the Institute Report

Virginia Military Institute
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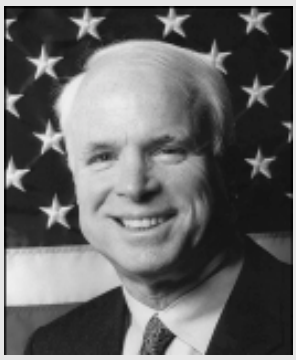
VMI Commencement Exercises – May 19

John-Henry J. Niederhaus



The Honorable John S. McCain

John-Henry J. Niederhaus, valedictorian of the Class of 2001, and The Honorable John S. McCain, U.S. Senator, will share the stage during VMI's commencement exercises in Cameron Hall on May 19 at 11 a.m.

McCain will speak following the valedictorian's address. Niederhaus was elected valedictorian by his classmates. See page 7 for more information on VMI's 2001 valedictorian.

Brower Appointed Dean of the Faculty

VMI Superintendent Major General Josiah Bunting III has announced the appointment of Colonel Charles Brower as Dean of the Faculty at VMI. Col. Brower, who will be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the regular army on his retirement from active duty in June, will assume his duties at VMI in July.

Col. Charles "Casey" Brower

Col. Brower brings a rich background of exemplary service, scholarly accomplishments, and leadership — both military and academic — to the dean's office.

A 1969 graduate of the United States Military Academy, he commanded an armored cavalry troop in the 23rd Infantry Division in Vietnam and was decorated for his service there.

From 1982 to 1984 he served as military aide to President Ronald Reagan, and he continues active involvement in Department of Defense initiatives, currently serving on the Army Chief of Staff's Blue Ribbon Panel analyzing army cultural and leadership issues.

Four years ago he was serving as deputy head of the History Department at West Point when the Superintendent selected him to rebuild the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, the position he currently holds, where he leads a staff of 52.

But it was principally for his scholarly attainments and work as an academic leader and administrator, and as a classroom teacher, that Col. Brower was selected.

Col. Brower holds a doctorate in history from the University of Pennsylvania with a specialty in foreign relations and strategy. He is an internationally recognized scholar of military history, who has concentrated on the last year of World War II. He has edited or co-edited three books, written a chapter in a fourth book, as well as a number of scholarly articles, and numerous reviews. This is impressive given that, at the same time, he has taught four sections per semester, served on numerous boards, and been faculty sponsor of the West Point baseball team. Col. Brower has contributed reviews and served as a manuscript referee for the *Journal of Military History* at VMI, and he will be a staunch supporter and articulate advocate for the journal.

A fine teacher, "Casey" Brower has taught the Naval War College's graduate-level course in Strategy and Policy during a year-long fellowship at Newport. His West Point course in Grand Strategy in the Twentieth Century, which he will continue to offer in the History Department at VMI,

Continued on page 2

Mr. Bill Bercaw of Charlottesville, a member of VMI's Class of 1948B, assists General Bunting in attaching a streamer to the A Company guidon designating that company as George C. Marshall Company. General Marshall was A Company Commander, a position in the 1901 Corps that also meant he was the First Captain. At the Finals parade in June 1947, Cadet Bercaw, commander of A Company, was presented the Garnett Andrews Cup by Secretary of State George Catlett Marshall. This event was part of the ceremony on April 27 that marked the 100th anniversary of General Marshall's graduation from the Institute.

Dean

Continued from page 1

is the most heavily enrolled elective in the Department of History.

"Casey Brower has the vision, the experience, and the credentials to move VMI's academic programs to a higher level," said VMI Superintendent Major General Josiah Bunting III. "I am confident we have the right man at the right moment to help make our academic reputation every bit as stellar as our reputation for molding character."

Brower has been married to his wife, Eileen, for thirty-one years. They are the parents of two sons.

Cabell-Breckinridge Brass Band to be Dedicated May 15

The Cabell-Breckinridge Brass Band, of the Virginia Brass Band Center established at VMI in November 1998, will make its debut on May 15 in the New Market Day Ceremony held at VMI.

Thanks to gifts from E. Cabell Brand '44 of Roanoke and his cousin Randolph W. Cabell of Clarke County, VMI has acquired nine over-the-shoulder brass horns of Civil War vintage. Cadets, under the supervision of Col. John Brodie, Band Director, have learned to play and march with the horns and will participate in the New Market Review. A brochure, explaining the significance of 19th Century brass bands, will be given to spectators at the parade, and the new unit will be dedicated just prior to the start of the New Market Day ceremony.

Brass bands were predominant in the mid-19th century and had a profound influence on the Civil War. Over-the shoulder instruments represented a very practical solution to a specific problem – getting the sound of the music of the band, traditionally at the front of the line-of-march, back to the troops behind. Later, brass bands played a major role in turn-of-the-century American life, where, in the days before television and radio, every town had a bandstand where people gathered for concerts.

Approximately 30 descendents of the Cabell family will be in attendance at the New Market parade including the benefactors of the Cabell-Breckinridge Brass Band. There are five bloodlines of the Cabell family, and eleven members of the Cabell clan fought in the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864. Commander of Confederate forces at the battle was Gen. John Cabell Breckinridge, who gave the order to put the VMI Cadets in the fray. A total of nine cadets of Cabell descent fought in the battle including Sgt. William H. Cabell, who was killed by artillery fire and died in his brother's arms.

The Institute Report

Editor ..... Burton R. Floyd, III
Supervising Editor ..... Col. Mike Strickler
Contributing writers/photographers:
Doug Chase
Chris Clark
Lt. Col. Chuck Steenburgh
Cadet Tony Conway '01
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http://www.vmi.edu/pr/ir/index.html

Telephone 540-464-7207
Fax 540-464-7443
E-Mail:vmireport@vmi.edu

Admissions Applications Break 1,400

Second highest in school history
Women applicants hit 100 mark for first time

An admissions trend that began in 1995 continues to break records at VMI. With some late applications still expected, VMI currently has received 1,413 applications for the Class of 2005, an increase of 14.9 percent over last year which was the best showing in two decades. Since 1995, applications have increased more than 56 percent. Only VMI's Class of 1969 had a larger applicant pool with 1,525.

VMI Superintendent Major General Josiah Bunting III expects that record to eventually fall. " I think that these continuing increases, which I believe will double our applicant pool of 1995 in a year or two, testify to two things," noted Bunting. — "VMI's determination to go its own way and to continue to the things it does best, without compromise, apology or hedging and secondly a growing desire out there in Generation Y or whatever you want to call it — for a much larger, more comprehensive challenge, than an academic education alone will provide."

VMI's current capital campaign, announced in October 2000, has raised $125 million toward a goal of $175 million focused first on academics but also the co-curriculum and intercollegiate athletics. " Some schools talk about the 'whole man or woman'; we really focus, full time, on educating for leadership, for character and self-discipline, as well as providing a superior academic education," added Bunting.

VMI has also hit the century mark for first time in women applicants. The current number is 100 with the previous high of 91 for the Class of 2001. The admissions office has accepted 780 men and 79 women for a class size expected to be approximately 415.

Carter Selected as Fulbright Scholar

Brett Carter

First Classman Brett Carter still shakes his head when he describes a recent trip to his VMI mail box, where he found an anxiously-awaited letter.

"I think I read the first two lines and dropped it," Carter admitted sheepishly. "My roommates must have read it to me 10 times before I could read it myself."

The stunning news Carter received was not from Publisher's Clearing House, but rather notification of his selection as a Fulbright Scholar. Administered by the U.S. Department of State, the highly prestigious Fulbright Student Program selects graduating seniors and young professionals to study and conduct research abroad. Considered the U.S. government's premier scholarship program, the Fulbright Student Program is extremely competitive; over 4,000 of the nation's best & brightest undergraduate students compete for 960 fellowships. Carter's submission to study human rights practices in Senegal was one of only 50 fellowships to Africa chosen from nearly 300 submissions.

Established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress, the Fulbright Program is intended to foster mutual understanding among peoples of the world by promoting educational and cultural exchanges. The program encompasses post-baccalaureate, post-doctoral, and teacher exchange programs as well as fellowships to bring mid-career professionals from around the world to the United States for study. While a number of VMI faculty members have been awarded Fulbright post-doctoral fellowships in recent years, Carter is the first cadet to be so recognized since 1985.

An academically-distinguished international studies major from Virginia Beach, Carter was traveling through Europe and north Africa in the summer of 2000 conducting an independent study project when he read an article on human rights in the west African nation of Senegal in the International Herald Tribune. The contrast of Senegal's positive human rights record with those of other west African states dovetailed nicely with Carter's own experiences in north Africa and studies at VMI. Encouraged by VMI professors and alumni, this interest quickly burgeoned into an ambitious research proposal. "The elegance with which it all fell together was astounding," Carter noted.

Carter's interest in human rights, and in north Africa in particular, were piqued by a summer spent in Morocco under the auspices of VMI's Office International Programs in 1998. "I went to Morocco simply to gain a few required French credits," admitted Carter in his Fulbright application essay, "but&ldots;I received perhaps the most meaningful experience of my life." It was during this foray into a foreign culture that Carter realized the relative opulence of his own American middle-class background when compared to those living in developing nations. The experience "...profoundly changed the way I perceive my place in this world," Carter went on to explain.

Carter brought this perception with him back to VMI, where he labored to help improve the "human rights" climate for VMI cadets. A member of VMI's first co-educational class, he immersed himself in VMI's assimilation efforts, founding a committee to encourage open discussion of gender-related issues among cadets. As a member of the Officer of the Guard Association (OGA), he has acted as counsel for cadets accused of disciplinary infractions and has investigated past disciplinary cases to ensure fairness in verdicts. He is also working to establish the concept of a cadet defense counsel for VMI's Honor Court. This exceptional record of involvement in VMI's co-curriculum is matched by Carter's academic record, where he maintains a grade point average above 3.5 with a double-major in international studies and modern languages. Just to round things out, Carter is also a standout on the VMI tennis team, which he co-captains this year.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Carter will spend the year following graduation from VMI this May in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. He has already established relationships with humanitarian organizations operating in Senegal, as well as the Universite Cheikh Anto Diop de Dakar. His research plans also anticipate the need for a trip to France to research colonial records maintained in that country. Carter hopes his research will be of value in ongoing international efforts to improve political stability and human rights conditions-often mutually exclusive goals on Africa-by members of the international community in neighboring west African nations.

VMI professor of history Bruce Vandervort, a noted authority on colonial Africa, had this to say of his student's achievement: "I was delighted but not surprised to learn that Brett Carter had won a Fulbright Scholarship to carry out research in Senegal. He is an exceptional young scholar and a fine young man of whom we are destined to hear much in the future. But his Fulbright, as I think Brett would be the first to recognize, is not his alone: his achievement is also a triumph for all those at VMI—students, faculty, administrators—who have always believed in this school as the kind of place his award demonstrates so clearly that it is: a liberal arts college of national, and now international, standing."

Carter intends to follow his Fulbright Fellowship with a two-year stint in the Peace Corps, where he plans to continue his study of African society and culture. His long-term goals include interest in Harvard Unversity's joint JD-MA degree program in international law and human rights.

Perhaps Carter himself summed up his motivation best in the conclusion to his Fulbright application's personal essay: "...that as pleasant as sizeable incomes or opulent houses are, there is absolutely nothing that can replace the intrinsic gratification of helping the person next to you." Brett Carter will certainly leave VMI this May to enjoy a most gratifying career.

Passage to Morocco

VMI and the National Council on US-Arab Relations Jointly Sponsor Intensive Arabic Language and Culture Program

VMI and the National Council on US-Arab Relations recently announced their joint sponsorship of Passage to Morocco, an intensive Arabic language and culture program based in Fez, Morocco. The program begins with a two-day pre-departure orientation in Washington, DC. During the orientation students will visit the Embassy of Morocco and receive briefings on a variety of pertinent topics from high-level diplomats, policymakers and academics. The in-country program will consist of six weeks of formal instruction conducted in the city of Fez.

Amongst the great centers of Islamic/Eastern civilization (Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, and Jerusalem) Fez is the most well preserved, having never been destroyed by either war or natural disaster. Fez has long been known as the "Intellectual Capital of Morocco," and prides itself on its status as a historic and hospitable city. Founded in the 9th Century AD the old medina remains much as it was centuries ago when students began flocking there from around the world in search of knowledge. It is recognized by scholars worldwide as the best preserved and only truly functioning "Islamic City."

The six-week academic program consists of intensive Modern Standard Arabic study, cultural diversity exploration through homestays, interdisciplinary lectures in English, and field trips to historical and cultural attractions. Students can earn up to nine semester credits; six semester credit hours (120 contact hours) in Modern Standard Arabic and three semester credit hours in History for a course entitled, "The History and Culture of Morocco." In addition to formal language instruction all students will receive 10 hours of instruction in "Survival Moroccan Arabic." The academic program is, followed by a week-long excursion to Marrakesh, the surrounding High Atlas Mountains, and the coastal fortress of Essaouira.

Previously, VMI and the National Council offered similar but separate programs in Fez, Morocco. In an effort to maximize the potential economy of scale and increase the academic exposure of the program, Dr. John Duke Anthony, VMI '62 , President and CEO of the National Council and LTC Dale R. Davis, Director of International Programs at VMI, discussed the joint sponsorship initiative. The proposal was submitted to both the VMI Board of Visitors and the National Council's Board of Directors and won unanimous approval. Dr. Anthony recently expressed his pleasure with the arrangement, " Few countries combine such an extraordinarily rich array of culture and heritage and a role in history as Morocco — the first among nations to recognize the United States when George Washington was president and our republic was in the fledgling stages of its infancy. In this, as in many other attributes, Morocco, a long-standing ally, is an absolute gem. To be able to offer young people an opportunity to immerse themselves in its culture and come to understand the genuine warmth and hospitality of the Moroccan people thereby creating greater mutual understanding and appreciation is the very essence of the National Council's mission."

Enrollment for this year's program has been particularly strong. Students from UVA, Washington and Lee, William and Mary, Howard University, Northwestern, University of Chicago, UC Berkeley, Michigan State, University of Montevallo, University of Massachusetts, and Loyola Medical School will be joining 11 VMI cadets.

LTC Dale R. Davis, VMI '82, serves as the Passage to Morocco Program Director. A former Marine Middle East Foreign Area Officer, LTC Davis is Director of International Programs and Lecturer of Arabic at VMI. Fluent in Arabic and French, he has worked and resided throughout the Middle East and North Africa and has extensive experience in Morocco.

Throwing Cage Dedicated to Memory of VMI Coach

A new state-of-the-art athletic facility at VMI was dedicated to the memory of VMI assistant track coach John M. O'Connor on April 20, during the 2001 Southern Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Lexington.

O'Connor, who had served as VMI's assistant track coach since 1992, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on June 29, 1999, while training for the U.S. Olympic trials. At VMI, O'Connor's primary responsibilities were in coaching both the men's and women's throwing events, as well as strength conditioning for the track and field teams at large. Under Coach O'Connor's guidance, VMI's track and field teams produced several all-conference performers and won numerous indoor and outdoor track and field conference championships.

A 1991 graduate of Kent State University, the Xenia, Ohio native twice earned Division I track and field All-America honors as a hammer thrower, was a two-time Olympic trials qualifier, and participated in three U.S. Olympic festivals. O'Connor was also a member of the U.S. team at the 1989 World University Games in Duisburg, Germany.

In attendance at the ceremony, held between the men's and women's hammer events, were O'Connor's wife Amy; daughters Carlin & McKenzie; parents Nancy & Larry O'Connor; sisters Brigid, Mary Alice, and Kathleen, and their families; brother Matthew; and numerous friends, relatives, and former VMI athletes whom he coached, in addition to dozens of competitors and fans attending the championships.

The towering steel-and-net throwing cage provides a safe venue for training, competition, and observation of throwing events. The inscription on the plaque reads "Dedicated to the Memory of John O'Connor, VMI Throws Coach. The Lord gives talent; it is for the individual to make it work." Contributions to the VMI track program in Coach O'Connor's name can be made through the VMI Keydet Club.

Daley Named Interim Head of Economics and Business

Col. William Stockwell, acting dean of the faculty, has named Colonel Edward V. Daley, professor and acting head of economics and business, to serve a one-year term as interim head of the Department of Economics and Business effective August 1, 2001.

Col. Daley earned his degree at Quincy College, then masters and doctorate at the University of Missouri. He taught business at Middle Tennessee State University for ten years prior to joining the VMI staff in 1981.

In making the announcement, Col. Stockwell stated that "we've been very fortunate to have his leadership in that department this year, under very difficult circumstances, and he has performed his duties admirably. I look forward to working closely with him during the coming years."

Two Cadets to Spend Summer in China

Cadets Andrew Smith and A. Leven Harrison, both rising first class mechanical engineering majors, were selected for this summer's Bechtel Engineering Internships. They will spend June and July in Shanghai working on real-world engineering problems and gain practical engineering experience with Bechtel Engineering International.

The internships are made possible through a grant from Bechtel. Pat Chang-Lo '66, President, and Jay Hoening '69 of Bechtel China, Inc. are sponsoring the cadets.

This is the sixth year Bechtel has offered the internships to VMI engineering majors. Cadets from all three engineering majors competed for the positions.

"English was good enough for Our Lord…s'good enough fer me."

A new state-of-the-art language lab brings high technology to the Department of Modern Languages.

A small college West of here (in one of those funny-shaped states, I think) just made headlines for punching out its foreign language program *and* a dozen or so foreign language professors. While we may not cry much over the fate of the latter – we all remember some old crocodile who made us recite those (useless) pluperfect verb forms with such evident relish – we ought perhaps to pause over the loss of the former. The president of that college, whose decision to terminate foreign language courses on campus in favor of overseas study *only* and *only* for those who elect such study carries all the more authority because he is a renegade foreign language professor himself, alleges *from experience* that you can't learn to speak another language in the classroom.

He may be right in that judgment. Learning to speak *is* a time-intensive activity, one to which most serious colleges devote four or five class hours weekly during a semester, often supplementing even that intensity with drill sessions or more recently with computer exercises. He certainly is right in his claim that speaking another language is best perfected *in situ*, over there. And he would be right in dumping foreign language classes…*if* speaking were the only objective in the study of another language or the only contribution of foreign language to the curriculum.

The place of language instruction in college curricula has been subject to periodic challenge over the decades, to periodic boom and bust as the fate of the nation and of the arts and sciences has evolved. Upon each occasion, however, higher education has returned to the twin facts of dwindling skills in student communication – to which instruction in foreign language (modern and classical) lends its *abstracted* study of the structures of speech – and of shrinking distances and increasing interdependence in the global arena – to which the discipline of foreign language addresses its penetration of *otherness* in culture through study of history, literature, civilization, business, religion, technology, political science *in the idiom of those phenomena.*

It may be a source of grim satisfaction to discover so many other nations learning *our* language, but we should not flatter ourselves that the universality of English (French was once the universal language, as was Latin) represents so much a tribute to *our* dominion – cultural or commercial – as an instrument for what will soon be *theirs.* The businessman who sits across a table and lets his foreign counterparts speak *his* language doesn't realize under what a psychological disadvantage he negotiates: in the first place, his adversaries have made the exhausting effort to accommodate him, an accommodation for which they now intend to make him pay; in the second, he learns from them exactly and only what they want him to know, upon *their* terms even if in *his* language. Our embassies are at times an international laughing stock – when they are not the international target – for their insensitivity to the language and culture of lands and peoples to which they present themselves in our name.

Unlike that college West of here of which I spoke, VMI has *re-established* a major in modern languages and cultures after a brief hiatus during which the Superintendent, supported by the Board of Visitors, has imposed an international dimension upon the VMI curriculum, installing international studies as an independent major, establishing exchange programs with foreign military academies, inaugurating overseas studies programs upon three continents, and encouraging study abroad for all cadets by administrative accommodations to make such opportunities easier of access. The Department of Modern Languages (which now includes "cultures" in its title) has examined its course of study from top to bottom, addressed in conclave with other departments its contribution to their programs, revamped substantial portions of its curriculum, and embarked upon a new direction drawing from its previously-acknowledged strengths but adding to them a new orientation toward the *practical* and *real world* application of language skills and study.

The department retains its service function, the vital one of hammering – in concert with colleagues in English – against standing deficiencies in communication brought forward among the arrears of secondary school preparation even among the best students: no language serves comfortably as both vehicle *and* objective of study, owing to the intimacy with which we regard our own speech. Yet, VMI cadets – proudly insular, nobly *chauvins*, fiercely traditional, and historically oriented toward the sciences and engineering – need the breadth and dimension offered by international studies, overseas programs, and modern languages and cultures. The department offers a strong program—stiff and demanding as suits VMI's ethos – supported by the use of technology and bolstered by the requirement to *complete, not supplant* classroom instruction by study or research out among the peoples and societies *now* the object of the instruction but *soon* to be neighbors in an increasingly cosmopolitan world. *This article is fourth in a series featuring VMI's academic departments.*

Twenty-Nine Honored at Awards Convocation

Col. Miller Receives Navas-Read Institute Professorship

Twenty-nine members of the VMI family received honors at the annual Institute Awards Convocation held Tuesday May 1st in Cameron Hall. Cash prizes accompanying the awards totaled $86,000, the majority funded by the VMI Foundation, Inc. In addition, grants totaling $6,500 were bestowed.

Among the honorees was Col. Emily P. Miller, professor and head of the Department of English and Fine Arts, who received the Navas-Read Institute Professorship in English Literarture. It marks the second time she has received the award, which was established in 1996. It includes a cash prize of $37,500 to be paid in annual installments over five years.

VMI Award winners (left to right). Front Row: Victor E. Zottig, Brett L. Carter, Karen M. Wheeler, Richard H. Donahue, Caleb A. Sylvester, Agung G. Saputra, Anthony P. Conway, Deffy Z. Mubangu, Kukuh Suharwiyono, and Andrew B. Rogers. Second Row: Col. Emily P. Miller, Lt. Col. Robert P. Bennell, Lt. Col. James T. Gire, Lt. Col. Robert L. McDonald, Maj. Atin Basu, Col. Alan Baragona, Cdr. John Riester, Col. Vonda Walsh, Lt. Col. Holly Richardson, and Emmett A. Campbell. Third Row: Lt. Col. Kathleen Bulger-Barnett, Maj. Karen Gutermuth, Col. Tappey Jones, Col. Ken Koons, Cal McCombs, Karlyos Hayslett, and John Camper.

Miller joined the VMI faculty in 1988 and was appointed department head in 1992. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from the College of William & Mary where she was Phi Beta Kappa, and earned her doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1983. Before coming to VMI she was an assistant professor at Wake Forest University and Washington & Lee University.

Her leadership within the department has been distinguished by fairness, efficiency, and common sense. She pioneered the development of the portfolio method of assessment which has been adopted by the English and fine arts department. In addition to teaching and serving as department chair, she was associate director of the last ten-year strategic self-study for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges.

Cadet evaluations have described her variously as "the best," "the hardest," "the fairest," and "the nicest" English professor on post. A widely knowledgable Shakespearean, one scholarly association has recently named her to be the coordinator for Shakespeare focus groups for future conferences.

The Navas-Read Professorship was instituted by the late Stanley R. Navas '41 to enhance the teaching of English literature at VMI through instruction in the works of William Shakespeare or other English authors. The professorship is named for four members of the Navas family; Stanley '41, Col. Manuel B. Navas, honorary member of the class of 1941; Col. Albert M. Navas '52; and Stanley R. Navas, Jr. '67; and Col. H.M Read '16 and Col. B.M. Read '41.

Distinguished Teaching Awards: These awards were presented to Lt. Col.Robert P. Bennell, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, Lt. Col. James T. Gire, associate professor of psychology and philosophy, and Lt. Col. Robert L. McDonald, associate professor of English and fine arts. Each carries a $3,000 prize and an additional $2,000 grant to be used for further academic growth. Lt. Col. McDonald was a 1998 recipient of the Matthew Fontaine Maury Research Award.

Distinguished Service Awards: Three members of the VMI family received awards for outstanding service to the Institute in their respective areas. Those honored were Emmett A. Campbell of building and grounds, John K. Camper of building and grounds, and Karlyos D. Hayslett, equipment manager for intercollegiate athletics. Each recipient receives a $3,000 stipend

Faculty Merit Scholarships: Established in 1982, these awards are presented to upper class cadets and are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired VMI faculty. Three awards, which include a $2,500 cash prize, are given in liberal arts, engineering, and science. The 2001 recipients are Richard A. Donahue, a second class history major from Winchester, Massachusetts for liberal arts; Caleb A. Sylvester, a second class electrical engineering major from Charlottesville, Virginia for engineering; and Karen M. Wheeler, a third class biology major from Buckingham, Virginia for science. Cadet Donahue also received the award last year.

The **Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award** was given to Maj. Atin Basu, assistant professor of economics and business. This award, which includes a $1,000 cash prize, is presented to an outstanding junior member of the faculty.

Col. Kenneth E. Koons, professor of history, received the Matthew Fontaine Maury Research Award recognizing the performance or promotion of research by a faculty member. The award was established by the VMI Research Laboratories, Inc. and carries a $1,000 stipend. Col. Koons was a 1990 recipient of the Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr.'26 Research Award.

The faculty/cadet team of Col. Tappey H. Jones, professor of chemistry, and first class chemistry major Victor E. Zottig from Purcellville, Virginia received the **Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr. '26 Research Award**. Created by the directors of the VMI Research Laboratories, the award recognizes superior achievement by a cadet in the performance of research and recognition for his faculty sponsor's effort to encourage cadet participation in such research. The award includes a $500 cash prize for each recipient. Col. Jones was the 1999 recipient of the Matthew Fontaine Maury Research Award.

The **Nathaniel W. Pendleton '22 Distinguished Coaching Award** was presented to Cal McCombs, head football coach. The award includes a $1,000 prize and a $500 grant for professional development.

The **VMI Corps of Cadets Distinguished Teaching Award**, instituted in 1998, was suggested by members of the Corps of Cadets and established and funded by the Office of the Dean. One recipient from each of the four academic divisions is honored each year and receives a $1,000 cash prize. Selection is made by the Corps. Faculty honored this year are: CDR John E. Riester, Jr., associate professor of civil and environmental engineering (engineering division); Lt. Col. Holly J. Richardson, associate professor of physical education (behavioral science and leadership division); Col. Alan Baragona, professor of English and fine arts (liberal arts division); and Col. Vonda K. Walsh, professor of mathematics and computer science (science division). CDR Riester has been honored for

Continued on page 9

Niederhaus Chosen as Class of 2001 Valedictorian

It was a very special school that First Classman John Niederhaus was privileged to attend beginning in eighth grade and continuing through his senior year in high school.

Only six students, three boys and three girls – spanning an age difference of 10 years – matriculated at this unique center of learning in Souderton, Pa. Small class size allowed each student to work at his or her own pace and broach a subject as thoroughly or as quickly as desired. Independent study and the development of self-discipline and consistent work habits were expected from all the school's students.

The school's administrative team in charge of curricular development, the immensely gifted classroom teacher, and his fellow students must have been very proud when they heard that John Niederhaus had been selected by his Brother Rats as Valedictorian of the Class of 2001.

Of course, they probably would have been proud if they hadn't had those "old school" ties with John. The administrative team is his father and mother; the wondrous classroom teacher is his mother; and his five schoolmates are his younger brothers and sisters.

"Being home schooled gave me a wonderful advantage," said the affable Niederhaus during a recent break between final examinations. "I learned early on how to work at my own pace. I was not limited in how far I could pursue a subject that interested me."

During his final two years of secondary school, Niederhaus took all his foreign language and science courses at a local community college. "That gave me some exposure to college level courses and also allowed me to arrive at VMI with some credits already earned," he commented.

The valedictorian's parents are Civil War buffs who included a stop in Lexington on one of their tours when John was 16 or 17. While visiting Lexington's Civil War connections, the Niederhauses made note of the Institute and told John about it on their return.

"It sounded cool to me. I was interested in the military, but I wasn't sure I wanted to get tied up in the time commitment that comes with one of the academies, so I came to visit VMI on an admissions open house weekend," he recalled. "I liked VMI and Lexington a lot. I applied for an Institute Scholarship. When I found out in November that I had been awarded one of the scholarships, I decided I was coming to VMI."

The adjustments from home to VMI were not without difficulty. "The rat line was tough," he recalled with a sigh and a smile. "I thought I knew all about it, but there were a lot of surprises. No matter how hard you tried, you could not please your cadre. I look back now, and a lot of it seems funny.

"It is an experience that certainly taught me to deal with diversity." Again, he paused and thought. " It's interesting; as Rats, we have to deal with lots of different authorities. We have to learn to balance authorities and priorities. In doing that, I know I certainly really connected with my Brother Rats. It was a truly memorable experience.

"My dyke, Brian Pearson, was great guy, who really made that experience more tolerable. We became fast friends, and I was a groomsman in his wedding last summer."

Many cadets would be pleased to report to parents and friends that he or she had made four B's on their report card last semester.

John Niederhaus has made four B's on his VMI report cards – in four years. The 2001 valedictorian, who will join Sen. John McCain (R-Az.) as primary graduation speakers in Cameron Hall at 11 a.m. on May 19, currently sports a 3.97 grade point average. His four B's came in boxing, wrestling, racquetball, and "Automation of Lab Measurement," which is a physics course he took last semester. Incidentally, no one earned an "A" in the course.

We have certainly touched on all that a successful cadet like Niederhaus can handle, right?

Hardly.

John was a four-year member of the cross country and track teams. He has traveled extensively as a four-year trumpet player with the Institute Band. He is one of the buglers for the Corps. He has served as a member of the Officer of the Guard Association. As a first classman, John was President of the Religious Activity Committee.

"John is a very humble person," noted Institute Chaplain Col. James S. Park. "He is multi-talented. When one does as many things well as John, one doesn't have to talk about it."

One does not have to search far to find others pleased at the opportunity to testify to John's multi-tasking prowess and unassailable character.

"We want to clone him," replied Lt. Col. Ross Thomas, associate professor of physics and astronomy. "He wrote the best senior thesis I've seen in my time here. John is also the best asker of questions I have ever encountered in any classroom. He's tremendous." Niederhaus will be attending graduate school in nuclear engineering at Penn State next year, which is also Thomas' graduate school alma mater.

Niederhaus recalled with great enthusiasm and nostalgia his four years as a member of the Institute's cross-country and track team. "I was always fighting just to stay on the team. It was a most rewarding experience, though. There was an incredible amount of work and time, but I could see myself making progress. Perhaps my greatest highlight at VMI was getting to go and compete in the NCAA regional cross country meet at Furman last fall."

Hearing the soft-spoken valedictorian tell the tale, it sounds like a good story. When Brig. Gen. Michael Bozeman, USAR, head track and cross country coach, a man not given to idle hyperbole, tells the tale, it becomes a fantastic story.

"Athletes with John Niederhaus' character and work ethic make coaching fun. If our physically gifted athletes worked as hard as John, we would never, ever lose again," Bozeman stated flatly. "He didn't come here with great athletic ability, but he wanted to try out for the cross country team. We kept him because his work ethic was so compelling. He was in the band, and we worked that out with John Brodie as we try to do. He kept training and training. Each year, he kept inching up the team ladder.

"This past fall, John accomplished something that is absolutely unheard of in the running world. In every cross-country competition we ran, he recorded a personal best time. Every single meet, John topped his personal best. That is flat-out incredible. He is focused in every aspect of his life. He is the epitome of the three-legged stool. He does well in matters of the Corps, academics and athletics. I am honored to have coached him," Bozeman concluded.

Thomas refers to the cross-country personal record phenomenon, too. "He does the same thing in the classroom. Each performance is better than the last."

Niederhaus has also found the time to add a history major to his physics major. "John is one of two or three cadets who are outstanding in my mind in terms of his probable future success," observed Col. Bruce Vandervort, Professor of History. "He's very talented in a number of areas, including sciences and languages. That's a very rare commodity at VMI."

A mutual admiration society exists between Niederhaus and Col. Philip Peters, professor and head of physics and astronomy, even though it was Peters who recorded the only "B" ever given Niederhaus outside a physical education course. "That was one tough course," the valedictorian reported. "No one made an 'A.'"

"What a gifted young man John is," Peters said, sounding like a proud uncle. He chuckled. "You know, John may have the neatest hand writing of any cadet I can recall in a long, long time. I really appreciate that. It's so hard to read so much of what we get from students. It's a nice change.

"John is a very thorough young man," Peters continued. "He has tremendous grit and determination. Sometimes, in class I would have the feeling he might not understand it all, but he goes back to his room and shakes it by the throat until he gets it. It's been a pleasure to teach him."

Squire Receives Patents on Medical Devices

On a tabletop nestled in the corner of an electrical engineering laboratory on the 400 level of Nichols Engineering Hall are what appear to be just another pile of nondescript coiled wires of various gauges, seemingly left for the summer by cadets anxious to get away.

The fact that these wires are kept behind laboratory doors that must be unlocked by Major James Squire, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer engineering, offers a hint that these are no ordinary wires.

In fact, these are "wires" that have pulled together a most unusual research triumvirate comprising the Institute, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Medical School. These "wires" represent research and design being done by a pair of cadets under the direction and supervision of Maj. Squire and Lt. Col. David Livingston, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering. The work being done at VMI may ultimately make a significant contribution to the ongoing advances in the surgical procedure of unblocking clogged heart arteries.

For many years, the least invasive cardiac surgical procedure for dealing with a clogged cardiac artery was angioplasty. An incision is made in the patient's groin. The surgeon feeds a balloon catheter through the incision into an artery in the groin area. A large x-ray unit is over the patient's chest, which casts an image of the catheter on an overhead monitor. The surgeon watches overhead while feeding the catheter through the arteries until the balloon on the tip of the catheter reaches the clogged portion of the artery.

The balloon is then pumped open, forcing the clogged artery to expand and open. Once this process is complete, the catheter is withdrawn. Unfortunately, there is nothing left in the artery to support the walls that have been pushed open, and they may collapse and become clogged again.

In 1985, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of stents in this procedure. A stent is a pencil-lead-sized expandable steel tube that is mounted over a balloon catheter (just like the ones used in angioplasty) and threaded into a clogged heart artery. The balloon permanently expands the stent. Unlike angioplasty, however, when the balloon deflates and is removed, the stent remains as a scaffold to keep the artery open. Now roughly half of all the patients – approximately 750,000 a year —that would have formerly undergone angioplasty are receiving stents.

Squire, a 1989 graduate of West Point, investigated the dynamics of stent expansion as the focus of his doctoral work at MIT. While observing in various operating rooms, it occurred to him that cardiologists received very little feedback concerning the location of the stent during deployment. The balloon catheter shows up on x-ray. The stent itself does not.

"Patients who have had stents implanted must go back and see their cardiologists regularly for three months after their surgery," Squire explained. "In 10 to 30 percent of cases, the stent triggers a phenomenon in which the smooth muscle cells of the artery proliferate and reblock the artery.

"A disease process that may have taken 60 years to develop is recreated in two months. This time it is with solid muscle tissue instead of fat, and that is much more dangerous. No one is really certain what causes this reaction, but one theory is that the artery is injured while the stent is being inserted due to overinflation. I started thinking about ways that the cardiologist could monitor the stent as well as the catheter," he continued.

"On the other hand, if the stent is underinflated, it may break loose and float downstream, resulting in a medical emergency. The stent is a great breakthrough. We just need a way to monitor the stent." Squire added.

A short stint teaching high school a few years after his West Point graduation planted the teaching bug in Squire. "Early in our marriage, my wife and I had developed an affection for Central Virginia and had talked about wanting to live here some day. When the opportunity here at VMI presented itself, I jumped at it. It's a great teaching environment. The students I teach are top quality.

"I'm rated on my teaching, not grant writing and research. I like research and consulting work, and VMI lets me do that as I teach. I can catch up and stay current during the summer. And I'm just thrilled how this stent monitoring research has allowed VMI cadets to do important research and work with people from Harvard and MIT," commented Squire.

Cadet Steve Lee '02 checks the pressure that an expanding biomedical implant develops against a simulated arterial wall as he slowly expands an angioplasty catheter. Cadets Lee and Matt Brooks '02 constructed the prototype instrumented and computerized "smart catheters" as part of an independent research project that ties VMI's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering with the Biomedical Engineering Center at M.I.T. Cardiology fellows from Harvard Medical School will test these devices in animals next semester before the technology is marketed to firms for clinical trials. Maj. Squire and Lt. Col. Livingston are supervising the project, which is jointly funded by M.I.T. and by Col. Johnson, EE Department Head.

Squire has secured two patents relative to stent monitoring. One monitors stent slippage. The second monitors stent expansion. In order that he might concentrate on the research angle of the project, patent rights are now owned by M.I.T.'s Technology Licensing Office, which receives a portion of the royalties in exchange for paying legal costs and marketing any products that might be forthcoming.

The MIT marketing team advised Squire that it must be shown that the products work in a clinical environment and in animal testing. MIT, a Harvard Medical School consortium and VMI have joined together to underwrite the production of 10 to 20 "smart" catheters employing the technology protected by Squire's patents.

Second Classmen Steve Lee and Matt Brooks were selected to work with Squire and Livingston to design and mechanically construct the smart catheters. "VMI cadets work in teams much better than students at MIT. The lab is the place they express their creativity. They can reflect on their own ingenuity," he observed.

"Not only is it about research," continued Squire. "Many of our engineering students have a real sense of community involvement and awareness. The stent project affects the community of mankind, but we've had cadets working with the local hospital to build a battery-backed-up insulin refrigerator for a local diabetic."

"All of my colleagues, Robert Johnson, Todd Smith, Dan Barr, Shawn Addington, and Dave Livingston have a keen sense that our students need to be not just engineers, but involved members of their communities, too. I'm proud to be counted among their number," Squire added.

He is equally complimentary of the work produced by cadets Lee and Brooks. "Using a design of Brooks', they have made huge advances in the sensoring abilities of the stent during its deployment," Squire reported proudly.

"This is just another example of the broad range of initiatives being examined at VMI to bring cadet research projects to the forefront, such as the proposed undergraduate initiative headed by Col. Jim Turner," he added.

Quietly and steadily, significant research is ongoing at the Institute.

Harris Named AAUP President

This July, Col. Michael Harris, professor of modern languages at VMI, will assume the presidency of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors. A member of the AAUP since 1975, Harris has served for many years on the Executive Committee of the Virginia State Conference and is the current Treasurer. The VA-AAUP is a constituent member of the national organization, which for over 85 years has been the professional society representing the interests and defining the professional standards for the American professoriate. In Virginia, the organization maintains a fund, the Stern-Greet Fund for Justice, which offers financial support to college and university professors who may be in litigation with their school over violations of their academic freedom, abridgment of tenure, or improper procedures for dismissal. The fund is named for two deceased Virginia professors, Robert Stern of Old Dominion University and T.Y. Greet of the Virginia Military Institute.

Colonel Harris has been a member of the VMI faculty for 29 years and served 11 years as the head of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures from the late 80's until 1997. He teaches courses in French and Spanish and has served for nearly 25 years as the faculty adviser to the VMI Theatre group. A native of Chicago, Harris earned his Ph.D. in French at Indiana University and has been serving as president of the Lexington-Rockbridge Cercle Français for over 20 years. In 1992-93, he taught at VMI's sister institution, the Ecole Polytechnique outside Paris, France.

Harris views his major challenge as president of the VA-AAUP to lie in the area of faculty shared governance, the principle by which professors must participate directly and significantly in the decision-making procedures of their institutions of higher learning. Shared governance shares with the concept of academic freedom a place of preeminence in safeguarding the independence and intellectual climate on all campuses.

G. Haley Garrison '61 and wife Hannelore present the 2001 Future Captain of Industry Award to first classman Charles A. Blanton, IV. The Captain of Industry Award is presented each year to a cadet who is a member of the Cadet Investment Club at VMI. The Investment Club consists of cadets who volunteer their time to invest $200,000 of real money, given by the VMI Foundation, Inc., to gain experience in investment. The members of the club make all decisions about when to buy and sell. This year's Award showcases the flamboyant General George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry, as well as the great financiers J.P. Morgan, J.J. Hill and Edward Harriman.

VMI Awards

Continued from page 6

four consecutive years and Lt. Col. Richardson for three consecutive years.

The **Applied Technology Award** was established in 2000 through the generosity of a VMI alumnus. Cadets, the only eligible recipients, are selected by a faculty/staff committee on the basis of the most creative and novel uses of the internet and/or applied computer technology. There is one grand prize of $7,000 and two runner-up awards of $1,500 each.

There were two teams that tied for the grand prize, so first and second place money was split between the team of first classmen Anthony P. Conway and John L. Hagel and third classman Samuel L. LaGrone and the team of first classmen Deffy Z. Mubangu, Andrew B. Rogers, and Kukuh Suharwiyono. The runner-up was first classman Agung G. Saputra.

The **Instructional Technology Award**, for VMI faculty who have made innovative use of the internet in their teaching, was established this year through the generosity of a VMI alumnus. The first place winner receives a $3,000 cash prize with two $1,000 runner-up prizes. First place winner was Lt. Col. Kathleen Bulger-Barnett, associate professor of modern languages. Runner-up awards were presented to Lt. Col. Gary K. Rogers, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, and Maj. Karen Gutermuth, assistant professor of economics and business. Lt. Col. Bulger-Barnett is a 1996 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award and a 2000 recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Faculty and Cadets Inducted to Honor Societies

Twenty-three cadets and two faculty members were recently inducted into national and international honor societies.

The Zeta Chapter of the international economics honor society, Omicron Delta Epsilon: first classman Patrick C. Curtis and second classmen Jackson S. Castleberry, Matthew S. Mitchell, Michael S. Nelson, John D. Simmons, and Puthyvuth Sok. They were honored at a dinner meeting of the chapter on April 17.

Pi Delta Phi, national honor society in French: first classmen Eric L. Ham and Justin R. Harber; third classman Brendan A. Kearney; fourth classman Stan J. Kielczewski; and Lt. Col. John E. Cerkey, associate professor of modern languages.

Delta Pi Alpha, the national society in German: Andrew S. Dannenberg '01, Heidi F. Mason '02, and Magnus F. Nordenman '02.

Sigma Delta Pi, the national honor society in Spanish: first classmen Robert C. McVay and Benjamin S. Norris; second classmen Matthew R. Blanchette, Richard H. Donohue, and Andranik Tsarukyan; and third classman Samson C. Newsome, II.

Eta Kappa Nu, the international electrical engineering honor society: second classmen Brian K. Meadowcroft (president), Matthew R. Brooks (vice president), Caleb A. Sylvester (secretary/treasurer); and first classman William E. Harley.

Chief of Staff of the Army General Eric Shinseki is greeted by Cadet Captain Ben Norris and Captain Scott Jackson of VMI's Army ROTC detachment. Norris is A Company Commander - General Marshall's rank when he was a cadet (as well as Cadet 1st Captain). Gen. Shinseki visited VMI as part of the Marshall Awards Seminar and addressed this year's awardees at a formal dinner in the Evans Dining Hall at Washington and Lee.

Chemistry Majors Make Presentations

VMI chemistry majors have made several presentations this spring at undergraduate research conferences.

Maria M. Vasile '01 presented a paper at the 20th Annual Virginia Tech ACS Undergraduate Research Symposium Blacksburg, Va. in March. Her paper was entitled: "Optical Properties of Group 6 Elements in Simple Phosphate Glasses." Her faculty advisor was Col. Henry Schreiber, professor and head of chemistry.

Nam H. Tran '02 presented a paper at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held in March in Lexington, Ky. His paper was entitled: "Degradation of Heart-Valve Conduit Proteoglycans by Various Proteonases" His faculty advisor was Dr. Adele Addington, instructor in chemistry.

Jason E. Co '01 presented a paper at the Southeast Regional ACS Undergraduate Research Conference in Statesboro, Ga. The paper was entitled, "Headspace Analysis of Semiochemicals." Co also presented the paper at the 9th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium of the ACS Blue Ridge Section held in Radford, Va. and the ACS Chemistry Undergraduate Research Poster Session in Charlottesville, Va. All three presentations were made in April.

Co also presented a second paper at the Southeast Regional Conference. The paper was written by Co, Victor Zottig '01 and Lance Smith '99. Their paper was entitled: "The Structure of a Novel Pyrrolidoazepane from a Dendrobatid Frog." Their faculty advisor was Col. Tappey Jones, professor of chemistry.

Two other cadets also made presentations at the 9th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in Radford. Jason W. Breeding '02 and Andrew G. Harter '02 presented a paper they wrote entitled: "Exchange Dynamics of Block Copolymers in Selective Solvents." Their faculty advisor for was Maj. Judith Cain, assistant professor of chemistry.

Other cadets making presentations at the ACS Chemistry Undergraduate Research Poster Session in Charlottesville were: Zottig and Smith - "The Structure of a Novel Pyrrolidoazepane from a Dendrobatid Frog" (advisor - Col. Jones); Jason W. Breeding '02 and Andrew G. Harter '02 - "Exchange Dynamics of Block Copolymers in Selective Solvents" (advisor - Maj. Cain); and Brian Toney '02 and Layne Fielder '02 - "A Synthetic Study of Bis-Indole Alkaloids" (faculty advisor Stanton Smith, assistant professor of chemistry).

Summer Scholar Program

Four cadets have been selected to participate in the biology department's Dr. Fred C. Swope Summer Scholars Program. The Summer Scholar's Program was developed by Col. Swope, professor emeritus of biology, and Dr. James E. Turner '65, Wachtmeister Visiting Professor in Biology at VMI. Selected students are exposed to the rigors of graduate school coursework and to cutting edge research.

Since the program's inception in 1991, over 65 percent of the participants have entered graduate school or health professions schools. This year's participants are: second classmen John Fuller, Joe Leoncio, Derrick Bodkin, and Tri Tang. They will spend the month of June at VMI learning about the anatomy and physiology of the retina and learning research techniques used in molecular biology laboratories. They will delve into scientific literature, analyze and discuss results, develop hypotheses, design experiments, and collect data.

A number of guest lecturers have been scheduled and include Dr. Wade Bell, assistant professor of biology at VMI; Dr. Jim Burns,'68 professor of oral pathology at MCV; Dr. David Wilkinson '66, professor of pathology at MCV; Dr. Dan Felty '94, a practicing physician; Tom Perrault '96, Ph.D. candidate at Bowman Gray School of Medicine; Joey DuBose '96 and Chris Gorman '96, medical students at the University of Virginia; Dr. Lee Southard '59, CEO Atrix biotechnology company; and Dr. Wayne Lambert '94, Ph.D. completed from UNC-Chapel Hill.

After the first month, the cadets will present a symposium on the first portion of the program. They will then spend July at the UNTHSC working on independent research projects. The research experiences are designed to meet the interests of the cadets and produce a publication. Over the past few years, several papers have been published with cadets as co-authors and cadets have presented results at national and regional research conferences.

The program costs are covered, in part, from an endowment established by the late Dr. William Watkins '29 and by Dr. Lee Southard '59.

Potpourri

❖ **Capt. William G. Hughes**, professor and head of the psychology/philosophy department, and **Maj. Lenna P. Ojure**, Learning Disabilities Coordinator, presented the current findings of their work with electroencephalography (EEG) feedback as a treatment mode for Attention Deficit Disorder at the recent meeting of the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback at Research Triangle Park, N.C.

❖ Thirty entries, totalling some 46,000 words, by **Col. Spencer C. Tucker**, professor of history and John Biggs '30 Cincinnati Professor of History, appear in the just-published *Europe Since 1945: An Encyclopedia* (2 vols.). The encyclopedia was edited by Bernard J. Cook and also includes three entries by Timothy Dowling who will join the VMI history department in August. Col. Tucker has also been named general editor for a two-book series. The first is with Indiana University Press for a series on twentieth-century battles and is planned at four to six titles per year. The second is with ABC-Clio for a series of single-volume encyclopedias of different weapon systems. It will initially have ten volumes.

❖ **Lt. Col. Robert P. Bennell**, associate professor of mathematics, has been elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications (IMA) and becomes a Chartered Mathematician.

❖ "Holden Caulfield: A Hero for All the Ages," an article written by **Maj. David A. Rachels**, assistant professor of English and fine arts, appeared in the March 30 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education.*

ROTC CORNER

Army ROTC

Over 330 Army ROTC cadets trained hard during the Spring FTX at Fort Pickett, Va. The cadets lived in World War II style barracks and conducted a variety of training exercises. To begin the squad training, the cadets deployed to the field in CH-47 Chinook helicopters provided by the Virginia National Guard. For the first two days, the cadets alternated between squad tactics, the Leadership Reaction Course, and land navigation. The second classmen served as squad leaders in preparation for Advanced Camp this summer. On the final day of training, the cadets rotated stations and ranges, firing the M16 rifle on the pop-up range, the M60 machine gun and M249 squad automatic weapon on the machine gun range. They also witnessed a demonstration of the Mark-19 grenade launcher.

Over 70 cadets will attend Advance Camp at Ft. Lewis, Wash. this summer with 25 of those cadets then heading to Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at various Army installations across the world to include Germany, England, and Korea. CTLT puts cadets in active duty Army units as lieutenants giving them a chance to get hands-on experience with a variety of different units. For professional schools, over 25 cadets will attend airborne, air assault, and SCUBA school this summer earning the respective badge for the school.

Navy ROTC

While fourth class Navy midshipmen learned the fine art of sailing on Smith Mountain Lake, each Marine Corps option midshipman of the NROTC put on his/her war face and practiced small unit tactics in the forests of the Boy Scout Camp at Goshen, Va. during Spring FTX.

Rear Admiral David M. Stone, Commander of the *USS Nimitz* Battle Group and the surface warfare sponsor for VMI, spoke to the midshipman battalion on April 16. Admiral Stone stopped to visit the VMI NROTC following temporary duty in Hawaii as a member of the board of inquiry for the *USS Greenville* collision. After leading a discussion with the midshipman battalion on the priorities of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Stone engaged the battalion in a question and answer session.

On April 19, the midshipman battalion commemorated the Battle of Midway at their annual dining-in. Midshipman first class Adam Stanley-Smith and his vice, midshipman first class Nicholas Pohoresky, were in charge of the dining-in. Cadet Kyle Kramer recounted the bravery of the marines and sailors who fought the Battle of Midway. Guest of honor Rear Admiral David M. Crocker, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, spoke on leadership and having a passion for patriotism for the United States.

Air Force ROTC

April was a busy month for AFROTC Det 880. On April 6, the Air Force ROTC detachment kicked off Spring FTX activities with a dining-out. The guest speaker was Colonel Edmond Keith, VMI '82, currently stationed at Langley Air Force Base as the Commander, 1st Civil Engineer Squadron. This summer he will relocate to Andrews Air Force Base, Md. to take over as the Commander, 89th Support Group. Col. Keith spoke of pride as a VMI alumnus and Air Force officer, as well as how the core values of both organizations, integrity, service and excellence, must be embraced in everyday living to be successful.

The rest of the FTX was split into three groups: freshmen (AS 100), sophomores/juniors (AS 200/300) and seniors (AS 400). The AS 100s took a trip to Wright Patterson Air Force Base to visit the Air Force museum and spend some time seeing how the Air Force operates on a daily basis. The AS 200/300s participated in an "Old Corps FTX,"camping in the woods near the Armory and participating in war games, specifically concentrating on teamwork, concealment, first aid, air base ground defense and operating in a chemical environment (wearing all the appropriate chemical warfare gear). The AS 400s traveled to Langley Air Force Base to receive informative briefings about their entry onto active duty, purchase uniforms for commissioning, and to shadow an Air Force officer in their respective career fields. A highlight of the visit was a meeting with their commissioning official, Gen. John Jumper '66, Commander of Air Combat Command.

Graduating Air Force ROTC cadets have received their assignments. Those receiving assignments were: Britton Armstrong, pilot training at Pope Air Force Base (AFB), N.C. and Laughlin AFB, Texas; Kenny Carmichael, communications officer, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Erin Claunch, student - masters degree, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Jason Crabtree, communications officer, Robins AFB, Ga.; Wendy Foscue, gold bar recruiter/ intel UVA/Goodfellow AFB, TX; Tom Harman, air battle manager, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; David Jones, pilot training, Pope AFB, NC/Vance AFB, Okla.; Kendra Russell, air battle manager, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Aaron Mitchell, supply officer, Offutt AFB, Nev.; Cate Mitchell, acquisition officer, Hanscom AFB, Mass.; Chris Murray, finance officer, Andrews AFB, Md.; Beth Plewes, ADD Lt/intel, VMI/Goodfellow AFB, Texas; Charles Ransom, communications officer, Barksdale AFB, La.; Chris Simpson, ADD Lt/Space & Missiles, VMI/ Vandenberg AFB, Cal.; Maria Vasile, intelligence officer, Goodfellow AFB, Texas; Kristy Wheeler, communications officer, Mildenhall RAF, United Kingdom; and Veronica Wright, acquisition officer, Los Angeles AFS, Cal.

Captain Monique Minnick will be leaving the 25th of May for her next assignment as Chief, Retirements for the Air Force at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. During her time here, she taught the AS 200, 300 and 400 level curricula and served as the AFROTC Commandant of Cadets, as well as the first-ever female VMI TAC officer during the '99-'00 academic year.

On April 1st, Capt. Kim Kokko was joined by family and friends for her promotion to major.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 15 May

2 p.m. ..... New Market Parade (Special presentation by Mr. Cabell Brand)

Wednesday, 16 May

9:30 a.m. ..... Academic Board Meeting, Smith Hall Board Room
11 a.m. ..... Cadet Awards Ceremony Rehearsal
1 p.m. ..... Graduation Parade Rehearsal
5 p.m. ..... ROTC Awards Ceremony, Jackson Memorial Hall

Thursday, 17 May

8:45 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. .... Commissioning Rehearsal, Jackson Memorial Hall
11 a.m. - Noon ..... Cadet Awards Ceremony, Jackson Memorial Hall
1 p.m. ..... Graduation Parade Rehearsal
2:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. ..... Thursday Evening Inspection (rooms must be in MI order, final inventory will be taken)
4 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. ..... Graduation Rehearsal (graduating 1st Class only), Alumni Field/Cameron Hall
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ... Baccalaureate Service, Jackson Memorial Hall

Friday, 18 May

5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m. ..... Pre-commissioning run
9 a.m - Noon ..... Commissioning Ceremony and Reception, Jackson Memorial Hall/Memorial Garden (Inclement weather location - Cocke Hall)
11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. ..... Buffet for parents and guests, all classes, Crozet Hall
1:30 p.m. ..... Company Changes of Command
2 p.m. ..... Graduation Parade
3:30 p.m.- Completion . Weapons Turn In (All Classes), Armory
3:30 p.m.- 5 p.m. ..... Superintendent's Reception for parents and guests, Class of 2001, Superintendent's Garden (Inclement weather location- Moody Hall)
7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. .... VMI Glee Club/Institute Brass Concert, Jackson Memorial Hall
9 p.m.- 11 p.m. ..... Final Ball, Lejeune Hall (Music By The Commanders)

Saturday, 19 May

8 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. ..... All First Classmen, Barracks room closeout by Divisional Inspectors (OCs)
8 a.m.- 10 a.m. ..... Barracks Closeout inspections for remainder of the Corps
9:30 a.m. ..... All graduating First Classmen form for Courtyard Inspection and Graduation Assembly
11 a.m. ..... Graduation Exercises, Cameron Hall

Summer Session Calendar

First Five-Week Term ..... May 23—June 23
Registration ..... May 23
Classes begin ..... May 24
Last day for late registration ..... May 25
Last day to drop or add courses ..... May 25
Examinations ..... June 22—23

Second Five-Week Term ..... June 26—July 28
Registration ..... June 26
Classes begin ..... June 27
Last day for late registration ..... June 28
Last day to drop or add courses ..... June 28
No Classes ..... July 4
Examinations ..... July 27—28

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