

# The Skirmisher

Summer 2012

Volume XCIII No. 3

St. John's Military School



COMMENCEMENT  
124th Corps of Cadets

# *Welcome Hank and Gus*

Gus

Hank



Sweetie, Chaplain Lewis's pet, has some new pals, Hank and Gus England arrived at St. John's in January and became an instant hit. Cadets offer to walk Hank and Gus and constantly head over to the England's backyard to engage in an afternoon of fun with the 'boys.'



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theSkirmisher

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*The 124<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets was dismissed forever on May 12, 2012. The many activities of commencement weekend gave the Cadets a chance to finish the year in style.*

## Back Cover



Jason Czerwinski with his grandparents. Maggie and LTC John Czerwinski.

## Front Cover

Photo by Terry Plumberg

# St. John's Military School

April 16, 2012

A photograph of an annual formal inspection at St. John's Military School. The scene is set on a paved walkway leading to a large, white, classical-style building with a portico. A tall flagpole stands in the center, flying the American flag. Two cadets in dark uniforms with red berets stand at attention on either side of the path. In the background, a large group of cadets is gathered on the lawn. The sky is clear and blue.

ANNUAL  
FORMAL  
INSPECTION



Wiedeman



Plumberg Plumberg



Wiedeman



The 124th Corps of Cadets prepared for AFI every waking minute. Free time was spent shining boots, and extra rehearsal times were added to the band and drill team units. Cadets from each company studied as part of the question team and the Battalion Staff worked diligently to WOW the inspector with their briefing! Early on the morning of April 16, 2012 the corps formed on the teardrop to welcome the inspection team. Throughout the day the Cadets performed flawlessly coming together as a unit to work towards a high score. Following the drill team performance, SGM Chaz Molina announced the score. The 124th scored a 999 and erupted in celebration for a job well done! HOOAH!



“999”

Wiedeman

# Student of the Month Award

January



**Kole Stoltz**



**John Haen**

February



**Michael Byington**



**Merit Davey**

March



**Christopher Kessler**



**Jacob Astle**

April



**Ryan Barrera-Law**



**Rory Reshovsky**

## ★ JANUARY

**Kole Stoltz**, is a sixth grader and the son of Brandy Carrere. This is his second year at SJMS and his favorite subject is physical education. Kole originates from New Orleans, Louisiana. He enjoys drawing and participating in sports.

Mr. Jones, his classroom teacher said, "Kole works to exhibit positive character traits with his classmates and other cadets."

**John Haen**, is from Oakhurst, California and the son of Sheryll Haen. John is a freshman and this is his first year at SJMS. The rifle team is an activity that John enjoys. He also likes to ride dirt bikes. His favorite subject is reading.

"John goes above and beyond what I ask him to do in my English class. He completes his assignments on time, and they are almost always perfect. He's also willing to help others," Mrs. Feil said.

## ★ FEBRUARY

**Michael Byington**, is an eighth grader at St. John's. This is his first year at SJMS, and he is the son of John Byington and Natalie Byington. Mike is from Wichita, Kansas. His favorite subject is history. Mike's hobbies include reading, watching movies, and learning about historical events. Mike was on the honor roll for the first quarter.

Mike's reading and English teacher, Paula Wilton says "Mike is a very dedicated student in the classroom. He pushes himself to do well on all of his academic requirements. I appreciate his

hard work and willingness to be a good role model."

**Merit Davey**, is a sophomore at St. John's Military School. This is his second year at SJMS. Merit is from Charleston, South Carolina, and he is the son of Justin and Mary Beth Davey. Merit's favorite hobbies are shooting pool and hunting. His favorite subject is psychology. Activities that Merit is involved in at SJMS are weight lifting, AMS, and videography.

Scott Wiedeman, Merit's former art teacher and current study hall teacher says about Merit, "Merit makes every day count in his academics. He doesn't give up when the work is hard. He strives for quality work and understanding of the task."

## ★ MARCH

**Christopher Kessler**, is a seventh grader at SJMS and is from Santa Monica, California. His parents are Paul and Diane Kessler. Chris has been at St. John's one year and his favorite subject is reading. His hobbies are reading, playing basketball, soccer, and paint ball. Chris has been a member of the basketball and wrestling team while at St. John's.

Middle School reading teacher Paula Wilton says about Chris, "Chris gives one hundred percent on all of his assignments. He pushes himself to perform well and enjoys learning new things."

**Jacob Astle**, is from Wichita, Kansas, and the son of Dallas and Elizabeth Astle. Jacob is a sophomore and this is his first

year at SJMS. His favorite subjects are science and math. Jacob is a member of the cross-country and robotics team. His hobbies are running and hanging out with his friends.

SJMS instructor Kim Werth describes Jacob as "a student of high academic and personal standards. One of the best things about Jacob is his sense of humor."

## ★ APRIL

**Ryan Barrera-Law** is the son of Dawn Law and Ferdinand Barrera. He is from West Hollywood, California. This is Ryan's first year at St. John's, and his favorite class is physical education. He was involved in many activities this year including Drill Team, Boy Scouts, basketball, the wrestling team manager, 5A club, the Nichomocean Society, and band. Ryan's hobbies are skateboarding, reading, swimming, watching movies, playing sports, and surfing.

Mr. Ramsey, Ryan's math teacher says about him, "Cadet Barrera-Law is enjoyable to have in the classroom. He is attentive and well behaved."

**Rory Reshovsky** is from Seattle, Washington. This is Rory's first year at St. John's, and his favorite subject is physics. He was a member of the Robotics team and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2012 Spelling Bee. "Cadet Reshovsky's knowledge of computers made him a great asset to the team," said Robotics coach Ms. Robles.

Paula Wilton



# Blue Beret & Honor Roll

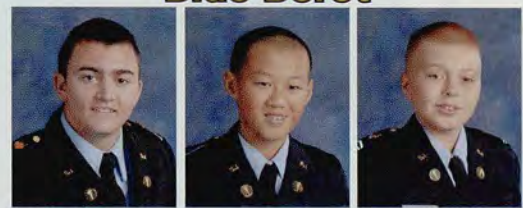
## Blue Beret



Rory Reshovsky    Eli Harmon    George Gorinac

The Blue Beret is worn by the Cadets earning the highest GPA in the Corps!  
The Cadets are listed in order of their grade point average.

## Blue Beret



Christopher Castrisos    Perry Yam    Ryan Barrera-Law

## Dean's Honor Roll



Levi Harmon    Paul Meyer    Edouardo Nestorovic    Nicholas Migliarese    Merit Davey    Jacob Astle    Connor Fleming

## Dean's Honor Roll



Kasch Layton    Christopher Kessler    Cameron Webb



James McCaffery    Adam Walther    Levi Gottsponer    John Haen    Bretton Hibler    Quenton Schur

## Honor Roll



Alexander Weber    John Garon    Michael Byington

## Honor Roll



Eric Robbins    Matthew Giachetto    Wei Feng    Noah Lightner    Brandon Becker    Stefan Roberts    Gregory Saville



Nicholas Vetter    Kole Stoltz    Brandon Medjo



Richard Reynolds    Timothy Pilcher    Jonah Comeaux    Klaus Mullens    Sergio Cois    Chase Rose    Caelon Tautz



Jake Whitting    Isaac Farris    Zakary Gorzynski



Derek Ebert    Connor Demsey    Jack Busacker    Craig Roukema    Gian Falossi    Joey Glavan    Christopher Irvine



John Schwier    Dacian Wise    Jacob Gengler



Ian Rush    Alberto Elias    Bryan Ingram    Gideon Stelmack    Chris O'Neil    Arman Singh    Brandon Wright

## Valedictorian    Salutatorian



Gregory Saville    Joshua Batchelor



Jaime De La Paz    Aaron Poulin    Alexander Sigmon    Benjamin Williams    Luke Whitting



# Commencement 2012





*The images on the following four pages taken by Scott Wiedeman and Terry Plumberg capture the beauty of commencement: the raising of over 130 flags, the pass-in-review in honor of Mark Ramsey, the final roll call, the senior Eucharist, the Freedom Tree, graduation, and the final pass-in-review of the 124th Corps of Cadets. Enjoy!*

★ The flag raising ceremony on Friday morning included the raising of the garrison flag and over 130 smaller flags around the teardrop and in front of the Vanier Academic Center. After the flags are in place, the final roll call is read. *Amazing Grace* is played by a piper, followed by the naming of those who have passed away during the year, the canon is fired, a prayer is said, and *Taps* is sounded. Brennan Taylor helped hoist the garrison flag. Ryan Barrera-Law holds a rose he will place on the table of honor during the final roll call. Bryan Cerato, senior, played *Taps* at the end of the ceremony.



Friday



Wiedeman



Wiedeman



Wiedeman



Wiedeman

★ The distinguished awards ceremony started with a solo alto saxophone performance by Stefan Roberts. During the ceremony, D. Dale Browning, Headmaster of St. John's, commissioned and presented a golden eagle to Joshua Batchelor in honor of his many accomplishments while a Cadet at St. John's.

★ **M**ark Ramsey says his final good-byes as the reviewing officer for the pass-in-review held in his honor. Ramsey's teaching and coaching career spanned 45 years. He was well loved by both the Cadets and his fellow faculty members. We will miss you Mr. Ramsey, and hope your retirement years are filled with joy!



Plumberg

Greg Saville, and Jason Czerwinski stand on the back of Dale Browning's golf cart while Dale Browning drives Mr. Ramsey around the Corps for inspection.



Plumberg

Caelon Tautz, James McCaffery, Sergio Cois, and the rest of the battalion stand on the ready line at the start of the pass-in-revieiw.



Plumberg

Blase Whitting, Ryan Lynch, Justin Gilbert, and Reece Turner are members of the color guard.



Wiedeman



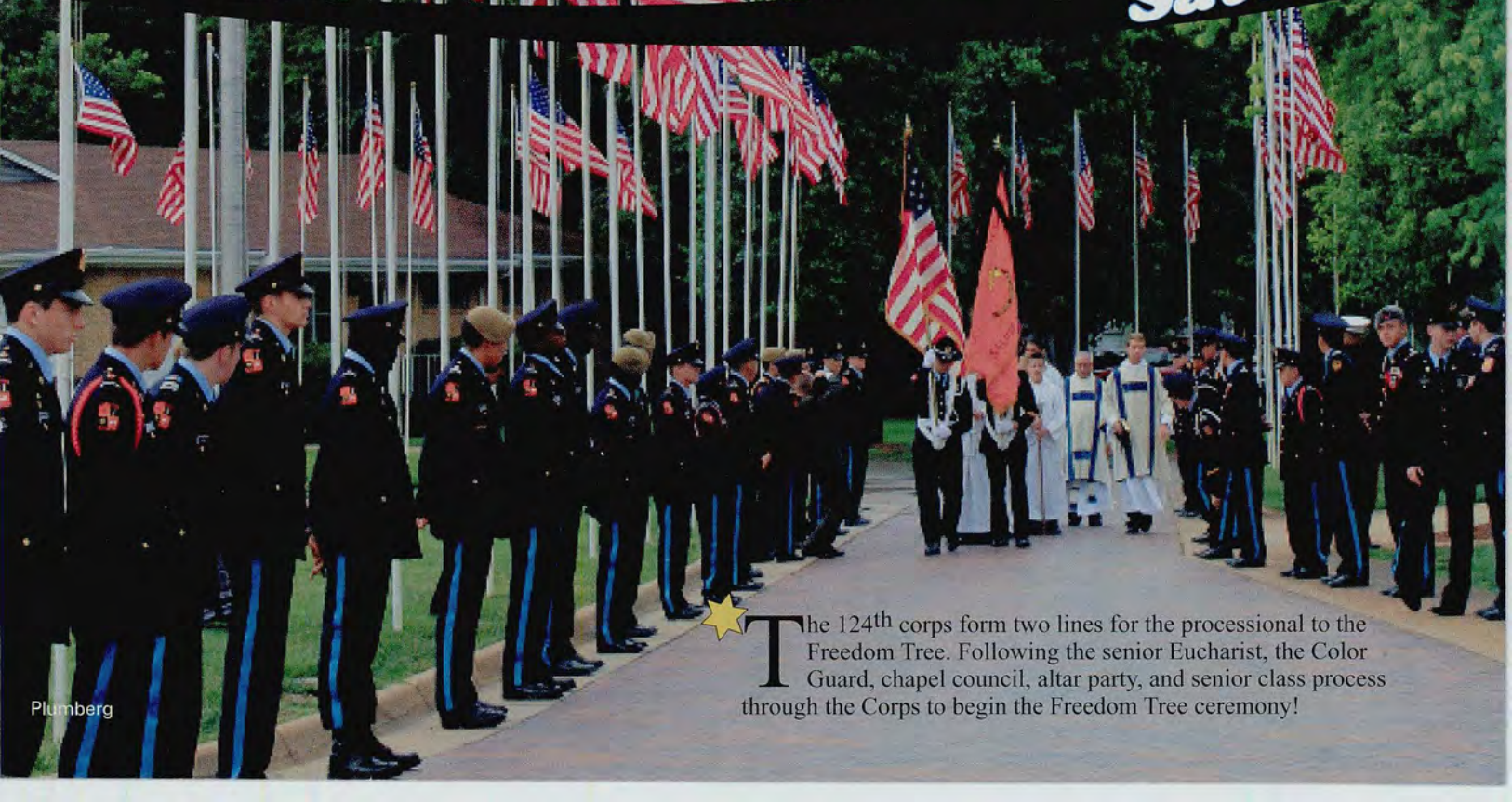
Plumberg

President E. Andrew England and first lady, Katy England bring the wreath forward for the Freedom Tree ceremony on the tear drop.



Wiedeman

Juan Abraham and Chu Wang render honors to the Freedom Tree.



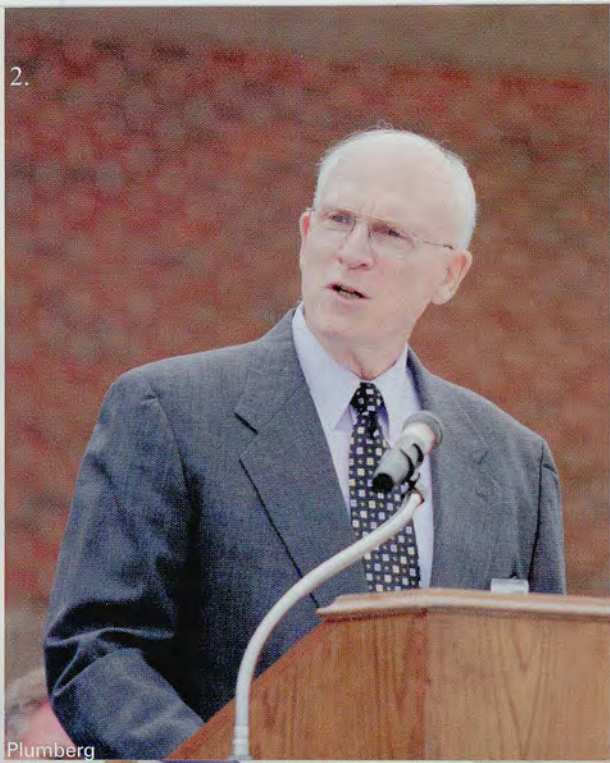
Saturday

**T**he 124<sup>th</sup> corps form two lines for the processional to the Freedom Tree. Following the senior Eucharist, the Color Guard, chapel council, altar party, and senior class process through the Corps to begin the Freedom Tree ceremony!

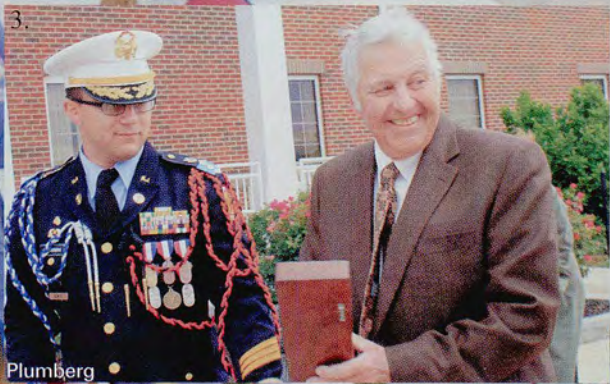
Plumberg



Wiedeman



Plumberg



Plumberg



Wiedeman



Wiedeman

6.



Plumberg

10.



Plumberg

7.



Plumberg

8.



Plumberg

9.



Plumberg

# Saturday

**T**he Parade of flags! 1. Gabriellus Gurskas carries his country flag of Lithuania. 2. "Old Boy," Steve Erb, delivers the commencement address. 3. "Old Boy" Jack Vanier passes the handle to outgoing BC, Jason Czerwinski. 4. Academic Dean, Ginger Wooten, presents Justin Ferraro with his diploma. 5. The seniors celebrate with diplomas in hand. 6. Wesley Dishron waits to take his place in the band for the pass-in-review. 7. The SJMS Band prepares to play *March of the Cadets* for the inspection. 8. Scott Wiedeman is in front of the lens for a change, while Sam Watkins celebrates receiving his diploma. 9. The seniors applaud as they here Ginger Wooten say "ladies and gentlemen I present to you the graduating class of 2012." 10. Joshua Batchelor sounds *Taps* for the final time.

# Two Honorary "Old Boys"



Wiedeman

"Old Boys," David Dumler, Bill Salmon, and, Dick Retrum pose for a picture with Chris Zerger.

The "Old Boys" Association recognizes outstanding individuals by naming them an "Honorary Old Boy." This year, Mrs. Ginger Wooten, Academic Dean, and Ms. Chris Zerger, SJMS English teacher, were recognized during

the distinguished awards ceremony on Friday, May 11, 2012.

Battalion XO Greg Saville introduced Zerger, who has worked at St. John's for 15 years. He said, "She has been the best teacher I ever had; and even though she is very demanding, I learned I could not only meet her demands but I could also achieve and excel. She helped prepare me for the academic rigors I will face in college." Zerger organizes the annual New York Trip and fills her classroom walls with the playbills of plays and concerts that she attends. Her love of learning and her love of the literary arts inspires the Cadets to explore the bigger world around them. She has touched the lives of many young men with her dedication and high expectations. Congratulations, Chris.

C/CPT Yamil Nasser, stated it was an honor to introduce Mrs. Wooten. Wooten has worn many hats during her 13 years at St. John's. She began her career as the school counselor, moved to director of admissions, and was named Academic Dean in 2008. Nasser described Wooten as "a teacher and loyal patron of the school who has provided moral guidance for many cadets that will endure long after the school year.



Plumberg

Ginger Wooten is surrounded by her family, Dad and Mom, Gerald and Judy Gebhardt, son Shay, husband Dale, and daughter Katie. (Daughter Tiffany missed the photo op!)

Her wisdom is only rivaled by her kindness, and her contributions to the school have been as invaluable as her dedication to the lives of each young man."

Congratulations, Ginger!

Honorary "Old Boy" Terry Plumberg received her plaque in 2008 and now

is responsible for coordinating the tradition of choosing staff members deemed worthy to receive this honor by the "Old Boys Association." MSG Paula Lambert was honored in 2011.

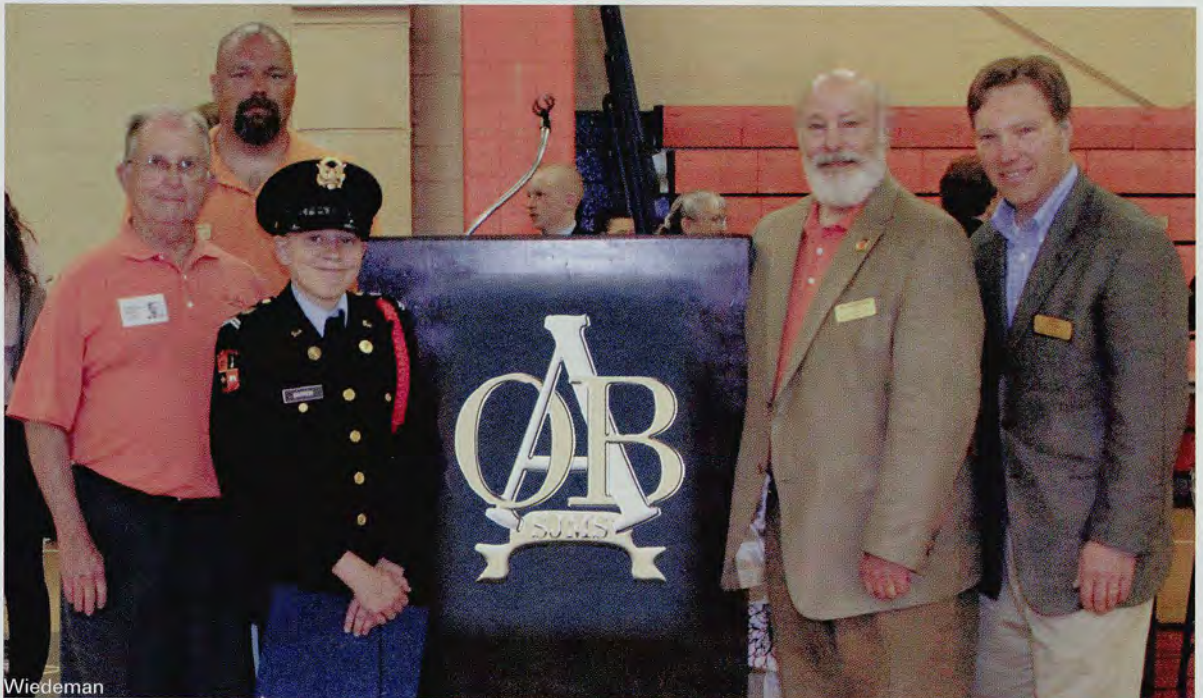
*The Honorary Old Boy* plaque reads, "for steadfast devotion and unwavering support of SJMS. Your work is outstanding and greatly appreciated."



Wiedeman

Jeremy Bashan, Terry Plumberg, and Terry Plumberg's St. John's son, Jeffrey Sapp, sing the Alma Mater arm and arm during the handle ceremony.

Since 2010, the "Old Boys Association" (OBA) has awarded scholarships. With guidance from the SJMS administration, Cadets are chosen on their merit, financial need, and a desire to continue their education at St. John's. This year the \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Michael Barron, from Commerce City, CO. Michael, who will be a sophomore during the 125<sup>th</sup> corps, has been on the Honor Roll and participated in many SJMS activities. He came to St. John's in January of 2011. Upon receiving the scholarship, Michael stated "I am proud to receive this honor." He wanted to hug each "Old Boy" that



Wiedeman

"Old Boys," Bill Salmon, Mike Wagner, Dick Retrum, and David Dumler stand with their 2012 scholarship recipient, Michael Barron.

donated to this scholarship. Terry Plumberg, Alumni Director, stated "with the onset of the 125<sup>th</sup> year at St. John's, the goal of the OBA is to be able to provide a scholarship for \$10,000 next year. Let's make this happen! "Old Boys" can make a monthly donation or simply write a check. What a wonderful way to help a young man with his future." *Terry Plumberg*

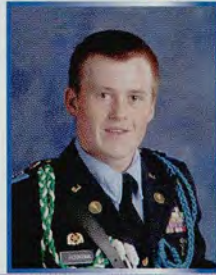


# Leadership *for the 125th Corps of Cadets*



**Levi Gottsponer**  
Battalion  
Commander

Son of Cathy & Louis  
Gottsponer  
Fayetteville, AR



**Craig Roukema**  
Battalion Executive  
Officer

Son of Jane Reuking  
& James Roukema  
Pueblo, CO



**Luke Whitting**  
Command  
Sergeant Major

Son of Janine &  
David Whitting  
Glen Head, NY



**Jordan Covers**  
S-3  
SGM

Son of Ms. Bernadette  
Covers & Gunther Covers  
Aspen, CO



**Darius Bridgeman**  
S-1

Son of  
Pamela Miller  
Salina, KS



**Wei Feng**  
S-2

Son of  
Huei Chaun Liu  
Hacienda Heights, CA



**Tanner Haycock**  
S-3

Son of Diann &  
Randall Haycock  
Sandy, UT



**Sergio Cois**  
S-4

Son of Francesca &  
Sebastian Cois  
Saratoga, CA



**Daniel Weisman**  
S-5

Son of Melanie &  
Dennis Weisman  
Manhattan, KS



**Clay Endlsey**  
Alpha CC

Son of Martha &  
Jeffrey Endsley  
Tulsa, OK



**Eli Harmon**  
Bravo CC

Son of Donna &  
Edward Harmon  
Flagstaff, AZ



**Merit Davey**  
Charlie CC

Son of Mary Beth &  
Justin Davey  
Charleston AFB, NC



**Levi Harmon**  
Headquarters CC

Son of Donna &  
Edward Harmon  
Flagstaff, AZ



Jason Czerwinski and Major George Stelljes pin the rank of major on Levi Gottsponer, the Battalion Commander of the 125<sup>th</sup> Corps. Chaz Molina stands by as Gottsponer holds the St. John's Flag as a symbol of his upcoming leadership position.

Major Stelljes accepts the Hardy Sabre from outgoing SGM Chaz Molina and gives it to the SGM of the 125<sup>th</sup> corps, Luke Whitting. Molina and Whitting share a congratulatory hug.

# Golf



Stein

*first row: Francisco Arismendi, Duncan Farrell, Bryan Cerato, Jorge Alduncin, Alexander Hamm, Christian Bockman, Thomas Dalsaso. back row: Coach Tom Huthchinson, Joshua Batchelor, Michael Collins, Dillon Sweet, Adam Harrington, Hunter Nicodemus, and Coach Daniel Leech.*



Harrington

Bryan Cerato took 2nd at the Hillsboro meet shooting a 79!



Wiedeman

Christian Bockman placed 3rd with a 54 at the Hillsboro meet.



Wiedeman

Duncan Farrell shot a 52 to earn 2nd place in the Hillsboro JV Tournament.



Wiedeman

Adam Harrington shot a 91 to win 8th place at the Sacred Heart Invitational.

# Tennis

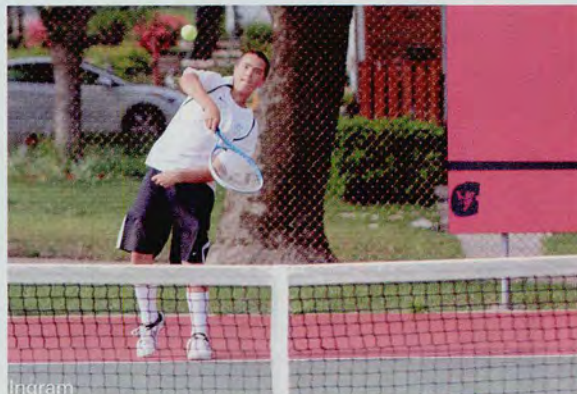


Wiedeman

*front row: William Malone, Federico Gonzalez, Klaus Mullens, back row: Coach James Johnson, Eli Harmon, Paul Meyer, James McCaffery, Brandon Wright, and Coach Matthew Lewis.*

“The season did not end up quite the way we would have liked, but overall, Coach Lewis and myself are extremely proud of our boys for all the effort and hard work they put in the last couple months!”

*Coach Lewis and Coach Johnson*



Ingram

Brandon Wright, SJMS #1 singles player tied for second.



Ingram

William Malone and Paul Meyer, SJMS #1 doubles team, won Gold.



Ingram

James McCaffery working for a Silver Medal in singles!



Ingram

Eli Harmon and Federico Gonzalez on their way to doubles Gold!



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## OR CURRENT RESIDENT



★ Jason Czerwinski, Battalion Commander of the 124<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets, is seen giving his commencement address. LTC John Czerwinski, Jason's grandfather, takes the stand as the reviewing officer along side President England for the pass-in-review following the final roll call. Jason's grandparents, John and Maggie Czerwinski, from Mesa, Arizona, attended commencement weekend and are shown together following the pass-in-review.

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