

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

MARCH 2007

CLASS STATISTICS

Class	Men	Women	Cum
2007	814	177	991
2008	852	187	1039
2009	954	197	1151
2010	959	233	1192
Wing	3579	794	4373

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break begins after the last military duty on 22 March. Cadets must return and sign in no later than 7:00 p.m., 1 April.

RECOGNITION AND PROP AND WINGS

After the Class of 2010 has been recognized, the cadets are authorized to wear the standard chrome-plated prop and wings device on their flight caps. Cadets who are direct descendents of members of the Army Air Corps, Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP), or has a parent with at least 20 years of military service, if either parent participated in combat as a member of any U.S. military service or if a parent died in the line of duty are authorized to wear the gold prop and wings device.

APPOINTEE ORIENTATION AND CAMPUS WALKING TOUR

Sessions are 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 April 2007. On Tuesday, while the appointees are shadowing cadets all day, we will again offer a campus walking tour of the cadet area to the families. (Note: Since this is a walking tour, it is not recommended for the physically challenged.) The families can drive to the Field House or they can ride an Academy bus from either the Academy Hotel or the Hampton Inn North. Families can sign up for this tour when their appointees register on Monday morning. Please do not sign up for this tour if you have an early departure. Itinerary is below.

- 12:00 pm Buses pick up guests at Academy Hotel and Hampton Inn North
(or guests drive their own vehicles and park at the Field House)
- 12:25 Buses arrive at Field House (all passengers disembark buses)
Passengers with luggage take it inside Field House to secured area
Guests receive passes for tour

12:45	Buses depart Field House
1:00	Buses arrive Visitor Center
1:30	Tour begins – take trail to Sijan Hall (dorms)
1:45	View dorm rooms
2:00	Walk to Mitchell Hall (dining room)
2:15	Walk to Fairchild Hall, (academic building)
2:30	Walk to McDermott Library
2:45	Walk to Arnold Hall
3:00	Take shuttle bus to Field House (pick up luggage) Meet appointees
4:30	Buses depart for Colorado Springs Airport
4:45	Buses depart for hotels

NATIONAL CHARACTER, LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The U.S. Air Force Academy hosted the 14th annual National Character and Leadership Symposium Feb. 22 to 24, focusing cadets and university students on the theme of "All Created Equal --Human Dignity and Respect." The 3-day event featured more than 30 nationally recognized speakers and guests.

Maj. Nicole Malachowski is in her second season with the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, “Thunderbirds”, and flies the No. 3 jet as the right wing pilot in the diamond formation. The 1996 Academy graduate shared her experiences with teamwork and how being part of the Air Force team requires each person to be an expert in their career field, to be accountable to their team, and to have the grace to applaud the strengths of those around them. Bakhtiar Gozeh, building manager of the Douglass Valley Elementary School at USAFA and a Kurdish survivor, told his story of surviving Saddam Hussein's chemical weapon's genocide campaigns against Iraq's Kurdish population. He described his survival experience under a dictator's control and discussed his life as a Kurdish-American during the global war on terror. A unique and personal story was told by Cadet 2nd Class Erik Mirandette. He overcame incredible odds to return to the Academy after humanitarian work in 13 African countries before falling victim to a terrorist attack that nearly cost him his life and killed his brother. Now, almost 2 years after the attack, he discussed why we must live boldly with purpose.

Katie Koestner, Executive Director of Campus Outreach Services, talked about her journey from victim to survivor of date rape, putting it on a level that everyone could feel, and to which anyone could relate. Seeing sexual assault through Katie's eyes enabled students to challenge stereotypes and confront conventional beliefs and behaviors. Her emotionally charged talk created an environment of understanding, and helped to lay the groundwork for proactive, long-term behavioral transformation. Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, Commanding General, First United States Army, brought his experience of command, the challenges of fighting the Global War on Terrorism, and leading the relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina without getting “stuck on stupid.” And, finally, Alberto Gonzales, the U.S. Attorney General, returned to discuss the importance of human dignity and respect.

This year's theme hearkened back to the Declaration of Independence and its understanding of equality to emphasize the fact that respect for the universality of human dignity cuts across all of the cultural focus areas that the Academy and the Air Force have emphasized in recent years, and that respect for self and others is inherent within each of the Air Force Core Values. Approximately 125 students from universities around the nation joined Academy cadets in discussing moral, ethical and leadership issues facing our world. The symposium emphasized character and leadership from both a military and a non-military perspective. The symposium was hosted by the Academy's Center for Character Development and the Academy's Association of Graduates.

ROBERT GATES SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT ACADEMY GRADUATION

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo., -- Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates is scheduled to be the guest speaker for this year's graduation ceremony. This will be Dr. Gates' first graduation speech at the Air Force Academy. Graduation for the Academy's Class of 2007 is May 30 in Falcon Stadium.

MILITARY BALL DRESS CODE

Two military balls (Ring Dance, 25 May and Graduation Ball, 29 May) will take place during Graduation Week. The dress code is Mess Dress for ALL military personnel - no exceptions! Cadets MUST be in Mess Dress (no long formals for the female cadets and no civilian suits for the male cadets). Females must have their hair up off their collars. There have been issues of appropriate dress with the cadets, and particularly their guests, in the past.

CIVILIAN GUEST ATTIRE: Ladies should be in floor length gowns, cocktail dresses or cocktail pant suits with nice shoes. Men should be in tuxedos or black/dark suits and nice shoes. Sneakers should not be worn by anyone!

GRADUATION RECEPTION - TUESDAY, 29 May 07, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Assorted Hors D'Oeuvres to include:

**Carved Beef Tenderloin & Roasted Turkey Breast
Served with Freshly Baked Rolls
Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce
Cheese, Cracker & Grape Trays
Mini Quesadillas
Mini Assorted Quiches
Chicken Bites with Dip
Pita Chips w/Spinich Dip
Fresh Fruit Display
Crudites w/Dipping Sauce
European Petit Fours
Fruit Punch
Coffee Bar**

COST IS \$12.00 PER NON-CADET GUEST (NO LIMIT)

**Graduation Banquet ticket sales will start on 01 May and continue through 24 May.
Tickets may be purchased as follows:**

Ticket Sales on the Staff Tower:

01-04 May, 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

07-11 May, 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

14-18 May, 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

21-24 May, 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tickets sales on the Main Floor (sold during buffet meal times):

05-06 May

12-13 May

19-20 May

Please be aware that the Graduation Reception is a stand up reception *with limited seating*. All tickets must be purchased in advance. The last day for ticket sales is 24 May. Forms of payment are cash or check only. Mitchell Hall cannot accept credit cards. Please call 719-333-4991 for questions and concerns.