

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

OCTOBER 2007

CLASS STATISTICS (as of 30 Sep 07)

	Men	Women	Cum
2008	844	188	1032
2009	899	182	1081
2010	913	214	1127
2011	966	243	1209
WING	3624	829	4453

CENTER FOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT (from the *Academy Spirit*)

The Academy's Center for Character Development conducts more than 130 graduation-requirement character seminars each academic year. They are:

VECTOR. Fourth-class cadets attend a workshop called Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection. This focuses on personal leadership and self-reflection. Cadets attend a six-hour session during each semester. Topics include establishing purpose, developing vision, assessing personal values and acknowledging their influence on the Cadet Wing.

R&R. Third-class cadets attend the eight-hour Respect and Responsibility seminar. This develops the cadet's interpersonal leadership skills through experiential exercises. Respect, integrity, diversity and the power of attitudes are prominent themes. Cadets attend an afternoon session at the Adventure-Based Learning ropes course, where events involve emotional and physical risk.

LIFT. Second-class cadets attend an eight-hour offsite seminar called Leaders-In-Flight Today. Participants discuss servant leadership building trust, loyalty to institutional values and senior NCO perspectives. It focuses on cadets as real leaders with real people today. The cadets field-test the seminar's major insights within their squadrons and report back to their facilitator.

ACES. The eight-hour Firstie program, Academy Character Enrichment Seminar, focuses on organizational leadership and the ethical demands placed on Air Force officers. During roundtable discussion, participants discuss ethical dilemmas drawn from facilitator's real life experiences. To help prepare cadets for commissioning, they're exposed to senior officer and enlisted perspectives.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL ISSUES

We have been made aware of some medical and dental issues concerning your cadets. These issues have been forwarded to the appropriate authorities and they are preparing a response. Expect replies to these issues in future newsletters.

DISCOVERING THE IMPACT OF WISDOM TEETH (part 1 of 2)

Third molars, or “wisdom teeth” as they are often called, are frequently the subject of great debate, particularly among young adults and their families. There is probably more misinformation floating around than actual scientific fact, and this often leads to unnecessary concerns. This two-part article is designed to answer some of the commonly asked questions and hopefully correct some untrue assumptions.

Third molars are the very back teeth in each jaw and in most people, a total of four develop. In terms of function, the wisdom teeth are essentially nonfunctional teeth, as the overwhelming majority of the chewing forces are generated by the two teeth in front of the wisdom teeth. However, wisdom teeth are the source of numerous dental problems and very few people actually have room in the mouth for them to function appropriately. Wisdom teeth (impacted or “healthy”) can lead to a variety of ailments, including cavities, gum disease, pathology (cysts or tumors), and severe life-threatening infections. Numerous studies have shown a strong link between periodontal (“gum”) disease and the presence of asymptomatic impacted wisdom teeth. This means that teeth that are buried below the gum surface (impacted) and not causing pain, are often slowly creating gum disease which can later affect more important teeth such as the second and first molars (the two molars in front of the wisdom teeth).

The decision on removal of wisdom teeth is on an individual basis. At USAFA, all cadets must receive an evaluation by one of our two board-certified oral surgeons to determine the probability of future problems. At this appointment, the cadet will watch a video discussing the surgery and have a chance to ask the surgeon questions. A determination will be made if the teeth need to be removed, or if they are healthy and functional. The surgeons are tasked with determining not only if the teeth are healthy now, but also if there is a chance for future problems. Teeth that remain impacted have a very high chance of causing future problems, and this could lead to unnecessary missed time at work, interruption of training opportunities, or loss of a pilot training slot, as has happened in the past. The surgeons will make a decision based on what is best for the overall health of the patient in a long-term view.

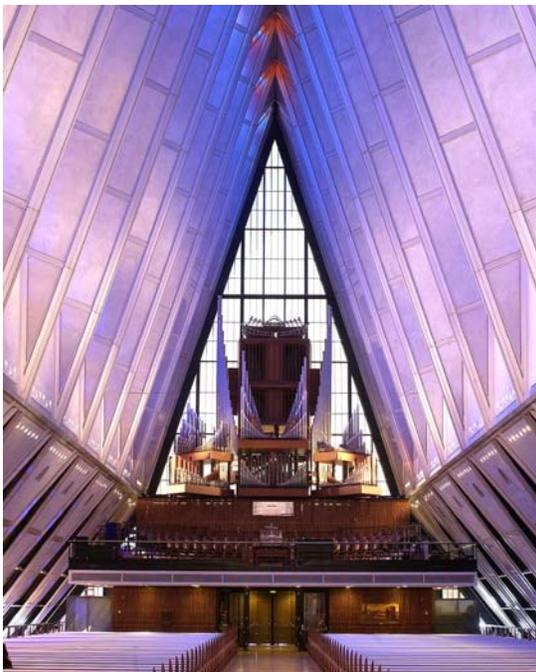
Please don't hesitate to contact the USAFA Dental Clinic if you ever have any questions or concerns with cadet dental care. You can contact TSgt Sanya Pospischil or Maj Peggy Dickson (general dentist) at 719-333-5590; or email the dental clinic at USAFA.SGD@usafa.af.mil.

NEXT MONTH: Part 2: Extracting the Myths of Wisdom Teeth

THE CADET CHAPEL by Stephen “Pete” Peterson, Director, Cadet Chapel Public Relations

Soaring 150 feet toward the Colorado sky, the Air Force Academy Chapel is a house of worship for all faiths designed to accommodate the spiritual needs of cadets. Visually, the most compelling structure on the Academy’s grounds (as well as Colorado’s top human-made tourist attraction), the chapel’s 17 silvery spires can be seen from miles away.

The principal designer-architect of this one-of-a-kind chapel was Walter A. Netsch, Jr. Born in Chicago (1920), Mr. Netsch studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon receiving his degree in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He began his career as an architect working for L. Morgan Yost. In 1947, he joined Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), when the firm was designing Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the Atomic Energy Commission town. Mr. Netsch was just 34 years old when he started designing the chapel. Construction began in 1959 and was completed in 1963 by Robert E. McKee, Inc., of Santa Fe, N.M.



Almost immediately, the Cadet Chapel gained Mr. Netsch and SOM international recognition. Most recently, the Cadet Chapel was displayed prominently on the cover of the 14 April 2007 edition of *Life* magazine titled “America’s Coolest Churches.” It also received the American Institute of Architects 25 Year Award in 1996, and was voted #51, America’s Favorite Architecture, in 2007. In 2004, the Air Force Academy Cadet Area was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark and a commemorative U.S. postage stamp of the Cadet Chapel was issued.

The chapel contains a separate worship area for each of the three major religious faiths represented in the Air Force - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - plus other worship rooms for various faith groups. The Protestant chapel is located on the upper level and the Catholic, Jewish and Buddhist

chapels are located beneath it. Located on the lower level are the Muslim chapel, an all-faiths room, one multi-purpose room and a music room. Each chapel has its own entrance, and services may be held simultaneously without interfering with one another. Nine active-duty

chaplains, along with fourteen others on staff, provide for the religious needs for over 4,300 cadets. There are two main levels open to visitors, and three Chapel Guides are assigned to lead tours and provide information to visitors.

The Cadet Chapel is open to visitors Monday thru Saturday, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. You may want to call before you visit on Saturdays due to large number of weddings, especially during the summer. Regularly scheduled worship services are open to the general public. If you've always wanted to hear the massive pipe organ in the Protestant chapel, attending a worship service on Sunday is a great option.

It is best to start your visit to the Academy at the Visitor's Center. From there, the Chapel is a short walk away (about 1/3 of a mile) on a paved nature trail. Just follow the signs to the Cadet Chapel. Please note that the walk may be strenuous for the elderly. It is recommended that people with limited mobility bring a wheelchair to get to and from the chapel. Guided tours are available for large groups, Monday thru Friday, throughout the year. Furthermore, the staff works closely with tour companies across the nation as well as local senior citizen centers, providing guided tours and close parking for those arriving in large buses. Just give us a call in advance to reserve your tour date and time.

Future plans include a revised website with on-line virtual tours, real-time schedules, video clips, and photos. Give the Cadet Chapel staff a call for more details or if you have any questions: (719) 333-3817. Or, send us an email at cadet.chapel@usafa.af.mil. We look forward to seeing you soon!

2008 PARENTS HAVE WEB SITE

The 2008 parents have had a Yahoo site for about a year and have over 100 parents who also belong to it. Any interested parents just need to go to the Yahoo site, enter GROUPS and then enter USAFA2008 for information on how to join.

They call themselves the " L class " due to the fact that their cadets are the 50th class to graduate from the AFA. It is purely a fun site and not at all affiliated with the Famnet.

(This is not part of the Famnet list serve, nor is it affiliated with USAFA in any way.)

LETTER FROM THE AERO CLUB

Dear Parents,

We at the USAF Academy Aero Club want to help make your Cadet's experience more exciting and enjoyable with our many different flight opportunities. You may be wondering what the Aero Club can do to help your Cadet. Well we would like to introduce some of the opportunities available to your Cadet!

IFS JUMPSTART! – The IFS (Initial Flight Screening) Jumpstart program is an exciting program designed to help give your Cadet a jump on this challenging and important course. Utilizing our four years experience administering the USAFA AFS (Academy Flight Screening) program, we have the expertise to put your Cadet at the head of the class. Your Cadet will learn all of the basic flight maneuvers, radio procedures, take-offs, landings, and possibly even solo! We tailor make a program for your Cadet so that they will get the most out of their time. By learning these basic flying skills they will have a huge advantage over other Cadets who fail to prepare. The cost for this program varies with the amount of time spent at our facility.

FAA CERTIFICATION COURSES – Our FAA Certification courses are our most popular programs. Through the Aero Club your Cadet can earn his/her Private Pilot, and Commercial Pilot Certificates. We also offer the following rating: Instrument. If your cadet has dreamed of becoming a pilot, the Aero Club is a great place to fly!

INTRODUCTORY FLIGHTS – Introductory flights are available. These flights are a quick way for your Cadet to get into the air. An Introductory flight is a 45-minute flight in the local area. Makes a great gift! Introductory flights are \$89.

MOUNTAIN FLYING – Colorado offers a unique flying experience for all pilots. Our closeness to the mountains causes unique and challenging wind conditions and our high elevation brings up engine power issues. The Aero Club offers a comprehensive Mountain Flying Course. This course is available to all those who have a pilots certificate, and would just like to have solid knowledge of mountain flying procedures.

FAA CURRENCY – If your Cadet already has a pilot certificate and has not kept current we can help! We have a variety of ways for a pilot of get recurrent whether he/she is a Private, Commercial, or Instrument pilot.

FOR FUN – The Aero Club is also available to all those who have earned a pilot's certificate and just want to fly for fun. All of our aircraft are available for Cadets to rent for personal use, whether they are flying a short distance or across country!

Safety is a major priority of the USAF Academy Aero Club. Because the Aero Club is a military organization, we must adhere to strict Air Force safety guidelines, as well as all the safety regulations of the FAA. For an additional layer of scrutiny, the Aero Club is an FAA

Part 141-approved school. This means that we must meet additional and stricter safety and academic guidelines.

Cost is often a consideration to learning to fly for many people. That is why we strive to keep our costs down and, in turn, pass the savings to you. We have the most economical flying rates in all of the Colorado Springs area. In addition to low rates, the Aero Club offers all Cadets the S.A.F.E (Services Assisted Flight Education) Fund; this gives a \$12 per hour discount to all dual flights, and an \$8 an hour discount for all solo flights.

The Air Force is all about flying, and you have the opportunity to help your Cadet succeed in his/her flight aspirations. The Aero Club would love to help! We will put all of our experience to work for your Cadet, as well as giving them a great way to socialize with others who love to fly and learn in a premier military environment.

The Academy Aero Club is convenient for all Cadets. We are located on the Academy Airfield at the Academy.

We would love to hear from you and answer any questions and concerns you may have. You and your Cadet may also drop by anytime for a tour of our facilities. Please visit our website at www.usafaservices.com/aeroclub/aeroclub.htm. Or call us at 719-333-4542 or 4423. We are open seven days a week, and have a fleet of 9 well-maintained Cessna aircraft so we can accommodate almost anyone.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ed Ponder
Manager
USAF Academy Aero Club