

The Institute Report

Volume XXXIII, Number 4, December 2005

Cadets Rehab House for Hurricane Victim

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

For some of the cadets, working on the house started as little more than a way to work off penalty tours. Perhaps it was the spirit of the season, or perhaps something more fundamental, but by the time the cadets were putting the final touches on the house for a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina the project had taken on a far deeper and far more personal meaning.

The house, a joint effort by Rockbridge County residents Sandra Morgan, Chuck Barger, 120 cadets and community sponsors and volunteers, will be home to former Mississippi residents Tracey McNair and her baby, Zoe, for one year, rent-free, beginning Dec. 19.



Sandra Morgan looks out of the upper story window as cadets take a break. – Photo courtesy of Sandra Morgan.

“I got involved with the house initially because I had to work off penalty tours for a minor infraction. Once on the site, I had an absolute blast, getting the chance to really get to know other cadets through hard work for a great cause,” said fifth-year Cadet Benjamin Stenger. “By the end of the first day, I was hooked on the project.”

Morgan, who lost her farm on the South River two years ago during Hurricane Isabel, knows what this year’s Katrina victims are feeling. “It was just devastating,” she said. “We lost everything.”

When Morgan decided she wanted to help, Charles Barger agreed to donate the abandoned house and paid

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Cadets Help Repair Katrina Damage



Cadets Han-Lung Jin '06 and Jedidiah Tan '06 prepare framing for a Biloxi, Miss., home damaged in Hurricane Katrina. Joining Jin and Tan were cadets Clinton Adams '08 and Adam Barr '08, as well as residents from Rockbridge County. On Thanksgiving Day the group toured devastated areas around Biloxi. “It was very sobering, but fitting for us to be able to see it all,” Tan said. – Photo courtesy of Cadet Jedidiah Tan.

Woulfe Explores Business Side of Intellectual Property

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

Justin Woulfe '06 doesn't work for a commercial laboratory; he isn't a patent attorney, nor is he a marketing executive, but he does know something about each field. The inventor-turned-marketer is a first

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VMI Alumnus Killed in Iraq

By Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis, Editor

Mr. Gregory R. Wright Jr., a 1995 VMI graduate, was killed in northern Iraq on Dec. 7, 2005, according to the *Virginian-Pilot*.

Mr. Wright, 32, was a civilian providing security services. He earned a degree in history, was a member of the football team for two seasons, and participated with the VMI Theatre. After graduation, Mr. Wright served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer and as a military intelligence officer.



Gregory R. Wright Jr.

He left military service in 2000.

He is survived by his parents, Gregory and Joan Wright; his brother, John Wright '98 of Virginia Beach; his grandmothers, Marion Sullivan of Morrisonville, N.Y., and Christine Wright of Randolph, N.J.; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Interment was at Quantico National Cemetery on Dec. 14.

General Assembly Honors Fallen Graduates

By Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis, Editor

Resolutions by the Virginia General Assembly honoring VMI alumni killed in action in Iraq during 2004 were presented to the Board of Visitors in December.

The resolutions honor Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz '00 of Mine Hill, N.J. who died June 5, 2004; Maj. Paul R. Syverson III '93 of Arlington Heights, Ill., who died June 16, 2004; and Capt. Luke C. Wullenwaber '02, of Lewiston, Idaho, who died Nov. 16, 2004.

"This is a very emotional time when we think about what these young men have done for our nation and for our school and the sacrifices they have made," said G. Gil Minor III '63, board chairman.

Two VMI alumni were co-patrons of the resolutions, delegates William R. Janis '84 and L. Scott Lingamfelter '73. Lingamfelter presented a resolution to Wullenwaber's father, Dean Wullenwaber, in late November. The two delegates presented framed resolutions to Minor at the December board meeting for further presentation to the families of Doltz and Syverson.

"Delegate Janis and I take very seriously, along with Senator Tommy Norment ('63), our obligation to ensure that no VMI man who has fallen in combat will be forgotten," Lingamfelter said.

Janis noted that none of the soldiers honored were from Virginia, but that they were drawn to VMI because of its reputation for high standards.

"The greatest measure of this school – the 'so-what' of VMI – is our graduates," he said. "The lives [Doltz, Syverson, and Wullenwaber] led were framed in large measure by the experiences they had here and the education they received here."

Each resolution recounts the individual dedication and determination of the three soldiers.

The deaths of the three alumni are "a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of young Americans who serve in our armed forces overseas and who's devotion to duty places them in harms way," the individual resolutions note. "The General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a courageous and patriotic American."

Two alumni, Capt. James C. Edge '96 and Capt. Lowell T. Miller II '93, died after the 2005 General Assembly session in which the resolutions were adopted. Previous General Assembly resolutions recognized the sacrifices of 1st Lt. Joshua C. Hurley '01 and Capt. John R. Teal '94, who died in 2003.

Look for VMI on NBC in the Roanoke/Lexington Area

VMI will become more visible in Western Virginia with the launch of "soft spot" commercials focusing on the Institute's strengths and values.

The campaign of 30- and 60-second spots will begin the week of Dec. 19 and continue until early February. VMI's Office of Communications and Marketing, the Alumni Association, and WSLs-TV (Channel 10), the NBC affiliate in Roanoke, have been working collaboratively for seven months to develop the commercials, which will be sponsored by business partners.

The commercials are being scheduled for select times over the period, and will include airing during NBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics. Additional details of the campaign and other marketing initiatives planned for 2006 will be in the next issue of the *Institute Report*.

The Institute Report

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VMI Foundation Unveils New Logo

By Scott Belliveau '83, Contributor

At the annual Board of Trustees meeting in November, the VMI Foundation unveiled its new logo and, with it, a new motto. Executed in red and gray, the new logo consists of an outline of Washington Arch in red and in which is a large white "VMI" and, underneath, a gray bar in which the word "Foundation" is encribed in white type. The complete logo includes the words, "Building a Foundation for the Future."

"Earlier this year, the VMI Foundation decided to design a new logo that communicates the importance of the work of the VMI Foundation to the Institute as a whole and illustrates our enduring mission to advance the Institute's extraordinary mission," explained Dr. James L. Adams '71, executive vice president of the VMI Foundation. "Perhaps, the current president of the Board of Visitors, G. Gilmer Minor III '63, put it best



when he said at our fall meeting, "The VMI Foundation is the foundation of VMI."

Discussing the elements of the logo, Adams said, "We picked the outline of Washington Arch because it is the oldest Barracks arch and, therefore, harkens back to the Institute's establishment and its founding principles as expressed on

the Parapet and the VMI Family's shared commitment to them. The gray bar depicts the notion of a foundation of a building and reflects the gray stone that forms the foundation of the Barracks. It also communicates the VMI Foundation's support of the Institute's ultimate goal: to provide those who live in Barracks—the Corps of Cadets—with an education that will shape them into leaders."

The new logo will begin to appear on the Foundation's stationery, business cards, and fundraising materials this month.

Nominations For Teaching And Service Awards

Nominations for the annual awards recognizing members of the VMI faculty and staff for outstanding teaching and exemplary service to the Institute are now being accepted.

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2006. Information and forms may be obtained by writing to the chair of the Awards Committee, Col. William D. Badgett, Department of English and Fine Arts, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA 24450.

Applications are also available online at <http://academics.vmi.edu/enviro/awards.doc>.

Newman Named Adjutant General

Gov.-elect Tim Kaine has named Brig. Gen. Robert B. Newman Jr. '73, president of the Alumni Association, as Adjutant General of Virginia. He has served as deputy assistant to the governor for Commonwealth preparedness and deputy director of Homeland Security for the National Guard Bureau. In his new role, he is head of the state Department of Military Affairs, which oversees Virginia's Army and Air National Guards. – VMI File Photo.



Annual Giving Enjoys Strong Performance in FY 2006

By Scott Belliveau '83, Contributor

As of Nov. 30, the three funds of VMI Annual Giving -- the Foundation Fund, the Keydet Club Scholarship Fund, and the Athletic Operations Fund -- have received more than \$1.24 million in donations.

The Foundation Fund has raised almost \$577,247 or more than \$170,000 over the \$406,384 raised by the same date last year. The Keydet Club Scholarship Fund also is more than \$170,000 ahead of the last year's end-of-November figures with \$431,274 received so far during Fiscal Year 2006. The performance of the Athletic Operations Fund (AOF) has also improved. With a total of \$235,600 raised by the end of November, the AOF has taken in \$103,512 more so far in Fiscal Year 2006 than it did in Fiscal Year 2005 at this time. All told, during first five months of Fiscal Year 2005, the Annual Giving's receipts are \$1,244,122 as of Nov. 30, an increase of \$444,810 or almost 56 percent over the amount received during the same period last year.

More encouraging news about VMI Annual Giving concerns alumni

participation. A robust increase in the number of alumni participating in all three funds matches the strong increase in donations. Last year at this time, for example, 683 alumni had given to the Foundation Fund; this year, 1,120 alumni have done so. The Keydet Club Scholarship Fund and the Athletic Operations Fund also enjoyed increased alumni support; respectively, the number of alumni making gifts to them has grown from 533 to 652 and from 154 to 242.

While these numbers represent good news for both the Institute and the Alumni Agencies, the fact is that to continue the progress it has enjoyed in recent years, VMI needs private financial support to grow -- and keep growing in the future. So, while the VMI Alumni Agencies thank those who have helped VMI through a contribution to The Foundation Fund, the Keydet Club Scholarship Fund, and the Athletic Operations Fund, it asks that they urge other alumni, parents, and friends of VMI to join them in support of VMI.

Young to Receive Daniels Award

Ambassador Andrew Young, famous as a civil rights activist and his long career of public service, was selected by the Board of Visitors to receive the Jonathan Myrick Daniels '61 Humanitarian Award. Young is scheduled to visit VMI on March 23 to receive the award. Former President Jimmy Carter, who received the award in 2001, is the only other recipient of the award. – Photo courtesy of the National Council of Churches.



Stamp Issue

Virginia Dabney shakes hands with Lexington, Va., Postmaster Larry Creamer during the November release of the new “Distinguished Marines” stamps. Dabney is daughter of Lt. Gen. Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller ‘21, in the upper right corner of the block of stamps. Also on the stamps is Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, in the upper left corner, superintendent from 1929 to 1937. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.



Woulfe Explores Business Side of Intellectual Property

Continued from page 1

class cadet at the Virginia Military Institute who has taken his interest in an engineering project beyond the lab and into the business world.

Woulfe and classmates Barry Hammond '06 and Dennis Crump '06 designed and built a tick-collecting robot to reduce tick populations. Old Dominion University owns the intellectual property rights to the project and has applied for a provisional patent which names the students and their advisers as the inventors. During the past semester, Woulfe has worked with Cmdr. Michael Sebastino, the Institute's grants, contacts and intellectual property administrator, and ODU's intellectual property and technology transfer office on licensing the tick collection robot.

“My job has been to research what's around in this area, find out who can use it and to see if anyone will be willing to buy our idea,” said Woulfe, an electrical engineering major. “I've spent a lot of time on the phone and conducting research on the Internet during this project. It's been a great opportunity for me since I'm interested in the business management side of engineering.”

The work he's doing now is similar to some of the projects he completed as an intern last summer with Raytheon. He's already been hired by the company, and will begin his full-time job following graduation in May.

“Justin is extremely well prepared academically, plus, he has drive and creativity,” said Ken Herbert '81, a manager in Raytheon's intelligence and information systems business area in Reston, Va. “The fact that Justin has a patent pending on a project he helped design is unusual for an undergraduate and shows his ability. What he's doing this semester is the type of work we do in some areas of IIS/Raytheon, and he would be particularly effective in creating new ideas and concepts.”

Like Herbert, Sebastino is pleased that Woulfe is interested in the entrepreneurial side of intellectual property and has found him to be an asset over the last semester.

“This is a great educational experience for cadets like Justin who ordinarily would only be exposed to the invention and development of an idea,” said Sebastino. “It's unlikely an inventor will be a marketer; typically it's the business students who would be more interested in the

marketing aspect. It's also beneficial to me because the market research done by cadets like Justin, and Paul Kuwik [’05] last semester, reduces my workload. They also have time to do more in-depth research than I would have time to do on my own.”

While VMI may not generate anywhere near the amount of intellectual property and patents as large research universities, a strength that VMI enjoys is that its patents carry the names undergraduates as inventors. That is a rarity at large universities. In the last three years, 16 cadets have been named as inventors on patents or patents pending.

Unlike universities such as ODU or Virginia Tech, VMI does not have the intellectual property staff to initiate and coordinate technology transfer of student and faculty inventions to the commercial sector. However, the Institute and the VMI Foundation do support their research efforts by acquiring the rights to such projects and providing the financial support necessary to apply for patents and to license the rights to these inventions to companies with the ability to commercialize them.

“Most inventors don't want to be entrepreneurs, but they don't want their inventions to just sit idle either,” said Sebastino. “Does VMI plan to get rich off of these inventions? Probably not, but we do want to support our students and faculty. The research we are doing here is an important part of the teaching process.”

Woulfe agrees. In fact the opportunity to spend time in the lab and to pursue opportunities like inventing and marketing the tick collection robot are part of what drew him to the Institute. He's also had the opportunity to publish as an undergraduate, and an article on the tick collection robot will appear in the December/January issue of *IEEE Potentials* magazine, a publication of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

“You don't see too many undergraduates with patents,” he said. “Most schools with strong engineering programs don't do this kind of hands-on work; as an undergraduate your focus is on theory. From day one at VMI, you're in the lab doing something, and the professors are here to help you succeed.”



Founders Day

The Cadet Battery fires a 17-gun salute during the Institute's Founders Day review Nov. 11. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

Institute Report Available on Web Site

Readers of the *Institute Report* can sign up for a free electronic subscription to the publication. The subscription provides a worldwide E-mail notification of the availability of the publication when it is posted on the VMI Web site.

In the notification is a link to the latest issue of the *Institute Report*. The *Institute Report* will be available as PDF file. The file can easily be printed on a home or office printer for a hard copy.

To enroll, fill out the brief subscription form (www.vmi.edu/subscribe/) on the VMI web site.

Correction

The headline of an article in the November edition of *Institute Report* ("JROTC Leadership Symposium Hosted by VMI") did not indicate the George C. Marshall Foundation was a sponsor of the event.

International Studies Board Honors Hamilton

On Nov. 9, former Congressman Lee Hamilton's service to his country and his dedication to the pursuit of diplomacy at home and abroad were recognized when Cadet Andrew Upshaw '06 presented him with the Distinguished Diplomat Award on behalf of the VMI's International Studies Board.

Upshaw noted Hamilton's 34 years in Congress representing Indiana's 9th District, service on the Commission on National Security in the 21st Century (the Hart-Rudman Commission), and his role as co-chair with former Senator Howard Baker of the Baker-Hamilton Commission to Investigate Certain Security Issues at Los Alamos, his service from 2002 to 2004 on the 9/11 Commission and his current service on the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Hamilton met with cadets and presented a public lecture on the findings of the 9/11 Commission. (See story on page 7.)

Christmas in the Barracks

Michael Bopp sizes up the Grinch, played by Cadet Ryan Rogers '06, during the Corps' holiday open house Dec. 12. Bopp, son of Col. L.E. Hurlbut, was one of many children of VMI faculty and staff to visit the Barracks and to hear the annual Carols in the Courtyard performance by the Glee Club. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.



Chinese Military Science Expert Visits Post

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

Just two days before President George W. Bush's state visit to China in November, VMI faculty and cadets had their own Chinese encounter when Professor Bao Shixiu addressed faculty and cadets on strategic deterrence.

Bao, a senior research fellow from the Chinese People's Liberation Army National Defense University, gave the lecture at the end of a five-week stay at the Institute where he researched the perspectives of American strategic thinkers on the strategies of Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and Mao Tse-Tung.

"The Institute combines the studies of a full college curriculum within a framework of military discipline," said Bao. "This form of education can help cadets get more qualities of honor, integrity, fairness and responsibility.

"VMI and my university have the same mission to produce educated and honorable men and women," he added. "But there are some differences in educational purposes. My university cultivates only military leaders, while VMI produces, as its founder Col. Preston suggested, 'fair specimens of citizen-soldiers.'"

During his lecture, Bao discussed the conditions for using strategic deterrence during war time and in peace. He outlined the offensive and defensive strategies of this tactic, as well, adding that China pursues the guidelines of a defensive use of strategic deterrence to prevent foreign invasion and conspiracies, and to defend its sovereignty, rights, and interests.

Cadet Gregory Barnekoff '07 was interested in Bao's thoughts on strategic deterrence because he is planning to go into the submarine service, which plays a role in U.S. strategic deterrence.

"I think someone like Professor Bao gives us an interesting perspective on various topics because he is from a different country," said Barnekoff. "The fact that he is from China, which has a different type of government, culture and political interests than the U.S., gives us at VMI an interesting perspective that we wouldn't be able to hear



Professor Bao Shixiu discusses strategic deterrence.

VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

otherwise. It was also interesting to hear his and China's perspective on strategic deterrence, especially since China's policy could directly affect U.S. policy and interests in this subject."

Cmdr. Tim McElhannon, director of International Programs, emphasized that having a speaker with Bao's background is a rare opportunity for any U.S. institution of higher learning. He added that Bao is a retired senior colonel in the Chinese Army and a well-known scholar in Marxist military studies who has written several

books and a number of articles on this field.

"VMI recognizes the strategic importance of China, and we want to educate our cadets about the country and the important strategic issues with respect to China; having Bao here paid dividends in that area," he said. "I teach NATO and International Security, and my students got a good theoretical discussion of deterrence as a strategy, including dissuasion and persuasion, which we have talked about in class. More specifically, they got a clear understanding of China's policy of using strategic deterrence as a defensive strategy."

Bao was challenged by several cadets regarding his thoughts on China's policy toward Taiwan. Barnekoff found his responses somewhat vague but demonstrative of the tensions that exist in international relations. Bao enjoyed the challenge.

"American students are full of vigor," he said. "They like to ask and analyze different, complicated questions. To have had the opportunity to address them was much fun for me."

Following his stay in Lexington, Bao traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with officials from the U.S. National Defense University and Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor. He gave a lecture at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., and met with faculty members at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif., before returning to China.

VMI Hosts World History Conference

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

About 60 professors of world history gathered at VMI in October for the 17th annual meeting of the Southeast World History Association to focus on teaching techniques and trends, and the use of technology in world history instruction.

The conference was sponsored in part by the Institute, its history department, the Marshall Foundation and Preston Library.

"With the world so much more interconnected these days, the

study of world history enables students to read the morning paper more intelligently," said Col. Tom Davis, VMI history professor and conference organizer. "They are more aware of global affairs as a result of world history courses – more so than in traditional Western civilization courses – and more colleges are rising to the challenge by offering world history."

Speakers Say Fighting Terrorism Will Fall on Today's Students

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

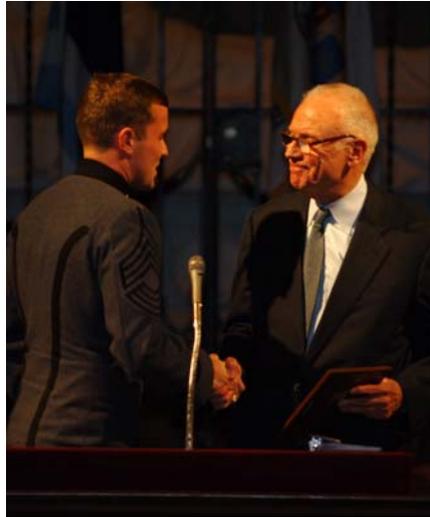
Finding a solution to today's brand of terrorism will take the efforts of a generation – the generation of students sitting in college classrooms today, said guests of the Institute's Department of International Studies and Politics who addressed the VMI community in November.

Lee Hamilton, who served as the vice chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, spoke to students of both VMI and Washington and Lee University at Lee Chapel on Nov. 9.

"One of the burdens that falls on students of higher education is to repay our country for their freedom by making a contribution," he said. "Some of you will serve in the military, others will choose civilian pursuits, but it is up to all of you to decide where you will fulfill your duty to your country."

The United States hasn't been attacked at home since Sept. 11, 2001, but that doesn't mean the country is safe, Hamilton said.

"The United States needs to identify the threat and develop strategies



Cadet Andrew Upshaw '06 presents Lee Hamilton with the Distinguished Diplomat Award. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

commensurate with that threat," said Hamilton, now president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. "During work on the 9/11 Commission we came to the conclusion that those enemies are Al Qaeda, radical ideology, and to some extent the Muslims around the world who are sympathetic to the jihadist organizations."

Including identifying the threat, Hamilton outlined his five "I's" for combating terrorism: integrating all of the tools of American power to combat terrorism, enlisting international cooperation in sharing the burden of the fight, generating better intelligence to identify terrorist plots and prevent them from happening, and implementing policies designed to thwart terrorist efforts.

Two former intelligence agents had a similar message for cadets when they visited Post on Nov.

16. W. Patrick Lang, a 1962 VMI graduate, is a former intelligence agent and defense attaché who now is president and CEO of Global Resources

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Conference Showcases Student Research on Shakespeare

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

Intellectual stimulation took center stage at Virginia Military Institute in November as students from across the Shenandoah Valley presented their research on Shakespeare at the second VMI Undergraduate Research Shakespeare Conference.

"This is the only conference in the country for undergraduates that focuses on Shakespeare and research," said Col. Alan Baragona, VMI professor of English and Fine Arts and the conference's organizer. "It is part of the continuing effort to keep the academic side of VMI in the public eye and to help the URI promote undergraduate research in the liberal arts, as well as in science and engineering. It also strengthens the ties between faculty and students at VMI and other schools."

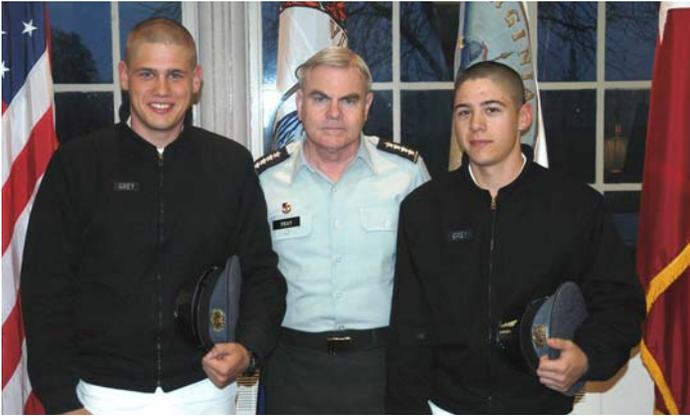
Funded by VMI's Department of English and Fine Arts, the Navas-Read Fund, and the Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI), the conference involved students and faculty from VMI, Bridgewater and Roanoke colleges, and Hollins, James Madison, and Washington & Lee universities.

Students presented their research during paper sessions on Saturday and visited the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton on Sunday for an acting

workshop and to attend the matinee performance of Hamlet.

"All the papers were of exceptionally high quality, and the students fielded some tough questions from the audience with confidence and insight," said Baragona. "I appreciate the extra work the students put into their presentations and the [work] faculty at all the schools did, recruiting student writers and actors, judging papers, rehearsing scenes, and moderating sessions. The conference was a ringing success on all these counts, and we look forward to another great event next year, when our keynote speaker will be Dr. David Bevington of the University of Chicago, perhaps the premiere American Shakespeare scholar of the last 40 years."

Best in conference paper awards were presented to Nate Moreira, a recent VMI graduate who is studying at Virginia Tech, and Mary Flynn Detlefs, a senior at Washington & Lee University. Moreira's paper, "Aaron & Titus: The Problem with Patriarchy in Titus Andronicus," argues that the villain, Aaron, actually has more heroic qualities than Titus. Detlefs' paper, "The Fall and Redemption of the Monarchy," explores biblical imagery in Shakespeare's Henriad plays.



Greys Mobilize

Cadets Patrick J. Grey '06 and David G. Grey '09 flank Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62 as the superintendent met with them prior to their activation for duty in Iraq. The brothers from Wilmington, Del., are members of U.S. Marine Corps Reserve unit that has been mobilized. – VMI Photo by Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis.

Cadets Excel at Club Boxing, Powerlifting

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

Success is in the air for VMI's club boxing and powerlifting teams. The boxing team won eight of 10 bouts this fall, with two boxers named Most Outstanding Boxer, while three cadets placed in the Mid-Atlantic Open powerlifting competition.

Two members of the boxing team were invited to fight at the New York Athletic Club Collegiate Boxing Invitational Nov. 21. National champion Todd Wilson '06 (at 139 pounds) and All-American Daniel Osborne '06 (165 pounds) were victorious in decisions over the U.S. Air Force Academy and the University of Las Vegas, respectively.

Both boxers, said Coach Kennon Kincaid '03, are "very competitive to win a national championship this year."

At the third annual All-Academy Invitational in Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 12, cadets Christopher Bernard '08 (139 pounds), Christopher Stolle '06 (147 pounds), Osborne and Michael Moorman '07 (185 pounds) won their bouts by decision. Timothy Smith '08 (185 pounds), in his first competition fight ever, and Daniel Petronzio '06 (147 pounds) lost their bouts. Osborne received the Most Outstanding Boxer Award.

At the Richmond Classic Nov. 14, Petronzio and Osborne won VMI's two bouts, over the University of Buffalo and The Citadel, and Petronzio received the Most Outstanding Boxer Award.

"They've had a real successful season," said Kincaid, who is in his first year as coach. The team is headed to regionals in March.

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Rats March to New Market

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

This year's Rat class rose early Nov. 20, for one of the defining moments of the Rat experience. The cadets marched 19 miles from Harrisonburg to New Market, with appropriate rest stops, in commemoration of the 80 miles marched to the Battle of New Market by the entire Corps of Cadets in 1864.

"I was elated when I completed the New Market march as a Rat," recalled First Class President Michael Pasquale, one of several first class cadets who addressed the Rats following their charge across the battlefield. "It was a difficult 20 miles for me at the time, for I had never done a march that far before. I think it's safe to say 90 percent of the Rats felt that way."

Foot marches of three, six and 10 miles, part of the New Cadet training program, have helped prepare this year's Rat class for the march, but the cadets got a sense of what that earlier class experienced.

"While the Rats are familiar with the [New Market] Battlefield



Rat members of the Pipe and Drum Band welcome the Rat Company to the New Market Battlefield. – Photo courtesy of Col. Tom Moncure.

from their orientation in early September," said cadet government advisor Col. Thomas Moncure, "this march provides them a feel for the conditions and discomforts encountered by the New Market cadets 141 years ago."

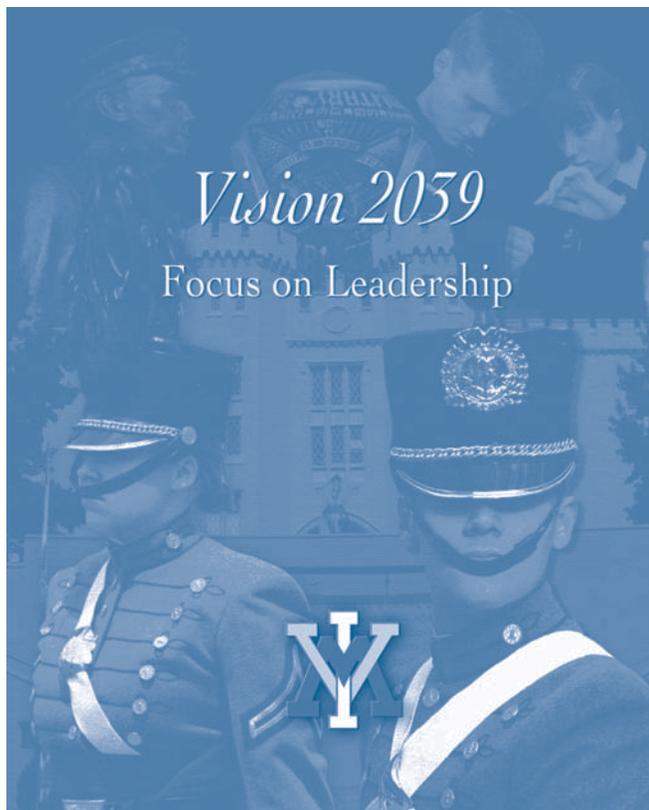
After the Rats honored those cadets in a charge across the battlefield, Pasquale spoke on the experience of that earlier Corps. "They marched 60 more miles and fought a victorious combat action afterwards," he said. "That is the true spirit of VMI."

Moncure said the march was first undertaken in 1999 to provide a unique training and team-building event closely tied to VMI's heritage.

Pasquale can attest to its success. The march, he said, "bonded us as a Rat Mass because it gave us something nobody in the civilian world has. We helped each other through trepidation and hardships. . . . We did not want to fail our Brother Rats."

Publication Describes Vision 2039

By Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis
Editor



Vision 2039: Focus on Leadership is a 24-page brochure published this month that describes the major elements of the initiative to ensure VMI remains a vital organization well into the 21st century.

Vision 2039's master plan aims at improving the academic, military, and athletic programs and the infrastructure of the Institute to enhance cadet leadership development and the environment in which it takes place. From Vision 2039 spring many initiatives and specific plans – from architects' drawings for new buildings, to refinements in the academic curriculum, to increased technology, to a Post on display that resonates with history.

The starting point for Vision 2039 is the list of 14 simplified descriptors. The brochure explains how scores of large and small undertakings flow from those descriptors and how they are guided by themes of commonality of purpose, synchronization, and integration.

The brochure, developed by the Office of Communications & Marketing, is in the process of being distributed to alumni, faculty and staff, cadets, and friends of the Institute. It is intended to provide an overview of Vision 2039, concentrating on the main themes and the institutional values that will guide development toward VMI's bicentennial in 2039.

College Bowl Finalists Prepare for February Events

By Wendy Lovell
Special Correspondent

The 24 VMI cadets who vied for coveted spots on the team to challenge Big South opponents in February weren't playing basketball. Literally they went head-to-head with their opponents in a game of academic knowledge and quick recall for a spot on VMI's College Bowl team.

A scrimmage and several practices stand in the way of final team selection, but the pool of players that came out of the November tournament are the winning team of third-class cadets Jonathan Walaski, Joseph Swearingen, Jeremiah Sexton, Andrew C. Williams and Joel Keneipp. First-class cadets Jonathan Everiss, Daniel Wilmoth and Jason Long are contenders, too.

VMI will host the first Big South Conference Quiz Bowl on Feb. 4.

"We hope this will be the beginning of a new tradition that bridges the worlds of academics and athletics," said Mike Crowley, an instructor in English and fine arts who advises the College Bowl team. "VMI, Radford, Liberty, Charleston Southern, High Point, and hopefully Winthrop are planning to take part. Birmingham Southern and UNCA cannot participate this year but hope to in the future, and we're still waiting to

hear from Coastal Carolina."

Following the Big South event, the VMI team will participate in the Association of College Unions International Regional Championship Tournament Feb. 24-26 at East Carolina University in North Carolina.

"The best preparation for the College Bowl is a well-rounded liberal arts education, but having a good memory for facts and very quick recall are helpful, as well," said Crowley. "Questions in a match come from all over the spectrum – literature, history, science, mathematics, politics, current events, even some popular culture. For a team to be successful, it needs players who can cover all of these areas."

Under the leadership of Chase Porter '05, VMI revived its participation in the College Bowl 40 years after its team appeared twice on the GE College Bowl in national broadcasts on NBC in November and December of 1964. More than 500 schools have competed in the College Bowl, which is an extension of the intercollegiate rivalries featured on radio and television in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

Cadets Participate in Dedication of Marshall Home

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

The VMI Commanders Jazz Band, a Virginia Military Institute cadet color guard and more than 20 other cadets helped dedicate the home of Gen. George C. Marshall during a ceremony Nov. 12 following completion of a six-year renovation project. The house, located in Leesburg, is owned by the George C. Marshall International Center.

The Commanders played for the colors presentation, then provided a steady stream of World War II-vintage Glenn Miller jazz tunes for two hours as visitors walked the grounds and toured the house, said band director Col. John Brodie. The Commanders also played the national anthem during the dedication ceremony.

Cadets served as escorts to dignitaries attending the event and as

ushers, "generally looking good and projecting a great image for VMI," said Brian Shaw, George C. Marshall Foundation development/communications director, who attended the event.

Renovation of the Dodona Manor house included exterior stabilization, interior restoration and conservation of the furnishings. The house has been restored to the period in the 1940s and '50s when the Marshalls lived in it. The restoration of the garden and grounds, still to come, is an official project of the Garden Club of Virginia. The house and four acres were purchased by the George C. Marshall International Center in 1995 with public and private funds including support from 11 of the 17 countries that participated in the Marshall Plan.



Route 11 Work Begins

Workers began working in front of Kilbourne Hall in December on a project to bury overhead utility lines, improve storm water drainage, and to prepare for renovations to the Kilbourne and to the adjacent football field. The traffic cones, which guide traffic to shifted lanes, will be in place until next fall. – VMI

Photo by Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis.

Cadets Rehab House

Continued from page 1

for some of the renovations. The condition of the house, said Morgan, was "horrible," but with one phone call to VMI the situation began to change dramatically.

Cadet in Charge Shelly Mackall '06 worked with the S-7 staff to arrange volunteers. "Lieutenant Colonel Gary Levenson pretty much asked me if I could get a couple of volunteers together for the first weekend," said Mackall, who has worked two weekends on the site herself. "The one weekend turned into two months."

Cadets gutted the house, removing drywall, wiring, plumbing and "loads and loads and loads of trash," said Morgan. "They've been so excited about this, and when they work they're so professional," she added.

When work began in October, the weather was quite hot, said Morgan. "I had to beg them [the cadets] to take a break."

On a recent Saturday, between 30 and 40 cadets, including Stenger and Cadet Joe Cassin '07, were on the site and hard at work. "I think it's a great chance to help out," said Cassin, who also returned to work at the house after his PTs were finished. "I felt really sad about what happened down South."

For many cadets the project has been a learning experience. Though Cassin has some experience with hanging drywall, he said he had never done the prepping and "mudding" process to prepare it for painting. He also helped take down the old drywall and repair the framing.

Stenger, who has participated every weekend except those taken up by drill and spent evenings working at the site, helped with the drywall

and a number of other projects. "We removed a lot of trees and shrubs, which were overgrown all over the house and surrounding property. ... I also helped with the insulation for the house. ... Installing drywall has been the biggest task ... and the most tedious and frustrating."

Stenger, who has worked in construction and HVAC, was well prepared for the project. Still, he said, "even though one has had experience or skills, every job site is different and poses its own unique problems and challenges. Since I had skills in these areas, helping to teach others or supervise them to ensure maximum efficiency proved to be a great learning experience in social interaction and leadership."

Stenger has also been working with Washington & Lee University student Blair Bowers to create a PowerPoint presentation on the project that was presented at a Dec. 5 Rotary Club meeting.

"I feel wonderful and lucky to be part of this great project," said Stenger. "It is fulfilling to see the fruits of our months of hard labor making an abandoned, neglected house habitable once again."

Working on house has been much more fulfilling than spending penalty tours marching, said Cassin. "I was really happy when I heard about it. I wanted to go down [South] and do something. .. I'd like to extend a welcome to the family that's moving in."

A formal welcome for the family will take place Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. on the 400 level of Lejeune Hall at VMI. Morgan said a band will play at the party, which will be attended by McNair, community sponsors and cadets.

"This house would not be happening but for the cadets," concluded Morgan. "They've done all the work."

Ring Figure Highlight for Second Class

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

A yearlong effort by the Virginia Military Institute Class of 2007 Ring Figure Committee culminated Nov. 17-19 with the annual class dinner Thursday, ring presentation and ball Friday and football game and hop Saturday.

"We have been doing a lot of work over the past year or so to prepare for this event," said Cadet Michael Lloyd, Ring Figure chairman. The Ring Figure Committee was selected in September of 2004, he said, and has been hard at work with Col. L.E. Hurlbut, assistant commandant for Cadet Life, and Monika Dickens, executive secretary in the Office of Cadet Life, to create a successful event.

"It's tough to explain the magnitude of the project," said Class Historian Addison Palanza, "because as a Ring Figure committee you have to get permission for certain things, which requires permits, research, and logistical reasoning. You also have to gain a class consensus for most things."

Essential to the project, said Palanza, is "a large fund-raising effort" in which all class members take part. Heading up the effort this year were cadets Robert Payne and Tabitha Pinter, who oversaw sales of concessions at football games, T-shirt sales and class members' work at other events.

In addition to the costs of the major events of the weekend, said Palanza, fund raising must also cover costs including hotels, tent parties, security, rings, class gifts and gifts to guest speakers. "I'm not sure of



A cadet and her escort arrive at the Ring Figure Ball. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

the exact cost of Ring Figure," he concluded, "but it's high."

"By the time Nov. 18 gets here, most people in the class have helped out in more than one way," said Palanza. "Without total support from the class and the administration, Ring Figure wouldn't be possible."

Ring design was headed by Cadet Maury Denton. Class Vice President Richard Meredith Jr. said the Class of 2007 ring details the accomplishments of the class and the values of VMI. "It represents brotherhood, honor, and, most importantly, the spirit of VMI," he said.

Meredith said the class was "very excited" to be wearing the Old Corps White Blouse to the ball. "Ring Figure is a great time to bond with our Brother Rats. ... It's a milestone in our cadetships."

In addition to planning, cadets participated in training, including dance lessons, rehearsals for the ceremony and ball, and briefings on issues related to large social events, such as sexual harassment and alcohol consumption.

Hard at work on preparations in the month leading the event, Meredith said all class members were looking forward to the ring presentation and ball. "The football game versus the Citadel on Saturday made our Ring Figure weekend even more memorable," he added.

"It was a fun weekend that will surely be remembered for the rest of our lives," concluded Lloyd.

Fighting Terrorism

Continued from page 7

Group Inc., a Washington-based international security and political risk consultancy firm. Larry C. Johnson, former CIA analyst and deputy director in the U.S. State Department's Office of Counter Terrorism, is CEO and co-founder of BERG Associates LLC, an international business-consulting firm that helps multinational corporations and financial institutions identify strategic opportunities, manage risks and counter threats posed by terrorism and money laundering.

Johnson said he was impressed by the Institute and the potential for leadership in VMI's cadets.

"What separates people like you from those at conventional universities is that you live by a code of honor," said Johnson, "The pressure put on intelligence analysts is tremendous, and we need people like you who are committed to these fundamental principles to lead our country."

Johnson said the number of terrorist incidents around the world was in a decline prior to Sept. 11, 2001. The number began to rise after those attacks and spiked following the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"In 2004, the number of terrorist attacks marked a first historically," he said, rising from 208 to 700. "The United States cannot stand too

much more 'progress' like this. Those of you who go into the military will have job security because our presence in Iraq remains a recruiting tool for *jihadist* groups."

Lang trains U.S. government and other personnel to operate in Muslim countries. He criticized the government's lack of understanding of Iraq prior to the U.S. invasion.

"A lot of false assumptions were made about Iraq," he said. "The first is that Iraq is a nation state, and it is nothing like that. The people of Iraq identify themselves on the basis of clan, tribe, village and religion. The one-person-one-vote theory is a nice concept, but it gives the impression that we are out to do away with their identity."

Lang added that the United States needs to shift its focus from combating the terrorists themselves to their supporters.

"Guerrillas cannot exist without popular support," he said. "They need help with food, shelter, warning and transportation to continue to exist. You've got to kill the support for the movement, not just kill people, and this will require more money and troops to make it work."

Larger Glee Club to Represent VMI

By Sherri Tombarge
Special Correspondent

It's been a renaissance.

Fourteen VMI Glee Club members last year turned into 40 this year. With more members, the Glee Club may be singing a little louder, but thanks to 10 female members, it is singing an entirely new, expanded repertoire, including mixed choir selections.

Other firsts this year include an appearance with the VMI Regimental Band during the Nov. 11 Founder's Day Convocation, where the choir sang Wilhousky's setting of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The success and rebirth of interest in this year's Glee Club may be credited to the enthusiasm and dedication of the cadet vocalists, said Col. John Brodie, newly appointed director. "The cadet officers of the Glee Club have been the foundation of the unit, particularly



The VMI Glee Club. — VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

the president, Sean Loman '06; historian, Doug Aloisio '05; and secretary, Berit Oftedahl '06. These three handle all the important details — rehearsals, recruiting, and logistical support. Without them we would not have a Glee Club," said Brodie.

Memorized works the club has performed this semester include classical and popular selections, holiday favorites and a new arrangement of "Shenandoah." The club has performed on Post during Parents Weekend, the

Senior Military Colleges Conference, the Institute Society Dinner and the Clarkeson McKenna Reunion event.

With holiday performances behind it, the choir will perform in New York City and Richmond this spring and give concerts at VMI for New Market and Finals events.

Equity Committee Marks Successes in 2005

By Lt. Col. Stewart MacInnis
Editor

A post directory that includes all employees, a workplace climate survey, and a new Web site are among the recent accomplishments of the Institute's Equity Committee, illustrating the high-level attention being paid to the committee and its work in supporting employees.

"The superintendent wanted to raise the level of the committee to answer directly to him," said Col. Walter L. Chalkley '72, chief of staff and chair of the committee. "He felt it was necessary for all employees — full-time and part-time — to have direct access to the top level of the organization."

The result of that attention was a steady drumbeat of actions from the committee during 2005 that moved several long-stalled proposals forward. Chalkley said he expects that momentum will continue.

Col. R. Meredith Bedell, professor of English and the chair of the sub-committee that developed the workplace survey, said the committee has made a real effort to be active and to encourage constructive criticism and comments from employees.

"There was a sense in the Equity Committee that some issues that had been raised just weren't getting addressed," she said. "The survey grew out of that sense we had and our desire to get information on how employees felt about it." The results of the survey have been provided to the superintendent and will be addressed with the committee.

She said the committee is seeking out employees' views to detect issues early "so we can make a good situation even better."

Including the names of all employees in the post directory is an example of an issue that had resisted resolution until this year, she said. "I had never thought about it before it came up in the committee," Bedell said. "The result, though, is a much better publication."

The 21-member committee is charged with informing and advising the superintendent and the Institute Planning Committee on institutional issues, policies, and procedures related to equity. It also makes policy and procedural recommendations regarding the resolution of equity-related issues and problems. Each functional area at VMI is represented on the committee by two members, one appointed by the chief administrator over the area and one elected by the employees of the area.

"I'm pleased with the work that has been done by the committee members," Chalkley said. "We've got good people on the committee who are not shy about stating their opinions. That's exactly what we need for the committee to be effective."

The activities of the Equity Committee, a list of its members, and a means employees can use to relay concerns to the committee are included in the committee's new Web site (www.vmi.edu/equity/).

Focus Groups Help VMI Market to Prospective Cadets

By Sherri Tombarge
Special Correspondent

Five cadets entered the Communications & Marketing Office recently to take part in a new initiative to tell Institute officials what they think, what they like, what movies they see, what foods they eat, the music they listen to, and the words they use.

The five cadets made up the first of nine focus groups the office is conducting to collect what Communications & Marketing Director Col. Sonny Craven calls “psychographic” information – the usual demographic characteristics such as age, income, region, and household size combined with information about tastes, values, interests, and behavior.

“They were enthusiastic, very outgoing, very interested in our interest in them,” said Craven.

He is seeking to discover the likes, interests, and habits of the teenagers who are most likely to enroll in VMI so the office can direct its marketing efforts most effectively. The project has two goals: to support recruiting and to increase the value of the VMI brand and image, he said.

“While our office doesn’t have a direct recruiting mission, we do provide a supportive role to the Director of Admissions. . . . One of the responsible things when using taxpayer funds is to be able to account for every dollar you spend” and ensure it is used most effectively, said Craven.

“That awareness brings some finality to an issue we have right now – there are prospective cadets who don’t know what VMI is,” said Craven. “If we know our cadets frequent a movie four times a month, never read a newspaper, . . . maybe it would be more effective to put our VMI marketing funds in buying screen theater ads.”

There are also design issues. What should the ads say? How should VMI cadets be portrayed to appeal to prospective cadets? “We’ve got to . . . put our head in their game,” said Craven. “To do that, we’ve got to be there with them.”



Tia Byrd leads a focus group of cadets.

– VMI Photo by Burton Floyd.

And that’s just what Tia Byrd is trying to do. She is a 22-year-old employee of the Communications & Marketing Office who designed the focus group study. “Just a year ago I was in their same situation, just not at a military school,” said Byrd. “I was in their seat.”

Byrd researched the focus group process for the office and helped design a list of questions to pose to the groups. She is also a facilitator, posing the questions and drawing out answers. Joining her as facilitator is Maj. Amy Goetz, the office’s newly hired marketing

director.

With just one-third of the scheduled focus groups complete, the cadet profile that is emerging is still fluid.

Three focus group sessions were conducted before the holiday break; five more are scheduled to be completed by next March. A second series may take place later. Using focus groups to explore the thinking of particular groups of cadets is also being considered; sessions may be held with groups of all female cadets, all athletes, all rats and all academic superstars, said Byrd.

Sgt. Maj. John L. Neel, sergeant major to the Corps, is actively supporting the focus group studies by coordinating the participation of cadets.

The sessions are divided into three parts: Byrd first has each cadet in turn answer her questions. Then she has them identify the TV shows they watch.

“We’re actually going to place these commercials based on what they told us,” said Craven.

Byrd then shows the group TV commercials, posters and outdoor advertising samples. The cadets are asked to

respond to each.

“I was impressed by their composure,” said Byrd. “They were open; they were expressive. . . . It was interesting to see what they did,” concluded Byrd. “They’re just ordinary kids, but the difference is they are kids looking for a challenge.”

Among the information emerging from the focus groups are insights into these areas:

- ❖ What motivates cadets in their college decision.
- ❖ The advertising channels that had an impact on them.
- ❖ The types of leisure activities they engage in.
- ❖ The importance of the Internet in their college search and selection.
- ❖ Creative ideas cadets have regarding ways to attract future cadets.

VMI Celebrates Holiday Season

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

VMI Theatre's 10th annual holiday show "Stocking Stuffers," and Carols in the Courtyard opened the holiday season for cadets and community alike at Virginia Military Institute.

"Stocking Stuffers," was presented Dec. 3 and Dec. 4. It offered little holiday "gifts" of musical verse, plays and stories in celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah and the winter season. Performances were held on the upper level of Lejeune Hall.

The cast of cadets, VMI faculty and staff members and performers from the Lexington-Rockbridge community presented the humor, joy,

sadness and true spirit of the holiday season. Christmas with Santa Clause and celebrations at home, on the battlefield, in the snow, in the mountains, near Bethlehem and with rich and poor, old and young, grumpy and cheerful were featured.

Also on Dec. 3, VMI cadets and members the band participated in the Lexington Christmas parade.

Santa and an elf or two joined cadets and community for Christmas carols in the Old Barracks Courtyard on Dec. 12.

Navy ROTC Hails and Farewells

By Maj. Daryl Laninga, Contributor

NROTC VMI bids "fair winds and following seas" to Lt. Chad A. Hardt, his wife Alecia and son Will. A native of Aiken, S.C. and a University of South Carolina graduate, he joined the unit in November 2003 after a successful tour as a member of the *USS Louisiana*, a nuclear powered "Boomer" submarine.

He has served as adviser to third class and first class midshipman, instructor for the Leadership and Management course and Navy Leadership Lab, as well as Nuclear Power Representative and Summer Cruise Coordinator. Hardt's greatest contribution, however, was serving as the unit's administrative officer and medical requirements coordinator, two full-time jobs normally done by a senior enlisted Navy yeoman.

On Dec. 2, Col. Bill Grace awarded him the Navy and Marine Corps

Commendation Medal in recognition for his meritorious service as a member of the unit. Hardt and his family are next headed to Groton, Conn., for Department Head School before his next operational tour.

The unit "hails" Senior Chief Douglas A. Johnson, his wife, Christina, son, Joshua, and daughter, Kayleigh. Johnson, a native of Morris, Ill., enlisted in the Navy in 1987, and was trained as a yeoman. He has served in a variety of operational and staff billets at sea and on shore, notably as a recruit division commander at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

He is also qualified both as an enlisted aviation warfare specialist and enlisted surface warfare specialist. He will serve as the unit's administrative officer and medical requirements coordinator, as well as the senior enlisted Navy advisor to the commanding officer.

AFROTC Ends Semester With Awards

By Maj. Ray Marsh'88, Contributor

On Nov. 8, AFROTC Detachment 880 ended the semester's military training activities by celebrating the achievements of its cadets. The detachment presented the fall semester Commander's Award for Superior Achievement to cadets scoring the maximum 100 points on the fall semester AFROTC official Physical Fitness Test.

This semester's winners were:

First class cadets: Phil Hahn, Aaron Hawkins, Anastasia Kovarik, Therese Landin, Steven Parsons, David Rahl, Quentin Rohlfs, Paul Welsh, and Alex Williams;

Second class cadets: Ryan Benson, Vince Noel, Anthony Raffaele, and Jonathan Schmidt;

Third class cadets: Peter Borchelt, Tom Cunningham, George Flathers, Josh Hana, Jason Hubble, Don Mikes, Tim Neal, Dave Sullivan, and Ben Switzer; and,

New cadets: Matt Bradley, Reza Eftekhari, Taili Evans, Roxanne



Participants in the Air Force ROTC Awards program.

– Photo courtesy of Air Force ROTC.

Frank, Bill Hyatt, Rich Newkirk, Andy Rademaker, Brandon Stillo, Tyler Tucker, Albert Young, and Celine Ziobro.

Many of the commissioning first class cadets also received some much-anticipated news about their first assignments. First, those cadets being commissioned into non-rated career fields learned where they would be assigned this summer. Worldwide base locations ranged from Edwards Air Force Base, California, to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and RAF Lakenheath, England.

Additionally, three of our cadets learned that they have been recently selected to attend specialized undergraduate pilot training following graduation. These were first class cadets Chris Gathmann, Tom Moncure, and Colin Adams. This means that more than 90 percent of the eligible cadets got an aviation training opportunity as a navigator or pilot.

Col Jim Tubbs contributed to this article.

Army Cadets Dominate Ranger Challenge Competition

By Capt. Todd Pegg, Contributor

VMI Army ROTC cadets took first and fourth in this year's 4th Brigade's "Ranger Challenge" competition. The event took place Oct. 28-30 at Fort Pickett, Va., and included 29 teams from colleges and universities in Virginia and North Carolina.

This year's competition included a physical fitness event, a written land navigation examination, both day and night land navigation, a hand grenade assault course, marksmanship, a 10-kilometer forced road march, an obstacle course, and a surprise "Commander's Challenge" event, all rolled into a continuous test of teams' skill and endurance over a 30 hour period. The competition began Friday evening after the teams arrived at Fort Pickett and continued late into Saturday night. The weekend's events ended with an award ceremony on Sunday morning.

Gender-integrated teams of ten cadets represented each school. VMI



Teamwork was evaluated during the Ranger Challenge.

– Photo courtesy of Army ROTC.

fielded two teams, including: John K. Shillingburg '06, Kirk M Steiner '06, Kirby T. Smith '06, Anthony M. Menas '07, Troy R. Nold '07, Liam J. Gilroy '07, Nate A. McCall '07, Chris S. Nelson '07, Michael G. Pesano '07, Peter F. Kirkendall '07, Joseph P. Cassin '07, Ryan H. Steptoe '07, Nicklaus C. Franck '07, Matthew S. Hopchak '07, Benjamin B. Carlson '07, Catherine B. Zaremba '07, Roger C. Leonhart '08, Evan B. Roddenberry '08, Mackenzie S. Collella '08, Brittany J. Ray '08, Joshua H. Wilson '08, Jon S. Donaldson '08, and Jonathan S.

Tishman '08.

The team coaches were Maj. Tom Brashears '95, and Master Sgt. Jim Perdue. Also assisting the team in this year's competition were Capt. Todd Pegg '92, and 2nd Lt. Frank Dyson '05.

Army ROTC's Ranger Challenge is a nationally recognized competition at over 270 colleges and universities.

230th United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Maj. Daryl Laninga, Contributor

The commanding officer of Naval ROTC Unit VMI hosted the celebration of the 230th birthday of the United States Marine Corps on Nov. 10. The guest of honor was Sgt. Maj. Al Hockaday, USMC (retired), proprietor of the Shenandoah Attic and former sergeant major of the Corps of Cadets.

Also attending were the cadets of the NROTC Midshipman Battalion, active duty ROTC staff, VMI and VWIL faculty and staff, and military retirees from the Lexington area. In all, 186 people participated in the ceremony at Evans Dining Hall on the campus of the Washington & Lee University.

Cadet Elijah Huston '07, the ceremony's adjutant, read the birthday message issued in the last century by Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, 13th commandant of the Marine Corps and 5th superintendent of VMI. The message begins: "On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date, many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them, it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the Birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history."

The ceremony's narrator, Cadet Anthony Macrini '08, read the



Col. Bill Grace presents Sgt. Maj. Al Hockaday with a piece of the Marine Corps birthday cake. – Photo courtesy of Naval ROTC.

birthday message from today's commandant of the Marine Corps, General M.W. Hagee, part of which noted, "This past year has been one of continuous combat operations overseas and distinguished service here at home – a year of challenges that have brought out the very best in our Corps... Across the full spectrum of operations, you have showcased that Marines create stability in an unstable world, and have reinforced our Corps' reputation for setting the standard of excellence."

Col. William Grace presented the first piece of the traditional birthday cake to Sgt. Maj. Hockaday. The next piece of cake was given to the oldest Marine present, Lt. Col. Nate Adams, USMC (retired). The third piece of cake was presented to the youngest Marine present, Cadet Taylor R. Herring '09.

The Ball's project officer, Capt. Joseph M. Garaux, and the NROTC Chapter of the Semper Fidelis Society were largely responsible for the evening's festivities. Ms. Janet Hermanson, Gunnery Sgt. Michael Johnson, members of the NROTC staff, and the NROTC Midshipman Battalion ably assisted in organizing the event. Music was provided by the Brass Quintet of the VMI Regimental Band led by Col. John Brodie.

Rugby Team Serious About Competition

By Sherri Tombarge, Special Correspondent

Something's up in club sports, and it just might be the rugby team.

"We have a group of young men who've gotten serious about the sport," said Lt. Col. Joe Irby '85, assistant coach.

Last year the team did something it hadn't done since 1984: it did well enough in state competition to compete in regionals. And having lost only two games this season, this team is headed to regionals again.

Though the team won its quarter-final round at last year's regionals, injuries and an absentee took a big bite out of the starting lineup, and the team fell in the semifinals.

Head Coach Wayne Howe, Irby, and Justin Woulfe '06 all agree that this year's regionals, which take place in March, will be different.

"We've got greater depth," said Howe, "much greater depth."

This year the team started out with 42 players, said Woulfe, 12 more than the approximately 30 that are more usual.

"We're planning on going further than last year," said Howe. If the team wins at regionals, it will go on to national competition in May. "I think we've got a real shot."



VMI rugby's Pat Johnsen '07 pushes past Virginia Tech defenders in the team's march to the regional playoffs. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.

Woulfe thinks Howe's optimism is well placed. He pointed out that this year's team has beaten teams from Radford and Virginia Tech.

"These are teams we didn't win against last year," said Woulfe. At Radford, rugby is their football program, and Tech is always a powerhouse."

Tech is a "perennial" Division I state champion, said Howe. "We climbed our way through Division III to get to Division II, and now we're at the top of Division II. . . . The long-term plan is to be a recognized rugby program in America."

Part of the success of the team is its determination.

"These kids come out and they train hard,"

said Howe. "We gain respect from the administration because we're serious." He pointed out that VMI provides better support than many colleges to its rugby team.

The team has earned that support. "About half of them [team members] have a 3.0," said Irby. One is on the Honor Court, several are on ROTC scholarships and several hold rank.

Cadets Excel

Continued from page 8

Kincaid credits Gordon Calkins, who recently retired as head of the Physical Education Department, with much of the team's success. "He definitely still serves as our Yoda," said Kincaid.

But there's a lot of hard work going on as well. "What the guys have really proved this year is no one fights with as much heart as VMI guys," said Kincaid.

Cadets Hun-Lang Jin '06, Glyn Phillips '08 and Brad Bascope '06

were part of the first team to represent VMI in powerlifting competition in five years when they competed in the Mid-Atlantic Open Oct. 29 in Stanardsville. With Jin and Phillips earning first place and Bascope second, they represented VMI well in the competition, which had 55 entries.

"The club made a great showing," said Coach Capt. Eric Spath. "I expect their abilities and class conduct to set a precedent at any competition they enter."

