methods.

Dad, a.k.a Mike Kinsey, took over the ranch from his father after retiring from the Army as an engineer. It was hard work for the siblings.

Among other chores, feeding, grooming and riding, and repairing fences took up a lot of their time, starting in grade school. The duo who also taught trainers, rode the "problem" horses at clinics and coached.

Compared to time on the ranch, Jon calls the Academy "the easy life."



Courtesy photo

The Kinseys are no strangers to long days and hard work. Both take the transition to Academy demands in stride.

While here, he rode at the Equestrian Center only occasionally. Jennifer, however, is looking forward as a cadet 2nd class to stabling her horse "Boogie" at the Academy stables so she can enjoy the sorrel quarter horse during her remaining time as a cadet.

Jon is graduating with a major in biology, with a special interest in microbes. He served as cadet-in-charge of the Academy's war gaming club and has enjoyed snowboarding Colorado's mountains, which might have prepared him well for the traditional dip in the Terrazzo's fountains after his last final.

"It was incredibly cold," he said.

The best part of the Academy for him?

"Graduating," he said quickly but added it is hard to pick out specific highlights.

"It is a lot of unique experiences that get bundled together," he said.

After graduation and a well-earned rest, he will head to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, for pilot training.

"I am really thrilled," Jennifer said of coming to the Academy. She is preparing mentally and physically, starting

with her prom dress of silver and blue.

She is also running and working out.

"I'm trying to get in shape," she said.

Jennifer is looking forward to hitting the books and appreciates the level of academic excellence required to succeed.

"The Academy cadets are good students and willing to study," she said.

She is looking forward to learning more military and European history while on the Hill. She did her homework before applying for an appointment here.

"The Air Force is the best branch for women," she said matter-of-factly.

Jon called his family close-knit and recalled occasions when, during a fight with his sister, his mother, Jeanette, an emergency room physician, intervened.

"Mom always made us make up," he said with a laugh.

Jennifer called her big brother "my best friend."

"We have spent a lot of time together," Jennifer said.

"He's the best brother a little sister could ask for."

There is no small amount of parental pride in the Kinsey home.

"Who wouldn't be proud," Doctor Kinsey said of both children.

She appreciated how Jennifer continued to shape her dream after the in-processing mix up four years ago.

"Ever since that day, she's had that goal and worked very hard during high school to achieve it," she said.

Mr. Kinsey is also extremely proud of both children.

Before his son's graduation, he said of him, "He is truly a nice kid. He's considerate, sincere and concerned about others."

Jon has one special goal while serving in the Air Force.

"I want to see as much of the world as I can before I die."

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Kendra Giboney
Erik Gonsalves
Preston Goodrich
Erica Juchter
Kurtis Kendrick
Amanda Lopez
Keith Rizza
Joshua Schaffer
Bradley Seifert
Gene Strand
Jesse Strickler
Ariel Torgerson
Noel Trew
Marc Ward

**Squadron 38**

Andrew Amigleo
Aaron Baney
Remington Barnes
James Carfagno III
Ryan Cortner
Andrew Derwae
Jacob Devlin

Julianne Douglas
Deborah Durey
Adam Ferek
Devin Hart
Matthew Hornung
Jonathan Jackson
Kyle Meakins
Frederick Meyer
Kate Papenberg
Rebecca Ross
Adam Schenk
Matthew Smith
Brandon Spader
Danielle Warwick
Jeffrey Weger
Neal Wendt

**Squadron 39**

Zachary Alexander
Doug Cho
John Cobb
Cameron Cunningham
Raeanna Elms
Jared Graham
Cody Guy
Jordan Hayes
Joseph Kim
Ryan King
Tadd Lahnert
Sean Miller
Korey Mundell
Andrew Nigro
Christopher Oppenlander
Michael Peebles
Daniel Perry
Joshua Reagan
John Richmond
Rachel Rothmann
Eva Smith
Amanda Tamosuinas
Erik Towal
John Wuellner
Justin Wynn

**Squadron 40**

Aubrey Aldridge III
Jessica Beeler
Antonio d Brown
Trista Burton
Michael Byrnes
Joshua Callahan
Paul Cote
Regan De La Cruz
Jennifer Drew
Andrew Harris
Melissa Hughes
Jacob Kahn
Candice Killian
Todd Klayum
Steven Locker
Steven Marks
David Nelson
Thomas Nolta
Jay Page
Benjamin Schaftel
Jared Thompson
David Trier

Class of 2008 Stats

Graduates from the Class of 2008 who enter pilot training incur an active duty service commitment of ten years after earning their wings. For combat systems operators, the service commitment is six years after successful completion of training. All remaining graduates incur a five-year active duty service commitment.

Graduation Class size: 1012 (828 men, 184 women)

Minorities: 186

International students: 12 one each from Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Suriname, Tunisia, Taiwan, and Thailand)

Fourth-child graduates: 2

Third-child graduates: 4

Second-child graduates: 48

Second generation graduates: 41

Attending pilot training: 530

Attending navigators training: 18

Attending air battle manager training: 4

Total graduates since 1959:

Male: 37,042 **Female:** 3,760 **Total:** 40,802

Graduates who have attained the rank of general: 484

(215 Active duty, 260 retired, 9 deceased)

Total number of international graduates: 259

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Thunderbirds to dazzle crowd with graduation performance



Photo by Ken Carter

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, will turn heads skyward at the conclusion of today's graduation ceremony for the Class of 2008.

The Thunderbirds perform precision aerial maneuvers demonstrating the capabilities of Air Force high performance aircraft to people throughout the world. The squadron exhibits the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support these aircraft.

Objectives of the Thunderbirds are to: support Air Force recruiting and retention programs; reinforce public confidence in the Air Force and to demonstrate to the public the professional competence of Air Force members; strengthen morale and esprit de corps among Air Force members; support Air Force community relations and people-to-people programs; represent the United States and its armed forces to foreign nations; and, to project international goodwill.

The Thunderbirds squadron is composed of eight pilots, including six demonstration pilots, four support officers, three civilians and more than 130 enlisted members performing in 25 career fields.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16.

The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers

in a demonstration. The entire show runs about 75 minutes. The demonstration season lasts from March to November, with the winter months used to train new members.

The squadron performs no more than 88 air demonstrations each year and has never canceled a demonstration due to maintenance difficulty. More than 280 million people in all 50 states and 57 foreign countries have seen the red, white and blue jets in more than 3,500 aerial demonstrations.

In addition to their role as the official U.S. Air Force aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds are part of our combat force. If required, the team's people and aircraft can be rapidly integrated into a fighter unit at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Since the aircraft are only slightly modified, each can be made combat-ready in less than 72 hours.

The Thunderbirds perform their maneuvers in the Lockheed Martin (formerly General Dynamics) F-16 Fighting Falcon, which represents the full range of capabilities possessed by the Air Force's tactical fighters. This highly maneuverable multi-role fighter has proven to be one of the world's best precision tactical bombers and air-to-air combat aircraft. The only modifications needed to prepare the aircraft for its air demonstration role are installing a smoke-generating system in the space normally reserved for the 20mm cannon, and the painting of the aircraft in Thunderbird colors.

The Thunderbirds were officially activated June 1, 1953, as the 3600th Air Demonstration Team at Luke AFB, Ariz. Their first aircraft was the straight-winged F-84G Thunderjet, a combat fighter-bomber that had seen action in Korea. Early in 1955 the team transitioned to the swept-winged F-84F Thunderstreak.

In June 1956, the team moved to its current home at Nellis. At the same time the Thunderbirds traded the veteran F-84 for the world's first supersonic fighter, the F-100 Super Sabre — an aerial platform that would serve the Thunderbirds for 13 years. More than 1,000 demonstrations were flown in the Super Sabre, thrilling spectators around the world. The team changed briefly to the Republic F-105 Thunderchief. After only six shows, in 1964, due to an extensive modification that became necessary on all Thunderchiefs, the Thunderbirds returned to the F-100.

From 1969 to 1973, the Thunderbirds flew the Air Force's front-line fighter, the F-4E Phantom. In 1974, the Thunderbirds converted to the T-38 Talon, the world's first supersonic trainer. The T-38 was more fuel-efficient and less costly to maintain than the larger F-4.

Early in 1983, the Thunderbirds reinstated their traditional role of demonstrating the Air Force's front-line fighter capabilities. Transition to the F-16A allowed the team to retain manpower and fuel efficiency while demonstrating to spectators the latest in fighter technology.



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Athletic Department recognizes 2008 outstanding student athletes

By Athletic Communications

Most Valuable Male Athlete

Senior Chad Hall led the Air Force football team's resurgence this season with one of the most memorable efforts in school history. Hall led the Falcons to a 9-4 overall mark and second-place finish in the Mountain West Conference with a 6-2 mark. He led the conference and ranked 19th nationally in rushing with 1,478 yards, the second most in school history. He also led the conference and ranked third nationally in all-purpose yards with an average of 206.4 per game. Hall rewrote the Academy record book in 2007. He set a new school-record for rushing yards with a 256-yard outburst against Colorado State. He later broke his own record with a 275-yard game vs. Army. In addition, he set a new school record for all-purpose yards vs. the Black Knights with 333. Hall now owns four of the top six all-purpose games in Air Force history. A third-team All-American by Rivals.com, Hall was named the MWC's offensive player of the year as well as the Colorado offensive player of the year by the Colorado chapter of the College Football Hall of Fame.

Most Valuable Female Athlete

Team co-captain Alecia Steele earned her fourth All-Mountain West Conference selection (third third-team selection). She led the team in scoring average (12.0) and rebounding (7.1) for fourth-consecutive season, the first player ever to do so at Air Force. Steele completes her career at Air Force as the programs' leading scorer in Division I play with 1,237 points (sixth all-time) and is second all-time in rebounding with 765 boards. Steele recorded six double-doubles on the season and finished with 21 for her career. She is a four-time team MVP recipient.

Scholar-Athlete

Senior Kenny Grosselin became just the seventh cross country athlete to earn the prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Grosselin, a captain for the cross country team during the fall season, was three-time academic all-conference selection and MWC Scholar-Athlete. He holds a 3.95 grade-point-average in mathematics and was named to the College Sports Information Directors Association Academic All-District team as a junior for track and field/cross country. He has competed in the conference and regional championship meets during each of his last two years.

Athletic Leadership

Senior defenseman Frank Schiavone was a true leader on and off the ice. He was selected as a team captain by his teammates and helped lead the Falcons to their second consecutive conference championship and NCAA Tournament. He was named to the Lowe's Senior CLASS All-America Team for excellence in the classroom, character, community and competition. A strong defensive player, Schiavone played in 120 career



Chad Hall



Alecia Steele



Kenny Grosselin



Frank Schiavone



Tim Anderson



Peter French

games and had 23 points. He had a career-best five goals this season. A management major, Schiavone is a two-time academic all-conference selection. He carries a 3.6 cumulative grade-point-average and a 3.8 GPA in his major. He was the cadet in charge of the obstacle course during Basic Cadet Training last summer. In the fall of 2007, he was the honor officer and chief of inspections in his squadron and has been on the dean's list every semester. Schiavone has been active in the community, assisting with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation each of the last four years. He has helped with the annual Walk for the Cure which has raised more than \$500,000 in the last four years. The native of Oceanside, N.Y., has also led a group of players in aiding the JDRF with the annual gala. He has also spoke to schools in the Colorado Springs area about the importance of school and teamwork and the skills of hockey.

Athletic Excellence

Senior Tim Anderson, a senior guard from El Paso, Texas, led the team in scoring, averaging 14 points per game, in 2007-08. He was named the MWC Defensive Player of the Year and a second-team all-conference pick this season. Anderson tied the school record and set a new MWC Tournament record with seven steals against San Diego State. He played in 124 games in his career,

just one shy of tying the school record. He missed just two games in his career and started all 65 the last two seasons. His name is sprinkled around the Air Force record book, including No. 2 on the school's career list with 175 steals and No. 5 in free throw shooting at 82.9 percent.

Outstanding Athletic Achievement

Air Force fencer Peter French, a sophomore from Austin, Texas, has been one of the Academy's top fencers for the past two seasons. French earned NCAA All-America honors in men's epee after placing sixth at the 2008 championships. He earned all-region honors at the 2007 and 2008 Western Regional championships. He won the 2008 Regionals with an impressive 11-2 bout record. He also won the 2008 Junior Olympics. He is ranked No. 2 in the junior men's epee point standings. French has brought international recognition to the Academy's fencing program. He finished third in the Junior Men's Epee World Cup in Basel, Switzerland, and finished ninth in Junior Men's Epee World Cup in Bratislava, Slovakia. He also traveled to Acireale, Italy, to compete in the 2008 Junior World Championships, where he finished 51st. He currently owns a 61-12 dual-meet record at Air Force. He finished the 2007-08 season with a 34-9 record, and was named the team's most valuable fencer.

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Top athletes earn kudos following outstanding seasons

By Athletic communications

Men's Cross Country

Junior Matt Williams became the first Air Force runner to compete at the NCAA Championship meet since 2004, where he placed within the top half of the field. An all-conference and all-region honoree, Williams was the Falcons' top finisher in both the conference and regional championships. Williams clocked the squad's best 10k time of 31.07 at the NCAA Mountain Regional meet, which was also a career-best time by nearly one second. Williams picked up a fourth-place finish at the Mountain West Conference championships, which was the highest individual finish in two seasons, while claiming a 19th-place mark at the regional meet.

Women's Cross Country

With two top finishes in just three races, sophomore Brittany Morreale paced a relatively young Air Force squad. Although just a sophomore, Morreale was one of the more experienced members of a team that featured just two upperclassmen. The only Falcon to account for multiple top finishes, Morreale picked up 22nd-place finishes at both the Aztec Invitational and MWC championships. Morreale accounted for the second-fastest 6k time on the team, after clocking a 22:39 at the NCAA Mountain Regional meet, where she finished 58th. Morreale's season-opening finish at the Aztec Invitational helped guide the Falcons to a 10th-place team finish.



Photo by John Van Winkle

Shaun Carney

Most Valuable Football Offensive Player

Quarterback Shaun Carney had an outstanding year and career. The four-year starter threw for a career-best 1,491 yards, the most by a Falcon since 2000. Carney completed 125 passes which is the third most in school history and most since 1977 and threw for nine touchdowns with just five interceptions. He became the school's career leader in passing yards, total offense and touchdown passes during the season.

Most Valuable Football Defensive Player

Drew Fowler was a two-time all-Mountain West Conference selection, earning first-team honors as a junior and second team as a senior. He was selected to play in the East-West Shrine game as one of the top senior linebackers in the nation. He started all 13 games and led the

team in tackles for the second straight season. He had 119 tackles last season to lead the team and ranked third in the league. The linebacker from Clayton, N.C., had a career-high three interceptions and also earned MWC Defensive Player of the Week honors when he had 14 tackles, including a goal-line stop in the final seconds vs. Utah.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Chad Hall

Most Valuable Football Player

The Falcons unleashed one of the most exciting players in the nation in senior "do-everything" Chad Hall, who was named MWC Offensive Player of the Year. The tailback/receiver shattered Air Force records for rushing and all-purpose yards. Hall set the school record for rushing yards in a game with 275 vs. Army, breaking his own record of 256 set earlier in the season at Colorado State. He also set the school single-game all-purpose yardage mark vs. Army with 333. A third-team All-American, Hall rushed for 1,478 yards, second-most in school history, and scored 16 touchdowns. He also caught 50 passes for 524 yards.

Most Valuable Lineman or Special Teams Player

The Air Force defense was led by outside linebacker John Rabold, who notched a team-high 17.5 tackles for loss and led the conference with four fumble recoveries, including one he returned for a touchdown vs. Notre Dame. Rabold had at least one tackle for loss in 11 straight and 12 of 13 games this season. He finished the season with a career-best 74 total tackles and three forced fumbles and earned all-conference honors.



Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Bamford

Drew Fowler



Photo by Joel Strayer

Brian Guyette

Men's Soccer

Brian Guyette, a senior from Phoenix, AZ., started all 18 games in goal in 2007. Guyette had an outstanding season, earning a first-team all-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation selection. He led the conference in saves per game (5.94) and finished third in goals-against average (1.37). Guyette was named MPSF Player of the Week after making a career-high 15 saves in a 2-1 victory over Denver. His 15 saves tied with two others for the most in one game in the country this season.

Women's Soccer

Senior defender Christin Brodie was named the team's most valuable player. Brodie appeared and started in 17 games for the Falcons and appeared in 76 career games, making 41 starts. In 2007, Brodie earned Idaho State Classic All-Tournament honors.

Volleyball

In 2007, the MVP award, given to Kristin Stewart, was selected by the players, and featured new criteria for selection. According to Coach Penny Lucas-White, the volleyball MVP must be someone who is "loyal to USAFA, the staff, the team and the program. Someone who has a voice in the locker room and a great work ethic, but still would sacrifice herself for the greater good of the team. The MVP should be someone who will push her teammates while also being the voice of reason and the team's biggest encourager. Someone who has earned her teammate's trust and respect, because she has been in the trenches with team." Stewart, who claimed the team's spirit award on three separate occasions and started 21 matches, averaged 1.73 kills per game and 1.62 digs per contest.

Water Polo

Senior Justin Berry was named the Air Force water polo MVP for the 2007 season. Berry, a team captain for the Falcons, finished with 54 goals on the season, bringing his career total to 139. A second-team All-Western Water Polo Association selection, Berry was also named a first-team all-tournament honoree at the WWPA Championship, where Air Force finished third. Berry helped lead the Falcons to their best tournament finish since the 2003, as well as their highest final national ranking (14th) since 2003.



File Photo

Tim Anderson

Men's Basketball

Tim Anderson, a senior guard from El Paso, Texas, led the team in scoring, averaging 14 points per game, in 2007-08. He was named the MWC Defensive Player of the Year and a second-team all-conference pick this season. Anderson tied the school record and set a new MWC Tournament record with seven steals against San Diego State. He played in 124 games in his career, just one shy of tying the school record. He missed just two games in his career and started all 65 the last two seasons. His name is sprinkled around the Air Force record book, including No. 2 on the school's career list with 175 steals and No. 5 in free-throw shooting at 82.9 percent.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Alecia Steele

Women's Basketball

Team co-captain Alecia Steele earned fourth All-Mountain West Conference selection (third third-team selection). She led team in scoring average (12.0) and rebounding (7.1) for her fourth-consecutive season, the first ever to do so at Air Force. Steele completes her career at Air Force as the programs' leading scorer in Division I play with 1,237 points (sixth all-time) and is second all-time in rebounding with 765 boards. Steele recorded six double-doubles on the season and finished with 21 for her career. She is a four-time team MVP recipient.

Men's Fencing

Sophomore Peter French earned both 2008 NCAA All-America and all-Western region honors. He won the 2008 Regionals with an impressive 11-2 bout record in individual men's epee, and finished sixth at the NCAA championships. He won the

Top Athletes

Junior World Cup in Basel, Switzerland, and the men's individual epee championship at the 2008 Junior Olympics. He also earned the No. 2 spot on the 2008 Junior World Team, where he finished 51st. He is currently ranked No. 2 in the junior men's epee point standings. He finished the season with a 34-9 record.

Women's Fencing

Senior Collette Bannister demonstrated her leadership abilities as a Squadron 13 commander and the fencing team's captain in 2007-08. She led the women's foil team to 65 victories for the season. She earned all-region honors after finishing fourth at the 2008 NCAA Western Regionals, and was named first alternate for the NCAA championships. She has been one of the Falcons' top three finishers in the New Mexico Open, Falcon Open and Nick Toth Open. She concludes here Academy fencing career with a 30-38 record.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Greg Stine

Men's Gymnastics

Senior Greg Stine concluded his career as the most decorated gymnast in Air Force men's gymnastics history. Backed by top-eight finishes on the still rings and in the all-around at the NCAA Championships, Stine became the program's first All-American since 1993 and the first-ever recipient of multiple NCAA honors. In addition, he set six of seven Academy records under the new scoring system, won two USA Gymnastics national titles and earned five USAG All-America certificates. The USAG Top Senior Award, Stine accounted for 29 first-place finishes and was named Gymnast of the Week numerous times by the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and College Gymnastics Association. For his career, Stine earned more USAG All-America accolades (15) than any other gymnast. He won seven USAG national titles, including three in the all-around.

Women's Gymnastics

Junior Abbey Rogers became the first gymnast in Academy history to be named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Year. An all-conference selection on the balance beam, floor exercise and all-around, Rogers recorded 13 first-place finishes during the course of the season. She participated in the all-around at the NCAA North Central Regional, was a two-time MPSF Gymnast of the Week and an academic all-conference selection for the second straight year.

Rogers, who set personal best marks on every event this season and led the team on the vault, uneven bars, floor exercise and all-around, led the conference on the floor exercise and all-around.



Photo by Dave Armer

Andrew Volkening

Ice Hockey

Andrew Volkening was named to the Atlantic Hockey Association all-tournament team for the second straight year and was the goaltender on the all-tournament team at the NCAA Northeast Regional becoming the first Falcon to ever earn that honor. He set new school records for saves percentage (.911) and goals-against average (2.09) and ranked 10th in the nation in GAA. He was named the AHA Goalie of the Month twice during the season. The Genoa, Ill., native made a career-high 49 saves in the 5-4 double overtime win over Mercyhurst in the AHA championship game to send the Falcons back to the NCAA Tournament. The sophomore tender had four shutouts during the season and had a shutout streak of 133 consecutive minutes to set a new school record vs. Division I opponents. He started 38 of the 39 games and won 21 games during the season.



Photo by Trevor Brown, Jr./NCAA Photos

Bryan Avery

Men's Swimming

Junior Bryan Avery was named the Air Force men's swimming MVP for the 2007-08 season. Avery, who was named the MWC Co-Swimmer of the Week in late October, earned all-conference honors in the 200 freestyle for a second-straight season, finishing as the runner-up with a personal-best mark of 1:37.22. His time, an NCAA provisional mark, moved him into second place on the Academy's top-10 list. He was also a member of two all-conference relay teams, the 800 freestyle relay (which achieved an NCAA provi-

sional mark) and the 400 medley relay team. Avery also set a school record in the 100 butterfly, clocking in at 48.38 in time trials at the Mountain West Conference Championships. Avery now owns Air Force top-10 marks in five different events (100 free, 200 free, 500 free, 100 fly and 200 fly). In addition, Avery qualified for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 butterfly and will compete in June for the opportunity to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team.

Women's Swimming

Junior Jane Hwang was named the Air Force women's swimming MVP for the 2007-08 season. Hwang earned all-conference honors in both the 100 and 200 freestyle events for the second-consecutive season. Hwang, the Falcons' school record-holder in the 200 free, finished seventh in the event at the MWC Championships, while placing eighth in the 100 free. Hwang currently holds school records in two individual events (200 free and 200 IM), while ranking among the Academy's top 10 in five more events (100 free, 100 butterfly, 200 butterfly, 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke).

Rifle

Tom Chandler, a freshman from Oak Harbor, Wash., is the Academy's 2008 Most Valuable Marksmanship award winner. Chandler concluded his freshman season as one of the team's top marksmen. He surpassed his best scores three times throughout the regular season. His season-best air rifle score was 581/600, he surpassed his season best with a 585 at the 2008 Olympic Air Trials. His top small-bore score was a 584/600, which he scored against UTEP and Nevada-Reno in November 2007. His top aggregate score was a 1747 scored during the Olympic Trials.

Wrestling

Senior Jake Kriegbaum, the Falcons' starter at 141 pounds, was chosen as the 2007-08 Air Force wrestling team MVP. Kriegbaum qualified for the NCAA Championships for the third time in his career after capturing the 141-pound title at the West Regional, knocking off a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers in the process. As a result, Kriegbaum was named Outstanding Wrestler at the West Regional. A first-team All-Western Wrestling Conference selection, Kriegbaum closed the season with a 25-13 overall record and 12-5 dual mark. Kriegbaum also turned in a perfect 5-0 record in WWC dual competition.

Baseball

Sophomore Alex Truesdale led Air Force with 97.2 innings pitched, 58 strikeouts and compiled a 6.73 ERA. His 97.2 innings pitched led the MWC in regular season play (does not include postseason stats). His 97.2 innings pitched is the first best total in a season in Air Force history. Truesdale earned wins this season over Charleston Southern, BYU and UNLV. His win over BYU snapped Air Force's 55-game Mountain West Conference losing streak. His win over UNLV snapped Air Force's 27 game losing streak to the



File Photo

Alex Truesdale

Rebels. In his last six starts, Truesdale, pitched into the eighth inning or better. Truesdale pitched two complete games and pitched nine innings in a game three times.



Photo by Danny Meyer

Daryn Nelson

Boxing

Senior Daryn Nelson compiled a remarkable 14-3 record during his final season. He won five Boxer of the Week honors and was named the Most Outstanding Boxer (higher weights) at the 2008 National Collegiate Boxing Association Western Regional Championships. Competing in the 156-pound weight class, he won his first Wing Open title. He also won the Western Regional title after defeating the defending national champion. Nelson earned a silver medal at the national championships and claimed NCBA All-America honors.

Men's Tennis

Brett Rodgers, a sophomore from Midland, Texas, played the entire 2007-08 season at No. 1 singles and doubles for the Falcons. Rodgers was 14-15 overall in singles this season and tied for the team lead with 11 dual match wins. He was named MWC Player of the Week on March 21 after going 3-0 in singles and doubles during a home stand. He paired with freshman Taylor Soster to post an impressive 16-13 overall doubles record and a 13-11 mark in dual matches, including a win at No. 1 doubles over UNLV, Air Force's only doubles win against a conference opponent this season.

Women's Tennis

Lauren Wilson, a senior from Midland, Texas, played the majority of the 2007-08 season at No. 2 singles. She finished fifth in her flight at the season-

Top Athletes

opening Wyoming Cowgirl Invitational and combined with fellow senior Erika Shortridge to win their first-round match at the prestigious University of Maryland Fall Invitational. Wilson won 14 singles matches and 11 doubles matches this year. She also finished third on the team for the most dual match singles victories.

Golf

Senior Bob Whitney was named the Air Force golf MVP for the 2007-08 season. One of the most experienced members of the Falcons' team, Whitney competed in 10 events in his senior season, including all five spring tournaments. Whitney recorded his best MWC Championship finish in 2008, placing in a tie for 41st.

Lacrosse

Senior Lukas Fisher was named the Air Force lacrosse MVP for the 2008 season. Fisher, one of the Falcons' team captains, was a leader on the defensive unit, starting at close defense for the past two seasons. The most experienced player on a defensive line which has included a pair of rookies in goal, Fisher finished the season as one of the team leaders in caused turnovers.

Men's Track & Field

Senior Travis Picou is concluding a stellar four-year career with three program records. He holds three Academy standards (indoor 60-, outdoor 100- and outdoor 200-meter dashes), five Mountain West Conference titles and 12 all-confer-

ence accolades. Easily leading the squad this season in all of his respective events, Picou earned all-MWC honors in the indoor 200-meter dash and as a member of the outdoor 4x100-meter relay team. He was the only non-TCU athlete to finish within the top eight of the 200-meter dash at the outdoor championships. Picou, the 2005 MWC Freshman of the Year, served as co-captain of the men's team and will continue his career at the upcoming NCAA Regional meet.

Women's Track & Field

Sophomore Sara Neubauer rewrote the Academy record books once more this season. Neubauer reclaimed the Falcons' indoor shot put record by becoming the first woman to surpass the 50-foot mark. Heaving a 50'2" shot at



Photo by Dave Armer

Lukas Fisher



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Sara Neubauer

the Air Force Invitational, Neubauer reclaimed the top spot on the Academy's all-time list. She earned all-conference accolades in the indoor shot (third-place finish) and followed that up with all-MWC honors in the outdoor discus (second-place finish). Neubauer upped her personal-best mark in the outdoor shot by rewriting her own record. Hitting a distance of 50'4½" at the Colorado Invitational, Neubauer improved the Sophomore Class record and qualified for the NCAA Regionals.

Men's Outstanding Track & Field Competitor

Senior Ian McFarland literally ran into the spotlight at the Mountain West Conference Championships, by winning both the 5000- and 10,000-meter events.

In his first-ever appearance in the 10k, McFarland clocked a winning time of 30:44.89 for the first all-conference honor of his career. The co-captain of the men's team concluded the weekend by recording a time of 14:37.33 to win the 5000-meter run. Highlighted by 20 individual points, he paced the Falcons to their third-place finish. In fact, McFarland was just eight points shy of the MWC "High Point" award winner. He has qualified for the NCAA Regionals in the 5000. He was a scoring member of the Falcons' 3000-meter run during the indoor season, placing seventh. He also moved into the program's all-time top-10 list with a career-best 8:11.48 at the Husky Classic.

Women's Outstanding Track & Field Competitor

Only a sophomore, Melissa Beerse continues to impact the Air Force women's program. She became the first female to ever clear the 13-foot plateau on the pole vault, as she crushed her own indoor record. Her clearance of 13'6½" at the MWC Championships shattered the previous sophomore class record by nearly a foot. She claimed all-conference accolades with that second-place finish. Beerse made her first appearance at the NCAA Indoor Championships, where she placed 14th. Beerse continued her success in the outdoor season, where she upped her own standard there as well. Clearing the 13-foot mark once again, Beerse qualified for the NCAA Regional meet with a clearance of 13'1½".

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