VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

The Institute Report

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VMI to Host Superintendent's Official Welcome

The 14th Superintendent of VMI will receive his "official" welcome on September 16 at 11:30 on the VMI Parade Ground. **General J.H. Binford Peay III '62**, who began his full time duties on July 1, will be honored with a parade and a reception.

"This is the VMI version of a presidential inauguration held at many colleges and universities across the country," said VMI Director of Communications & Marketing **Colonel Ken White**. "The inaugural committee felt a parade was the most appropriate way to officially welcome General Peay."

The parade will begin at 11:30 where General Peay, along with VMI Board of Visitors President **Samuel B. Witt III '58**, will address those in attendance.

"General Peay's comments will serve as his first Corps-wide communication," said White.

Those invited to the event include representatives from colleges and universities in Virginia and elsewhere, area dignitaries, the faculty and staff of VMI and friends, family and associates of General Peay.

"The special guests of the day will be the Class of '62," said White. "The committee felt it was important they be invited to see their Brother Rat officially become our 14th Superintendent. A morning reception, arranged by the Alumni Association, for the Class of '62 is being held in the Marshall Museum."

Reserved seating at the Parade Ground has been established for guests from off-Post. Bleachers will be available for VMI staff and the general public.

All attendees are invited to a reception, which includes a receiving line, in Cocke Hall immediately following the event on the Parade Ground.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Cameron Hall.

Schedule of Events

9:30 a.m.	Class of '62 Reception in Marshall Museum
10:30 a.m.	Seating of the Guests Begins
11:20 a.m.	Faculty Procession
11:30 a.m.	Welcome Parade
1 p.m.	Reception in Cocke Hall

*Faculty will meet in the Moody Hall Activities Room at 10:50 a.m. for robing.

VMI Receives High Marks From U.S. News & Princeton Review

All three engineering departments at VMI are among the best in the nation according to *U.S. News & World Report*'s 2004 edition of "America's Best Colleges."

The rankings, released last month, also placed VMI in the "top tier" among its 200-plus peer institutions.

The civil engineering department was rated 7th best in the nation among schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's. electrical engineering was rated 14th nationally, and mechanical engineering was cited as America's 15th best.

"I am delighted especially by the national rankings attained by all three of our engineering programs and the quality of colleges in which our new overall rank places us," said VMI Deputy Superintendent and Dean of the Faculty **Brigadier General Charles F. Brower, IV**. "There's still hard work ahead for us to realize our full potential, but it's also clear our progress is real and rapid."

For the third consecutive year, VMI was selected as the country's best national public liberal arts college.

"We are engaged in an exciting crusade for institutional excellence, and I would have been very surprised if the hard work and inspirational efforts invested by our faculty and staff had not made this kind of difference," said Brower. "It's also important to note the significant role the VMI

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Nobel Peace Prize Winner Challenges Corps

Elie Wiesel has won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Medal of Liberty. He has authored more than forty books and received over 100 honorary degrees. He is also a survivor of the Auschwitz and Buchwald death camps where many of his family members died.

Now a professor at Boston University, Wiesel came to VMI as the keynote speaker of the annual Academic Convocation in Cameron Hall where he challenged the Corps to improve the world and fight terrorism.

"Fanaticism is our enemy," said Wiesel. "It is the enemy of our culture. A fanatic doesn't ask questions, he has no uncertainties, he has no limits. Fanaticism is dangerous."

Wiesel told the Corps that while many positive events have occurred in the new century, terrorism and fanaticism have put a dark cloud over the world.

"The fanatic can't learn or share," he said. "The fanatic has no sense of humor. Fanaticism is all over the world and we must confront it. The answer to this enemy of our culture is education. Education is the major component in the battle against fanaticism."

He asked the Corps to utilize its education by leading society in the struggle against terrorism, fanaticism and prejudice.

"There is hope," Wiesel told the Corps. "You advocate hope. I am your partner in this quest."

Wiesel also told the Corps to make the most of their educational opportunities while at VMI. He explained that the cadets are students but, while they may not realize it, they are teachers as well.

"My teaching philosophy is to give and receive," he said. "Realize your teachers and I can give you our past but you can give us your future. Learn from each other in this community of learning."

Before initiating his challenge to the Corps, Wiesel began his speech by sharing his admiration of the American military. He told the story of how the first three people he saw when being rescued from the death camp were American soldiers.

"I have a great deal of gratitude toward the American military," he said. "Americans came to my rescue. How can I thank you?"

The audience laughed and applauded when Wiesel told the story of a visit to the United States Military Academy where a parade was given in his honor some years ago.

Elie Wiesel (second from right) after his speech. Also pictured are (from left): Samuel B. Witt, III '58, President of the VMI Board of Visitors; General J.H. Binford Peay, III '62, Superintendent; and Brigadier General Robert L. Green '67, Deputy Superintendent (Finance and Administration).

"The General turned to me and said, 'Mr. Wiesel, the parade is yours.' I had no idea what I was supposed to do with the parade!"

The Annual Academic Convocation is held at the beginning of each academic year to celebrate VMI and rededicate the Institute, its faculty and Corps to the ideals of inquiry and scholarship.

New member of the post police, Leonard Stewart is welcomed to the post by Colonel James Joyner '67 (left), Director of Auxiliary Services; and Larry Coffey, Post Police Chief (right).

In the September issue of Institute Report we inadvertently misspelled the name of Colonel Tom Baur '75. We apologize for the error.

The Institute Report

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Rats recite the Cadet Oath at ceremonies held at New Market State Battlefield Historical Park.

Soccer

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prise as a walk-on to the squad this summer.

Davis is truly excited about her last line of defense in Haley Gross, who was a two-time all-district goalkeeper at Dunbar and Paschal High Schools in Fort Worth, Texas. She also was a three-year member of the Olympic Development State Team in high school. "Haley will be a strong physical presence in goal for us," said Davis. "She will be the overall foundation for us at the defensive end. Her ability in goal will allow us to win games."

The Keydets have an 18-game schedule that features a hodge-podge of programs from Divsion, I, II, III and NAIA. Five Big South schools will be on the schedule to ready the Keydets for the full conference slate in 2004. The Keydets will also be facing seven opponents from the state of Virginia.

The 2003 season will be one in which the VMI women's soccer program learns about itself. With 12 of the 16 members of the team being newcomers new to the school and the program, it leaves a lot of room for growth. A new step is ready to be taken in VMI women's soccer and VMI women's athletics. Julie Davis and her team are excited about taking that step.

High Marks

Continued from page 1

Foundation and the Jackson-Hope Fund played in stepping up to support our academic programs in the midst of a debilitating fiscal environment."

One day before the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings were released, *The Princeton Review* named VMI to its "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges" list. That list contains the top schools in the six state region. One unique feature of the *Princeton Review* is its "Survey Says" section where the editors share characteristics of each school with the readers. "Classes are small, the school is well run, no one cheats and the instructors are good teachers," states the *Princeton Review* when rating VMI.

The *U.S. News* rankings are available on the publication's web site at www.usnews.com and on newsstands and bookstores. *The Princeton Review*'s "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges: 98 Great Schools to Consider," is available in bookstores now as well.

"To be cited in those two top publications means it was a good day for VMI and a portent of more to come," said Brower.

Seeking Parents Support

Parents, keep a window open onto your cadet's world at VMI by ensuring receipt of future issues of *The Institute Report* throughout the academic year. Simply by contributing to the VMI Parents Fund, using the enclosed post-paid envelope, you will earn a subscription to this news-filled monthly bulletin of cadet activities and achievements.

Plus, by supporting the Parents Fund you not only directly sustain and further VMI's distinctive cadet co-curricular programs, but also help us reach our goal of 400 participating parents during this fiscal year.

If you would like to learn more about the Parents Fund, you'll have an excellent chance in October when our Foundation staff of young VMI graduates and cadets undertake a calling program to many of our Parents. As current students and new graduates, they have a fresh and sharp perspective on cadet life at VMI. No doubt you'll enjoy talking with **Mike Gilbert '03**, **Will Gentry '03** or one of the cadets when they call to talk about the role the Foundation plays in your cadet's life during each year at VMI.

Yes, the Rats have settled into the routine on Post and are learning to balance rigorous academic demands with challenging physical, sport and co-curricular activities. Add the excitement of football weekends as VMI debuts in a new conference and you have a glimpse of how busy your cadet's days and nights likely are. Think back. That's college life at its best!

Do your part to support the full range of collegiate experiences your cadet deserves. Donate to the Parents Fund by sending a check in the enclosed envelope, mailing a check to Parents Fund, VMI Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 932, Lexington, VA 24450, or calling in a credit card payment to: Jane Dunlap, Assistant Director for Annual Giving, 1800-444-1839.

Academic Review

Bott to Receive Award From Water Environment Federation

Major Charles B. Bott '96, assistant professor of civil engineering will receive the prestigious Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal from the Water Environment Federation (WEF). The award will be presented during ceremonies held in October at the Federation's annual technical and education conference and exhibition in Los Angeles.

Major Bott, a member of the Virginia Water Environment Association, was selected for an article which he co-authored, "Investigating a Mechanistic Cause for Activated Sludge Deflocculation in Response to Shock Loads of Toxic Electrophilic Chemicals." Originally published in the May/June 2002 issue of *Water Environment Research*, the article addresses the issue of shock loading and provides a fundamental explanation for some of the deflocculation of activated sludge observed when toxic substances are present. Shock loading to biological treatment systems due to toxic discharges is a significant problem facing wastewater treatment systems. Industrial and commercial discharges can contain chemical compounds that adversely affect the biological treatment process. Such stress on the biological process can lead to plant upsets, poor performance, and even permit violations.

The Eddy Medal honors research that makes a vital contribution to the existing knowledge of fundamental wastewater treatment principles or processes, as comprehensibly described and published in a WEF periodical.

"This award not only recognizes the excellence and contribution of noted individuals, but of a whole community of public health and environmental professionals," said WEF Executive Director, Bill Bertera.

Bott and his co-author will be honored during WEFTEC.03, North America's largest water quality conference and exhibition. More than 15,000 of the world's leading water quality experts and some 800 companies featuring the latest in water pollution control technology are expected for this major event.

Hentz Active During Summer

While in Budapest on a Fulbright fellowship during the spring term, **Lieutenant Colonel James J. Hentz**, associate professor of international studies, was invited to give lectures in Germany at the University of Leipzig - "Africa and the 'New Regionalism:' A Cognitive Map for U.S. and Europe's Relations with Africa," and at Friedrich-Schiller-Universtat Jena, "The United States and Sub-Sahara Africa: The 'Other'."

During the first week of July, Hentz was in Durban, South Africa at the International Political Science Association meeting. He presented a paper entitled, "The Southern Africa *Security Order*: Regional Integration, Interdependence, and Security among Developing States," and was a discussant on a South African panel on Pretoria's Foreign Policy.

He has just published "The Paradox of Instability and Stability: China and the National Missile Defense" in volume 19, 2003 of *Defense and Security Analysis*. He has a chapter, "The Contending Currents of American Involvement in Sub-Saharan Africa," being published in *Africa in International Politics*, Ian Taylor and Paul Williams, eds. (New York: Routledge, forthcoming)and his completed manuscript, *South Africa and the Logic of Cooperation in Southern Africa*, has been accepted for publication by Indiana University Press.

Higher Ed Officials to Meet at VMI

VMI and Washington & Lee University are teaming up to co-host the fall meeting of Institutional Representatives (IR's) of the Virginia Network, Office of Women in Higher Education and the American Council on Education on October 3.

"The mission of the Office of Women in Higher Education and the American Council on Education Network is to identify, develop, advance and support women in higher education," said VMI Dean of Academic Support and Cadet Services **Colonel Susan Barr**. "The goals are to promote women's leadership in higher education and throughout society as a whole."

Major Carter Hopkins, assistant director of Career Services, is the IR from VMI. Institutional representatives are appointed by the presidents of their institutions. The IR's are charged with assessing campus climate, increasing the visibility of women on their campuses, disseminating information at their institutions and maintaining communication with the Virginia Network.

The keynote speaker of the event is Dr. Ann E. Alexander, president of Wytheville Community College. Alexander will talk about career paths, leadership within Virginia higher education and her association with ACE. Her presentation will be held in Lejeune Hall.

The conference will then move to W&L where a workshop for the IR's will be held. The group will return later in the day to the Institute for a reception hosted by VMI women faculty and staff.

Schreiber and Hyre Make Presentations

Colonel Henry D. Schreiber, professor and head of chemistry, and **Major Matthew R. Hyre**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering made presentations at the 7th International Conference on Advances in the Fusion and Processing of Glass. The July conference, which was held in Rochester, N.Y., was attended by over 130 scientists and engineers from 14 countries. The conference meets every three years alternating in sites in North America and Germany.

Col. Schreiber's paper was entitled "Using Additives to Control Color in Copper-Containing Glasses." The paper was co-written by Mary E. Stokes, a local student now at Presbyterian College, and Amy M. Swink, a Rockbridge County High School student.

Maj. Hyre's paper was entitled "Effect of Glass to Mold Heat Transfer on Glass Container Forming." The paper was co-authored by cadet Ryan Taylor '04.

Article by Brodie Published

Colonel John Brodie, director of the VMI Regimental Band, recently had an article published in the Rockbridge Historical Society Proceedings, which were published this past summer. The 14 page article, entitled "Virginia Military Institute's Professional Post Band, 1839-1947," chronicles the VMI Post Band which preceded the Cadet Band formed in 1947.

New faculty and staff (left to right): **Front Row:** General J.H. Binford Peay, III '62, Superintendent; Veronica Leal, part-time clinical counselor; Captain Sabrina DeVincenzo, assistant director of admissions; Sarah Nunneley, adjunct professor in English and biology; Major Leah R. Stands, assistant professor of biology; LCDR Michael J. Sebastino, Grants, Contracts, and Intellectual Property Administrator, Undergraduate Research Initiative; and Captain Kristin L. Galloway, assistant professor of aerospace studies. **Second Row:** GYSGT Luke J. Mercardante, assistant Marine officer instructor; Captain Jose A. De Varona '93, assistant professor of military science; Captain Susan J. Rabern, adjunct professor in psychology and philosophy; Preston F. Jones, adjunct professor of physics; Robert E. Burnett, holder of the Mary Moody Northen Chair in the Department of International Studies and Political Science; Captain R. James Cook, assistant professor of military science; Mohamed Taifi, professor of modern languages and cultures; and Major Pennie J. Ticen, assistant professor of English and fine arts. **Back Row:** Denise A. Freidhoff, adjunct professor in economics and business; Cliff Wade, assistant academic advisor for intercollegiate athletics; Major Brian P. Freidhoff, assistant professor of military science; Col. Malcolm Muir, Jr., holder of the Stanley Professorship in Ethics and Integrity in the Department of History; Brigadier General Lee D. Badgett '61, holder of the Wachtmeister Chair in Science and Engineering in the Department of Economics and Business; Major Charles B. Bott '96, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering; SFC William H. Goudy, assistant professor of military science; Benjamin Hutchens, instructor of psychology and philosophy; Major Dean M. Danas, assistant professor of aerospace studies; Major Mark A. Lloyd, assistant professor of political science.

New athletic staff (left to right): **Front Row:** Reed Heim, assistant football coach; Andrew Westhouse, ticket manager; Shannon Clancy, assistant women's soccer coach; John Hoffman, assistant athletic trainer; and Roger Williams, assistant men's soccer coach. **Back Row:** Chris Booth, assistant baseball coach; John Poindexter, assistant football coach; Cliff Wade, assistant academic advisor for intercollegiate athletics; Lauren Williams, graduate assistant athletic trainer; Keith Silcox, graduate assistant athletic trainer; Thomas Jones, affiliate athletic trainer; and Ted Leshinski, sports information assistant.

VMI's Center for Academic Success

The negative impact of academic "shock" on college freshmen can put them at risk for poor performance or academic failure, a precept that helps explain why 75 percent of colleges and universities, including the most selective schools, like Harvard, Stanford, and MIT, now provide a range of academic support programs to rescue those at-risk students. Saved by the help, retaining a student is less costly than recruiting another one. Academic centers are in the marketing mix to attract — and retain — better, bright, higher potential students.

But even the best high school students require new skills for the academic rigor of college. Different writing skills are required, the level of reading retention is higher, and outside projects, reports, and research assignments are the rule, not the exception. A new college student lacking the right skills will likely have academic difficulty; unfortunately, poor performance is common among freshmen.

VMI cadets — mostly Rats — can get assistance from the Miller Academic Center, its reputation to turn an "about face" on poor academic performance. The Miller Center serves more than 100 cadets at any given time, spanning the GPA and class spectrum, goals ranging from avoiding suspension, keeping a scholarship, to earning academic honors. Many cadets simply need new and improved skills for college.

The Miller Center, named for **J. Clifford Miller, Jr. '28** who initiated the Learning Enrichment Program at VMI in the 1990's, has a very high success rate. "We have a strong support network to help cadets meet VMI's rigorous challenges," says **Lieutenant Colonel Anna Crockett**, director of the Miller Center, "including their academic advisors, professors, the Writing Center, tutoring services, our peer mentoring program, and other resources from the Miller Center."

Although students entering VMI generally have a history of academic success, it doesn't guarantee they'll succeed in college. One new cadet reported spending an hour a day studying in high school to earn a 3.5 GPA, the same time at VMI earned him a .5 for the grading period.

Academic shock at VMI is predictable, but "VMI adds a culture shock that inevitably, and dramatically, impacts academic work," according to LTC Crockett.

The problem is that poor academic performance, left unchecked, starts a cycle of negative attitudes and reduced self-confidence, reinforced by low grades. The longer the cycle continues, the greater the difficulty to break it. Early intervention is critical. Taught a new set of skills as early as possible, the student reverses the cycle and sets the right course for long-term success. The Miller Center tracks GPA changes and reports there are increases over time. "We're not 'enablers,' or the place to go for a quick fix," says Lt. Col. Crockett. "We offer tools and a partnership, but results are determined by how these are employed and for how long. That's up to the cadet."

But, too many cadets struggle without asking for help. "Fortunately, we have faculty involvement to refer many of our cadets," Lt. Col. Crockett said.

"The Miller Academic Center has salvaged more wrecked undergraduate transcripts than any other single person or resource at VMI," said **Colonel Turk McCleskey**, VMI professor of history. "As I tell my Rats every year, the Center is run by two of the nicest people at VMI, Colonels Crockett and Ojure, so why not stop in and ask their advice?"

Still, about 10 percent of cadets are on academic probation at any one time and are, therefore, required to attend the Miller Center's "GRIT" seminar, emphasizing four themes: Goal-orientation, Responsibility, Initiative and Tenacity. "Consistent with the Institute's mission," Lt. Col. Crockett explained, "we encourage the development of self-discipline and self-responsibility."

"Students who are willing to invest the effort generally report their stress levels go down and their grades go up as a result of their partnerships at the Miller Center," said Crockett. "But, the Center is a resource for all students who want to improve their level of success in academics, including the one or two who aspire to become a Rhodes scholar."

"Our approach to academic support is holistic, integrating life skills and learning strategies in the context of the VMI culture," she says. The peer mentoring program case in point.

Inspired by corporate success with mentoring, the VMI Peer Mentoring Program was designed to meet the standards of qualifications required by the College Reading and Learning Association for International Mentoring Certification, or IMCP, which most colleges don't have.

Benefits of mentoring are well published in the private sector, but the positive impact of peer programs in the educational environment has gained recognition as a powerful link in the academic support network. Because mentoring contributes to the primary human needs of achievement and acceptance, the impact is reflected in motivation and behavior.

The peer mentoring program benefits three ways. For the mentored, the benefits are achievement and acceptance; for the mentor, a sense of contribution, personal esteem, interpersonal skill development, and good for the resume; for the Institute, the number of cadets on academic probation is reduced, persistence and retention are increased, and there is added marketing value.

Beginning its third year, the VMI Peer Mentoring Program has eight returning mentors and 25 in-coming 2nd and 3rd classmen. According to Lt. Col. Crockett, "We prefer a mentor who has overcome failure, or probation, at least, and achieved academic success," because they relate and advocate better.

Mentors must be rising 2nd classmen with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA or a 3.0 previous semester GPA with approval of dept. head. Strong communication, organization, problem-solving, and decision-making skills – in other words, the skills needed for academic success. Candidates are recommended by faculty and cadets, then selected by interview from among those who are qualified to apply. Mentors are trained and "mentored" by the Miller Center staff.

Additionally, the Center oversees the training and oversight of cadet tutors, mentors, and study group programs, working closely with faculty to identify and meet learning needs. The Miller Center offices are in 215 Carroll Hall.

Don't Forget!
VMI Calendar of Events on the web
http://www1.vmi.edu/eventcalendar

AFROTC Cadet Training Summer 2003

During the past summer, VMI Air Force ROTC cadets seized several opportunities to experience "crossing into the blue." Over 30 commission-pursuing cadets charged through and successfully completed Air Force field training, and some cadets took advantage of the multitude of other summer programs the Air Force offers to ROTC and Academy cadets everywhere.

Ten cadets participated in the Air Force ASSIST program, where they spent a week touring an Air Force base. Cadets **Jeff Bennett '06** and **Jennifer Fulton '06** both spent time at Vandenburg Air Force Base, Calif., which has a space-focused mission. Cadet Bennett highly recommends the ASSIST program to future classes. Cadet Fulton had an "awe-inspiring experience." She rode in a helicopter used to support missile launches, participated in law enforcement simulations and enjoyed meeting other ROTC cadets from across the country.

Cadet **Geoff Goldsmith '04** braved Combat Survival Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy. During his time at the academy, he learned water survival, evasion, and how to prepare and food in the wild.

Two other first class cadets attended a more focused and intense Air Force orientation known as "Operation Air Force". Their mission was to shadow officers in the career field they hope to pursue after commissioning. Cadet **William Simmons '04** plans to work in Air Force law enforcement as an Office of Special Investigations Agent. He spent a week with the OSI detachment at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and also managed to pick up a T-38 incentive ride along the way.

Cadet Mark Hamilton '04 tries out the C-130 simulator at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Cadet **Mark Hamilton '04** got a first-hand look at his future day-to-day life as an Air Force navigator with the 62nd Tactical Airlift Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. He was allowed to co-pilot and was exposed to flying with night vision goggles, with the help of **Major Mark Cumbee '90** from the 62nd.

Navy ROTC Setting Example

VMI and the ROTC departments have a unique relationship. While every cadet must be affiliated with a branch of service, several members of the Naval ROTC have decided to go up the hill and affiliate with the Corps of Cadets. Lieutenants Patrick Murphy and Nate Brown, who are Navy ROTC instructors, as well as Captain Craig Wiggers, a Marine Officer Instructor, and Gunnery Sergeant Luke Mercardante, assistant Marine Officer Instructor, are all members of the Commandant's Staff TAC and ATAC program.

The TAC and ATAC program was developed with the intent of providing leadership, mentoring and training to the Cadet Companies within the Regiment. Colonel Tom Minor, Commanding Officer of the NROTC Department, makes it clear to his department that the best way to lead and set the example at VMI is to get involved.

"Being involved on the hill gives us an opportunity to assist the Cadre and individual Cadets with their development as leaders," said Minor. "Bottom line, I requested this assignment to work with motivated young men and women who are more concerned with service to others than service to self. Additionally, it is a lot of fun." Wiggers, who has served in the fleet as a platoon and company commander, is currently the TAC for Charlie Company and advisor for the football team.

Murphy, the TAC for Echo Company has been involved with the Corps for almost 2 years. He brings fleet experience to his daily interaction with the Cadre and Cadets of Echo Company. He can be seen and heard on the 4th stoop through the long hours of Matriculation listening to the ideas and offering advice on training.

"I do it because I care. I want these cadets leaving VMI and entering the service or the civilian community using common sense as their guide," he said.

Brown also came to VMI with deployed experience and Virginia roots as a 1998 graduate of Virginia Tech. Brown is also the VWIL Liaison Officer, teaching Naval science at Mary Baldwin College, and has a broad impact as the freshman class advisor.

One of the NROTC Staff's most visible members is Mercardante, who was previously selected as the Drill Instructor of the Year at Parris Island Recruit Depot and meritoriously promoted to his present rank. He demonstrates tireless energy and boundless enthusiasm in the ranks of the Corps of Cadets.

"The first thing I ask Cadets, especially those that want to be officers in the military, is 'are you prepared to lead me?'," he said. I have a vested interest in their professional and personal development. I can only blame myself if I have had the opportunity to help a Cadet in the right direction and I pass it up."

VMI's objective of developing young men and women to become Citizen Soldiers is consistent with NROTC's purpose of training and educating future Navy ensigns and Marine Corps second lieutenants. The result of this VMI and NROTC relationship is found in the quality of the cadets who graduate each year, many of whom go on to serve with distinction in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Women's Soccer Wins First Varsity Game

Six years ago, the Virginia Military Institute opened its doors to women. Three years ago, a women's soccer club team was developed in hopes of attaining varsity status in the near future.

Just over a year ago **Julie Davis** was hired to become the head coach of the VMI women's soccer program, with intentions of it becoming a varsity program in the fall of 2003.

The fall of 2003 has finally come, and Coach Davis has assembled a group of 16 players and one assistant coach that she believes will be an incredible building block for the program.

Freshman forward Karen Bill controls the ball in the season-opener against Bridgewater.

That group got off to an great start on August 29, when the program hosted Bridgewater in its first-ever varsity contest. With the in-state rival Eagles in town to face the Keydets on a Friday afternoon, Patchin Field was absolutely electric with nearly 600 screaming fans. The Keydets didn't disappoint as they shutout the Eagles, 4-0, dominating the game in all aspects. Freshman forward **Colleen Redmond** scored three goals on the day and fellow freshman midfielder **Karen Bill** added one for the four-goal victory.

Two days later, the Keydets put on an encore performance, blanking Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 3-0 at Patchin Field. Redmond scored two more goals and freshman midfielder **Jorden Reed** scored her first goal in the Keydet win. Freshman goalkeeper **Haley Gross** did not allow a goal all weekend.

VMI lost its next two games to Division III power Rowan (6-0) and Mercer (3-0) in its first ever Division I contest.

Davis' forwards are junior **Jessica Stewart**, a standout with the club team for two years and Redmond, who transferred from Arkansas after one season. Davis recruited Redmond at Arkansas and is excited about her arrival in Lexington. "She brings a win-at-all-cost attitude and knows when to go to the goal," said Davis.

The Keydets feature four midfielders this year, with Bill the most offensive-minded of the quartet. Bill was a four-time all-district and two-time all-region selection at Tabb High School in Yorktown, Va. Bill is flanked by fellow freshmen Reed and **Raevon Pulliam**. Reed was a two-time all-district selection at Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, Va. "Jorden has a great deal of speed and quickness," said Davis. " She's a versatile player with a nose for the goal. " Pulliam was a teammate of Bill at Tabb, where she was a starting midfielder. Raevon has a great ability to recognize when to take risks and when to keep the game simple from the midfield position," said Davis. The team's central defensive midfielder is freshman **Vanessa Berrios**.

The Keydet defense is anchored by freshman **Hatley Clifford**, who was a two-time all-state performer at Carollton Christian High School in Plano, Texas. "Hatley is a very smart defensive player with a free spirit," said Davis. "She anticipates the ball very well and will solidify our defensive line." Sophomore **Jamaila Barrantes**, who played an integral part of last year's club squad will also be an important part of this year's defense. "Jamaila is a tyrant on the field. She solidifies an outside back position for us and I see her as a future leader of this program." Freshman **Melissa Arrington** and N.C. State transfer **Anastasia Kovarik** round out the defensive line. Kovarik played at Wake Christian Academy in Raleigh, N.C. and led her team to three state championships (2000-02). Arrington has been a pleasant sur-

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