



THE SKIRMISHER

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL
Home of *The MULESKINNERS*



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TRIEBWASSER accepts command

During the Commencement program, Mark D. Triebwasser, a Senior from Granite Way, California, was promoted to the rank of Captain and designated Commander of the 110th Corps of Cadets for the 1996-97 school year.



Above, Mark Triebwasser receives the school colors from C/COL Douglas Morrison (left) and LTC Mike Furlo, Commandant.



Commencement Weekend '97

(See related articles
throughout Skirmisher.)

Above, the McPherson Pipe Band performs during Commencement ceremonies. At right, a scene during the flag raising ceremony.





**President's
Message
Captain
E. A.
McAlexander**

Our graduation ceremony this year was absolutely perfect. The weather was perfect and Coach Bill Snyder of Kansas State University gave an inspirational address that made it easy to understand why his teams are so successful. We awarded the Gordon prize (for the first time in four years) to our Battalion Commander, cadet Colonel Douglas Morrison. I cannot think of anything I could write in this space that would be as appropriate as the words Doug used in his Farewell to the Corps. Accordingly, here are his thoughts.

"Today I am going to try to read this so I don't look up and see my mother because then I'd lose it.

Good morning, Ladies and gentlemen, 109th Corps, Parents, faculty and staff, Tom and Troy.

Every year the Cadet Battalion Commander is asked to say a few words about some of the people, friends, and events during the school year that stands out to him that made considerable impact on cadet life. As I look back on the 8 years I've spent at St. John's, I can recall many, if not thousands of people and events that have changed the way I think, act and live.

The amount of things that one can learn from St. John's is tremendous. The thing is, St. John's is a team, a family, a close knit group of individuals working to produce this perfect product. This product is molded into a strong tradition of leadership, ethics, morals, discipline, anything that can be imagined, to be incorporated into the molding of a cadet.

The people who work with all these cadets, this exceptional team, work all hours of the day, they are always on call, answering always to their very best any request that any cadet could make. They do not do this because it's in their job description but for the best interest of the cadets, because they care.

I'll bet you are wondering what group of individuals can do a task like this, or who would be willing to do a task like this. The answer is simple. Everyone who is employed is part of this willing team, - all of the coaches, the maintenance staff, teachers, the administration, the chaplain, commandant, the president, and all their families.

(Continued on page 11)



**Commandant's Message
LTC Michael Furlo**

As the summer progresses and construction of our new multi-purpose facility continues to be the only sounds heard around the campus, we remain busy updating our records and preparing for the 110th Corps of Cadets.

The use of Banes Gym as our dining facility worked out extremely well during the 96-97 school year and should serve us well in the coming year. The most significant problem seems to be the lack of adequate storage space, and we encourage returning cadets to limit the amount of "extras" they bring in the fall.

Although we have discussed some of our future plans I would like to reiterate that next year we will most likely "cross-level" our upper school cadets. Over the recent past, the composition of our Corps's student companies has been dictated by the academic grade of the cadets. This has meant that eleventh and twelfth graders were in one Company, ninth and tenth in another, and sixth, seventh and eighth in another Company. "Cross-leveling" would mean that cadets would be randomly assigned to the various Cadet Companies. Thus, under this concept, the cadet composition of our Alfa, Bravo and Charlie Companies would be a combination of ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company would still retain the "New Boy" training element, the Cadet Band and all our Middle School cadets (seventh & eighth graders). This will give us more flexibility with the Corps and "equalize" the year-long competition for Honor Company that is based on both academic and military-related activities.

We sincerely hope that all our cadets have an enjoyable and safe summer vacation and we look forward to welcoming the 110th Corps of Cadets in the fall!

The SKIRMISHER

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109th Cadet Corps Dismissed Forever

It was a beautiful Kansas morning on Sunday, May 18, when the 109th Corps took to the field for their final Pass in Review.

The McPherson Pipe Band provided a concert prior to the Processional. Following the Invocation by The Rt. Rev. Vernone E. Strickland, Bishop of Western Kansas, the home states of the 109th Corps was recognized by the Parade of Flags.

Following the Commencement Address by Coach Bill Snyder from Kansas State University, the Senior Diplomas were presented.

This was followed by the Corps Commander Farewell, by C/COL Douglas Morrison. (His speech begins on page 2).

The Handle Ceremony

The front door handle of historic Vail Hall, salvaged from the ruins of the fire which destroyed Vail Hall, has become a symbol of continuity and tradition at St. John's. Every cadet ever attending St. John's held

26 Seniors Awarded Diplomas

The 26 seniors pose for a group picture following the presentation of their diplomas during Commencement exercises.



the handle, and since that time all graduates have done so.

The traditional Handle Ceremony, was led by "Old Boy" Jack Vanier. With the senior class in position, "Old Boys" in attendance were asked to fill in the circle among the seniors for the passing of the handle.

"...And as you do so," Vanier said, "reflect for a moment on your own past brief time at St. John's, your good and not so good experiences here, and the friends you made in this good place - those you've kept in touch with over the years, those you wonder whatever happened to - and especially those who have passed on.

"For it falls to use to honor this tradition - most importantly to honor those thousands of cadets who have gone before us, whose memories were of a Vail Hall which has passed, as have they."

Cadet Ricky Greenwood led the traditional singing of "God Be With You" and the "SJMS Alma Mater".



At left, scene during Senior Steak Feed hosted by the McAlexanders.

Steven Center Campaign includes many type gifts

Auction brings \$15,000

*by Tim Chapman, Director of
Institutional Advancement.*

The progress of the new Stevens Center Campaign continues to go well. To date \$2.4 million has been committed towards the \$3 million goal. Friends, patrons, and alumni have all stepped forward in making this effort a success.

Several types of gifts have been made. Cash, property, stock, and bequests have all played a role in this effort. A 60 piece gun collection and 50 whiskey decanters were given to the school from a local couple and were auctioned off raising \$15,000. The proceeds will be used for the campaign.

It is this type of planning that can benefit both the donor(s), their family, and any charitable interest that they may have. If there is a need to supplement income, reduce the impact of current income tax levels and insure less estate shrinkage, a visit with a qualified planner should be considered.

I have had the pleasure of visiting with many St. John's constituents since January of this year. The visits were very educational for me in learning about the interest and concerns regarding St. John's. As we move forward with the Stevens Center Campaign, I would encourage anyone with an interest in this effort to call. Name recognition will be given to each individual who makes a gift of \$250 or more in the brick courtyard. Names will be engraved in bricks and placed in the entrance way of the building. Additional name recognition will be given for gifts of \$1500 or more.



Some of the "Old Boys" that have stepped forward and will be recognized accordingly are: William Beaver '63, Thomas BonAnno '96, Larry Britegam '69, Dale Browning '55, Chad Calvaresi '89, David Elk '67, Hilliard Griffin '61, John Hjorth '63, Randall Hoppe '80, Robert Houston '43, Troy Klopfenstein '87, Ed Lehman '43, Floyd Lotker '40, Gene Pade '47, Al Ransom '56, and Jack Vanier '44. Join the ranks, encourage your classmates, and include your name in the St. John's Walk of Faith. For information, contact the SJMS Institutional Advancement Office.

Britegam Commissioned Honorary Colonel

Mr. Larry Britegam, an "Old Boy" ('67-68), was made an Honorary Colonel of St. John's Military School by the School's President Skip McAlexander during Commencement Weekend.

The inscription on the plaque reads "Both a Distinguished Former Student and a dedicated Trustee, Larry is a credit to St. John's. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, led two major fund drives, and has been a valued counselor to two Presidents. His love of the school and dedication to its excellence have qualified him for the title of 'Colonel'".

Honorary Colonels of the school are individuals or couples who have made significant contributions to the Salina institution. Those honored are presented a plaque and another plaque is placed in the hall of the Vanier Academic Center.

Larry, a Senior Vice President for Sunflower Bank in Salina, was selected for his support of St. John's and the ideals for which the School has stood for 109 years.



Cadets meet ROY WILLIAMS

Mr. Stewart Horejsi, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a K.U. Alumni, introduced K. U. basketball coach Roy Williams to the 109th Corps of Cadets. Williams was on the St. John's Campus on Thursday, May 8, to speak to cadets and invited guests.



Following a great motivational speech, directed toward the cadets, he answered questions from the audience and shared humorous anecdotes about some of his players.

He remained after the speech to sign autographs.

30-Year Charter members of the Mule-skinners Club honored.

In addition to Roy Williams, dinner guests included those Mule-skinners who have been members since the Club was organized in 1967.

The Charter members in attendance were recognized individually and got to personally meet Roy Williams. Thirty year members are: L. O. Bengtson, Allen Dodge, Keith Duckers, Mrs. John Fonck, William Graves, H. D. Hale, C. Nick Hoffman, Jr., Ken Jennison, Robert Kastner, Paul Kellogg, Donald Leach, L. Leroy McAninch, Milton Morrison, Dr. William Null, Dr. James Roderick, Dr. Edward Simmons, Kenneth Stephenson, Milton Stiefel, Jack Vanier, Edward White and John Zimmerman.

"Honor Company" awarded to C Company

Announcement made during Military Awards Ceremony

The Honor Company is selected through annual competition in Military Field Day events, personnel and barracks inspections, cadet challenge, drill, academic standing and overall conduct by unit members.

Military Field Day

Military Field Day activities were held on May 10. With as many cadets from each company competing as possible, the results of these events are used to help determine the Honor Company for the year.

Cadets competed for Best Drill Company, Best Drill Platoon, Best Guidon Bearer, Best Individual Drill With a Rifle, Best Individual Drill Without a Rifle, and Best Tug of War Team.

This year's Honor Company was awarded to Charlie Company, commanded by C/1LT Mark Triebwasser.

Individual Drill with a Weapon, consisting of 45 drill commands, was presented to C/1LT Mark Triebwasser, and received the Commandant's Medal.

The sequence for Individual Drill without a Weapon consisted of 22 commands and was presented to C/SSG Richard Williams.

Cadets assigned as their Company Guidon Bearer competed for the Manual Of The Guidon, and Evan Marquez of Charlie Company was awarded the JROTC Commendation Ribbon for winning the Best



Manual.

For Platoon/Company Drill competition, Charlie Company won the Best Platoon Drill, led by C/SSG John Krotz, and Best Company Drill, commanded by C/1LT Mark Triebwasser.

8th Grade Graduation

Cadets completing 8th Grade were recognized during the Academic Awards Convocation.

Front row, left to right: Ivan Cunningham, Robert Cefarelli, Matthew Herrick, Chad Black, Mark San Souci, Derek Michael, Jesse Studebaker, Aaron Warren and Matthew

Webster. 2nd row: Jesse Waugaman, Walter Horn II, Chad Fourhorn, David Clarke, John Blanton, Traevion Harvey, Brandon Ash, Jens Petersen, Cody Welch, Kenneth Musch



and Joshua Lett. Faculty shown: Stephen Ash, Travis Shaw, Kelly Rudolph and Tammy O'Neill.

(Cadets not shown: Shelby Field, Jason Hill, Martin Penn and Aaron Shaw.)

Special Scenes from the Weekend



It's pay back time as Mrs. Susie Harris, English Instructor, presents Doug Morrison and Rafael Llorente each with a pair of bright red shoes.



The St. John's family learns that they will lose one of their favorites, Mrs. Wendy Stein, Band Director, after this weekend. We all wish her the best!

Scholarships Announced

N.H.S. & Blue Beret Scholars

Bobby Bearden received the N.H.S. Scholar of the Year Award and the College Scholarship (\$150). James Keller received the Textbook Scholarship (\$75); Evan Marquez received the "Old Boy" Scholarship for an Upper School Cadet (\$500) and Tyler McGivern the Blue Beret "Old Boy" Scholarship for a Middle School Cadet (\$300).

More Scholarships

Douglas Morrison received the Russell L. Guernsey Legend Award (\$100) donated by "Old Boy" Rick Taylor, Class of '64; Michael Leonard, the Cozy Inn Scholarship (\$1,000); Mark Triebwasser, the Litchman Scholarship Award (\$1,000); Aaron Cowdin, the Mark Delane Lewis Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000); Cameron Oertel, the Jack Vanier Scholarship (\$1,000); Osly Preston, the Lesta Vanier Scholarship (\$3,000); John Krotz, the J. J. Vanier Scholarship (\$5,000); Matthew Webster, the Richard Anderson Scholarship (\$2,000); Steven Marcy, the SJMS Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000); and Scott Norris, the Ryan International Airlines Scholarship (\$2,500).

Music Awards Presented

Awards for participation in the Cadet Band were made. Selections were made by Mrs. Wendy Stein, Band Director.

Joshua Cantrell, Matthew Fortelka, Sean Pollaro and Dustin Rekow earned the Battalion Drummer award and Michael E. Harris received the Battalion Bugler award.

The Most Improved Bandsmen were Frankie Hyatt and Alvaro Trujillo.

James Rutherford was awarded the SGM Eugene R. Louis Memorial award as the most dependable bandsman in attention to his duties.

The John Phillip Sousa award was presented to Michael E. Harris. Eric Siskosky earned the Best Bandsman Award and Sean Pollaro the Best Drummer Award.

Woodall Remembered

In Memory of M/SGT Woodall, U.S. Air Force (Ret) and a former military advisor, who died in March of 1997, his family has started a scholarship fund.

On hand at the Academic Awards ceremony, Mrs. Woodall presented the first scholarship to Cadet Joel Vance.

In a commencement speech given at Woodall's retirement in 1983, his son, Jeff, "Old Boy" Class of '69, said that from the terrors of Bataan and the hellish existence of POW Camps, "he never gave up." "My dad is the embodiment of the ideals which St. John's teaches, and in spirit, has been a member of every graduation class since 1967."

Part of the Woodall's gift is an Air Force sabre which will be passed on annually to the Corp's master sergeant each year. Vance accepted this sabre from the Woodall family during the Commencement ceremony.



The D. Dale Browning Scholarship Awarded

Funded by an endowed contribution from the members of the Plus System, Inc., Capt. Skip McAlexander presents the D. Dale Browning scholarship, which covers all expenses for a full year at St. John's.

This award is given to the cadet who best exemplifies the characteristics of integrity, intelligence and desire for excellence that have distinguished D. Dale Browning's association with St. John's as a cadet, faculty member and Trustee.

This year's recipient, Robert Nathaniel Bilotte, is in his third year at St. John's and will be in the 11th Grade. He resides in LaSalle, Colorado.

LUCAS-LURAY INVITATIONAL

The St. John's Cadets performed in the Lucas-Luray Invitational held at Russell, Kansas. Out of the nine teams competing, the cadets finished fifth. The meet will be most remembered not by the results but rather by the forty degree temperature and fifty m.p.h. wind gusts.

The following cadets earned points for the squad but did not medal.

Rutherford	Discus	5th
Shriver	High Jump	6th
Wagstaff	110 Hurdles	5th
Triebwasser	1600 Run	5th
Valdez, Wagstaff,	4x100 Relay	5th
Bearden, Shriver		

Wagstaff	300 Hurdles	6th
Bearden, Bilotte,	4x400 Relay	4th
Baldez, Wagstaff		

The following cadets earned medals for the squad in the following events:

Triebwasser	3200 Run	3rd
Bearden, Sheard,	4x800 Relay	2nd
Credelle, Triebwasser		
Valdez	400 Dash	2nd
Bearden	800 Run	3rd

Congratulations on a job well done and the effort it takes to continue to improve.

"Old Boy" Injured

Gabriel Christian Boyle, "Old Boy" Class of '92, has been in a coma at Denver General Hospital after being struck by a hit-and-run driver during the first week in May.

The school learned today that he has been moved to a rehab center this week. He will open his eyes now and responds to some direct comments, but is still in a coma. This is due to the brain swelling, so it could be a long and slow battle ahead for Gabe.

Co-workers and friends at Bumpers restaurant, Broomfield, CO, are raising funds to help Gabe and his family, as he was uninsured.

The good news is the suspect driver has now been apprehended and arrested.

It's a Girl
Shannon
Elyse Keith
was born
May 9
to Mike and
Susan Keith
Congratulations!
 Mike is the U.S.
 American History &
 Economics
 Instructor

Military Awards

The Golden Eagle Awards were presented to Patrick McKnight (Sr.) and Joshua Cantrell (Jr.).

Tyler McGivern received the Assoc. of Military Colleges & Schools of the US medal.

Stephen Streeter received the ROTC Distinguished Award for Scholastic Excellence and Scott Norris received the Superior Cadet Medal. Cadets Robert Bilotte, Alejandro McKula and Paul Vieni received the Superior Cadet Medals.

Ben Warren received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Citizenship Ribbon; Joseph Miller, the AMVETS Award; Stephen Streeter, the Daughters of the American Revolution medal; Robert Bilotte, the Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America award; Nathan Silvers, The Retired Officers Association medal.

The U. S. Army Recruiting Command award went to Mark Triebwasser. Paul Vieni received the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award. Reagan Reese was given the Association of the U.S. Army medal.

More Scenes from the Weekend

Scott Norris earned the National Sojourner ROTC medal and Newman Merton received the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution medal.

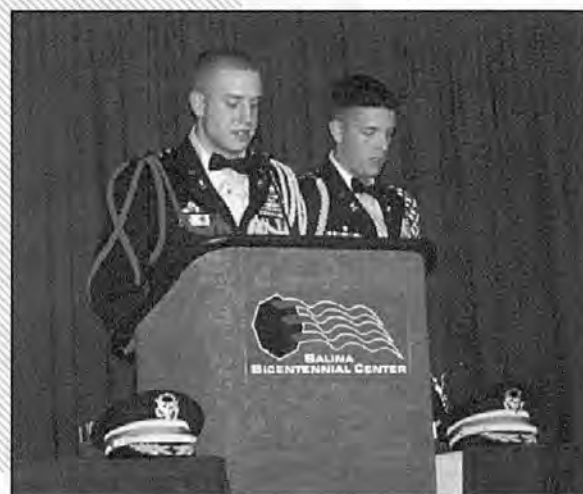
Kris Kielhorn received the U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete award. Matthew Webster received the Marine Corps League Award and Nathan Silvers was the recipient of the Reserve Officers Association award.

Rodger Shriver received the Hardy Rifleman award. James Rutherford received the Cheney Marksmanship medal and Michael E. Harris received the Upper School Marksmanship medal.

American Legion Awards

The American Legion Medals went to Newman Merton for General Military Excellence; Douglas Morrison for Scholastic Excellence; Rafael Llorente, the School Medal; and Patrick McKnight, the School Certificate.

The band performs during evening formation; the Color Guard and staff officers Paul Vieni and Rafael Llorente during the Military Ball.



Academic Awards Honor Cadets Achievements

Major awards given during Awards Ceremonies on Saturday, May 16, honored achievements in leadership, progress, academics, military and citizenship.

Ferris Awards

Jeremiah Blakney received the Best Performance by a General Shop I student, Aaron Cowdin for the Best Performance by an Advanced Shop student, Matthew Webster, for the Best Performance by a middle school student during the 1st semester, and Hunter Cole for 2nd semester.

Middle School Awards

Tyler McGivern received the Athletic Scholarship Medal and the Effort Medal; Matthew Webster received the Athletic Medal, Thomas

Stafford the Citizenship Medal, Jesse Waugaman the Progress Medal, Hunter Cole the Middle School Medal and Rex Robichaux, the D.A.R.E. Award.

D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. Awards

Rex Robichaux received the Middle School D.A.R.E. Award and Alex Ryan the Upper School award. Frankie Hyatt was the school's first recipient of the G.R.E.A.T. Award.

Rotary Medal

There was no question with the Rotary Medal, given to the cadet who has been at St. John's the longest. Douglas Morrison has been at St. John's for 8 years.

KSHSAA Citizenship Awards

Alexander Fabian from the

Middle School and Douglas Morrison from the Upper School, received the Citizenship Awards.

David Anderson received the Junior Leadership Salina plaque.

Other Honors

Newman Merton received the Activity Leadership Medal, the Jerry Lee Mirth Award and the Effort Medal; Patrick McKnight received the "I Dare You" Award; Kris Kielhorn, the Tinsley C. Fry Athletic Medal; Stephen Streeter, the Dean's Award from Kansas State; Scott Norris, the Honorary Science Award and the Kastner Medal; F. Paul Vieni, the Wilson Loyalty Medal, and Evan Callaway, the Sage Memorial Medal.

Superior School & Office Awards

Calculators from Superior School & Office were given to the academic leaders in each class.

They went to Rex Robichaux, Grade 6; Tyler McGivern, Grade 7; Matthew Webster, Grade 8; Kelly Coggins, Grade 9; Robert Bilotte, Grade 10; David Anderson, Grade 11 and Bobby Bearden, Grade 12.

Foundation Awards

The SJMS Foundation presented awards to five Cadets. The awards are given to a Cadet in the Middle School and to one Cadet in each of the four Upper School classes, excluding commissioned officers, for the best combined rating characteristics other than academic.

The winners were Matthew Webster, Middle School; C. Alexander Kocher, 9th; Nathan Bilotte, 10th; Scott Norris, 11th; and Matthew



Bostwick, 12th grade.

Class Rings Presented

Under a sabre arch, Ring Chairman Cadet Erik Carlsten narrated the Ring Ceremony. The class rings are provided by the Foundation and given to all Juniors who have signed a contract with intent to attend St. John's during their Senior Year. This year 34 cadets were given rings.

Pictured at left, Eric Siskosky was escorted by friend and "Old Boy" Mike O'Halloran while receiving his ring.

Chapel Awards Presented

Joshua Hestehave, Patrick McKnight and Newman Merton were given The Bishop's Awards for the greatest contribution to the chapel program.

The Father Remey L. Clem Award was given to F. Paul Vieni.

Douglas Morrison received The Kennedy-Holifield Award for his support of the Chapel Program, along with a special plaque from Father Cox for his 8-years of service in the Chapel Program.

Battalion Commander's Corps Farewell beginning on page 2.

"I would appreciate if all of the members of the faculty, staff and their families would please stand and be recognized. I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for your selfless contribution to the many cadets who have passed through St. John's.

"When I started thinking about what I would say today I promised myself two things. One, to make this as brief as possible. This will be hard trying to fit 8 years of my life into a few short minutes as well as the things I needed to say. The second was not to cry, but as tradition has it, every Battalion Commander that I have witnessed has gotten a tear or two in his eye.

Before I go on, I would like to express my appreciation for a few individuals who have made the greatest impact on my life, my development and my sanity.

First, my mother. If it wasn't for you, your constant nagging for me to become the best I can be, all the pressure about doing the right thing, all the love when I needed it, I'm sure I would have failed a long time ago. Whenever I needed a friend you were my very best. When I needed a hug you flew down here at a moment's notice just to give me one. It's been difficult for me to survive without you for the majority of the past eight years, but I know it's been rough on you too.

From that first day you left your baby boy in the orange St. John's jump suit and a bald head, at the door step of this institution, not knowing what to expect but hoping for the very best. You put your love and trust in me, your heart and sole, your courage and determination, your everything. That's what you gave to me. I am very proud of you for making the right decision and I am very pleased.

For you Mom I have a special gift. At the end of this ceremony I will hand deliver to you you're your very own St. John's graduate. I will always be indebted to you, Mom, and I'll always be your baby boy. I love you and thank you.

My step-father, George. Even though

thought about giving up, you always knew your place and stepped in as big sister and gave me the support and love to carry on.

MSG Roy Lawrence. Your really something that cannot be put into words. Your love for the cadets is unconditional. I would even go as far as to say you love us more than your car.



you have two sons of your own, you took me in. You made me yours. You gave me inspiration and a good model of what a productive and successful life should be. You treated me as your own son. You fought for me. You have done more for me than I could ever express or ask for. When my father died, he asked you to take care of Meridith and I. You did exactly that. You have given your all for us in every situation, and I love you, and I can't thank you enough..

My sister Meredith. Even though we have had our disagreements, I have to say that I love you. From you I have gained the knowledge of how to survive in a Dog-eat-Dog world. If at times I

You gave your all to the benefit and development of every cadet. You are truly what St. John's is all about and it shines through in all the cadets that have passed through your Company. When I came through your Company about 6 years ago, it was at a time in my life when I had no father figure, no male role model. You stepped in and took that place. The funny part is, no body asked you to. You did it all on your own merit. You were there for me when I needed you. You laughed at me when I succeeded, and counseled me when I failed. You were the good, the bad, and when you got frustrated with

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Battalion Commander's Corps Farewell

(Continued from page 11)

me, the ugly. But I love you. You're a permanent part of my life. You molded me to be just like you. You taught me to pick myself up and fight once again even if I was outnumbered. You taught me never to give up and never to give in. You taught me to never to do anything without thinking of the consequences first. You are unbelievable. Thank you for being there and making me what I am.

Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Faerber. You three together can do more to spoil a kid than any wealth in any form. You three are wonderful. You three have taken us in, all of us. You made us your own children and make us feel proud. You make us feel important, make us feel like people. You have influenced us in so many ways. Mrs. Stein, you taught us how to open our eyes and even our hearts so we will never have to be alone. Mrs. Harris. You gave us a place inside the field and passions of life, and gave us heart and a voice to show it. Mrs. Faerber. You taught us with your daily encouragement. That the things most worth striving for, are not the easiest to accomplish by any means. You also taught us how to put up with Colonel Faerber.

SGM Reichardt. When I first came to St. John's you wiped the tears and homesickness from my eyes. Since then I've overcome the homesickness but the tears are still there. For this past year I have laughed myself to tears just hearing you call Hestehave "my little onion".

Captain McAlexander and Mrs. McAlexander. I can't thank you enough. You have done a lot for the kids and I just don't have the words for it. It's just incredible. Thank you for all your support.

Colonel and Mrs. Furlo. Thank you for looking out for the staff and holding us together in toughest times, for taking

us into your own family and preparing for us.

Father and Mrs. Cox. You two have helped the cadets and myself. More than ever could be shown, you have given us not only a belief in God, but more importantly a believe in ourselves. A belief that we are alive – and a belief that we can do what we set our hearts to. More than that a respect for religion and a place where we can rest our minds and soul. Thank you.

(Cadets names).

You are my closest friends. Don't ever leave me alone. You have led me through the tough times. We have known each other, cried together, fought one another. We have had our tough times and our high times, but through it all we have stuck together. Let's not stop now. There are a thousand more people I would like to talk about but am afraid if I were to say something for each of them I would run the day long.

To the Cadets of the 109th Corps. I remember my first Commencement – it seems like forever, but I remember sitting there and listening to the words of the Battalion Commander of the 102nd Corps, John Cunningham. And while I was listening to him speak I was concentrating more on when he would finished so I could go home. But I do remember that afterwards I wish I had paid more attention.

I've grown close to almost every single one of you. Each of you will hold a place in my heart. As the 109th Corps, we have been faced with many challenges, many upsets and many victories, but throughout everything we have stayed a cohesive unit.

This year was definitely a building year, not only for the physical growth of St. John's, but also for the cadets and leadership. You Parents should be really

proud of how much your sons have grown both physically, spiritually and intellectually. These guys are great. They have all stepped up and filled the shoes that have been left empty for years. At the beginning we were faced with with shortages in many of the most influential of leadership positions. We also had the largest mass of untapped potential ever assembled. Quickly the Cadets of the 109th filled up the gaps and stepped up into active leadership roles. You learned by hard work that anything that came easy is not worth time spent on it.

You were thrown together at the beginning and forced to learn at an accelerated rate, leadership and responsibility. A skill today many adults do not possess. We taught each other to keep trying. You taught me that the standards can never be se too high You proved that when you scored 595 points out of a possible 600 on a regional inspection by the Army, and you impressed the instructors so much the college ROTC instructors can learn from you. Bad weather, sickness, construction, nothing stopped you from making this year a very a very productive and great year. You gave me and the Battalion Staff inspiration, and taught us not to expect anything less than the best from the best. You put on shows that other corps, other years, could only have dreamed of. You should be very prouf of yourselves. You worked hard and you deserve everything you earned. Be proud but not conceited. Challenge others to follow in your footsteps and show them how to do it better.

I want to share with you something that was taught to me by a great man. This comes from years past and has since been retired from circulation in the cadet corps. It was taught to me several years ago and since then I believed in it and recited it to myself

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SPECIAL ORDERS -Promotions

Since the last Skirmisher, Special Orders were issued for promotions during the last month of the school year by order of Captain McAlexander, President.

SO 384-97 dated 4/30/97

James Cummings, Matthew Herrick, Jeffrey Paul and Aaron Warren to PFC; Frankie Hyatt, Tyler McGivern, Patrick O'Neal, Jesse Osborn, Brandon Runkle, Alden Stein and Kevin Zimont to CPL.

SO 387-97 dated 5/1/97

Kenneth Bradley to Old Boy Status and PV2.

SO 389-97 dated 5/2/97

Chad Black to PFC.

SO 393-97 dated 5/7/97

Christopher Ramias, to CPL; David Jend to SGT; Evan Callaway, Brian Hoal & Jarrett Nebrich to SSG;

Reginald McGill and Alex Ryan to MSG; Aaron Lyons to WO1; Erik Carlsten, Cortland Dunn and Richard Williams to 2LT; Matthew Bostwick and Bryan Werner to 1LT; Bobby Bearden and Jason Heitzman to CPT; C. Reagan Reese and Stephen Streeter to MAJ; F. Paul Vieni to LTC.

SO 394-97 dated 5/8/97

Jonathan Allaband, Adam Beem, Tyler Brown, Stephen Carter, James Chidester, Daniel Clark, Ronald Credelle, Blake Fleming, Jeffrey Frasier, George Gile, Luis Hernandez, Kris Kielhorn, Dustin

Rekow, Arian Taherzadeh and Andrew Wert to SGT.

SO 403-97 dated 5/16/97

John Collins and Dustin Reynolds to PFC; Hunter Cole, David DeMarco, Andrew Flynn, Frankie Horn, Laramie Jones, Kenny Musch, Jens Petersen and Casey VanLandingham to CPL; John Coleman, David Dickinson, Shaun Dumas and Richard Shield to SSG; Joseph Gabel, Justin Holton, Michael Leonard, Evan Marquez, Cameron Oertel, Rodger Shriver and Justin Vondrak to SFC.

Commander's Farewell

(Continued from page 12)

almost every day. It was created for the purpose of instilling hope, and for years I lived in a company that was more like a sacred brotherhood than anything else. I still believe in it and I always will.

"This one's for you, Roy."

I am only one but I am one.

I can't do everything but I can do something.

And what I can do I ought to do.

And what I ought to do, by the grace of God I shall do

For Charlie Company

Even though its been a year since I've been in Charlie Company the creed was taught to me and I've learned many valuable lessons from it, lessons I will still try to live by. To the 109th Corps, let this not be the finale farewell, but more of "Until next time". Remember that life's not fair. You win some, you lose some, but always keep your head up and never give in.

Thank you."



"Old Boys" found on West Coast

by Tim Chapman, Director of
Institutional Advancement

The stories that can be told of past days at St. John's continue to grow as "Old Boys" reflect on a time in their past when they marched between the gates in north Salina. On a recent trip to southern California I had the pleasure of meeting some very special people.

Bob Crooks '28, who has had a very successful career in real estate in San Diego, talked of Vail Hall. The dorm rooms, classrooms, instructors and the ambiance of "it" all. "It shaped my life," he said. He went on to say, "To this day, the values and what I learned at St. John's are prevalent in my day to day life." Bob and his daughter Judy were very gracious hosts during lunch at the San Diego Yacht Club.

Walter York '44 and Virginia, of Riverside, CA, joined my wife and me for lunch one day. Walter told how he came to St. John's in the second grade and is the "old boy" with the longest tenure, eleven years. Walter talked of the initiation process and "running the gauntlet." He spoke of marching to Christ Cathedral Church for chapel and

with a slight grin and chuckle said, "those were good days." I feel there is more to the story there but some memories will remain untold. Walter and Virginia try to return to Salina for commencements as often as they can, and have plans to do so this next year. Al '56 and Kathy Ransom of Fallbrook, CA, and Winnie, Kathy's mother, were wonderful hosts, at a very busy time. The Ransom family is developing a resort called Los Willows. Located in North San Diego County, the resort is being marketed to both individual and corporate constituencies for a relaxing getaway or a secluded spot to hold business meetings. Al, Kathy and Winnie are all very involved in this development. Al has the inevitable job of working with an army of contractors and Kathy and Winnie are using their interior decorating skills to decorate the 7,000 square foot, nine bedroom facility. In addition to the 'Bed and Breakfast Inn' are 35 acres with scenic walking paths, private lake and surrounding valleys of beauty. Let me just say, it is "VERY NICE." Al, who has underwritten a Battalion Staff Room in the new Stevens Center, spoke of many memories of St. John's. Although sad

that Nichols Hall, where he worked for five years, is now gone, he is excited to see St. John's moving forward. "There were a few times we got into some trouble but I can honestly say that we always, when confronted, told the truth."

Gene '47 and Jeri Pade live in Huntington Beach, CA. Gene and Jeri have recently moved into a beautiful new home and were full of stories about past days of St. John's. Gene talked of a cadet that could climb anything and often used the limestone of Vail Hall as his personal Mt. Everest. "The instructors would just go wild when this guy would come scaling around a corner of the building two stories up," he said. He continued, "I remember telling a Cadet to use iodine to help with his complexion one day. The next day the kid had painted his whole face with the stuff and burnt his skin." As we talked, I could see the memories of school, friends, instructors, and past activities twinkle in his eyes. We looked at some old photos of Gene at St. John's. "You see this guy?" he said. "He could open the front door of Vail Hall, a big thick door, by banging his head into it. A formidable task and a feat
(Continued on Page 15)

You're in our Hearts

A tribute to a
friend and
classmate.

by Bill Meidell

TAPS

Rod
Ellison

Pampa, Texas
Died June 1,
1997
"Old Boy",
Class of '55

*A friend has passed
before his time.
His presence will be
missed.
The ones who all
remember him
comprises quite a
list.*

*I doubt anyone you
talk to
will forget his hearty
laugh.
He seldom got his ire
up
lest you give him lots
of gaff.*

*He had his share of
ups and downs
in life which he'd
incur,
but the highlight of
his being
were wife Joan and
daughter Jennifer.*

*The thing which he
was clinging to
to help him through
his striff - was
his daughter was
expecting
the first grandchild
in his life.*

*Sadly he fell short in
time.
The cancer took its
toll.
Thus he wasn't
really able
to see his final goal.*

*Yet from where he
has ascended
he knows that all
went well.
Many are the stories
of her dad
to Kirslyn, Jen can
tell.*

*We'll miss you
Rodney Ellison.
You were truly quite
a guy.
The fun we had,
while here on earth
we'll continue by
and by.*

*We will reminisce
again someday
and have a laugh or
two.
Keep reservations
open friend.
Someday we'll all join
you.*

• • • • •

many of us were envious of at the time." I am happy to say that Gene and Jeri have used their heads wisely over the years. They are retired from a very successful career in the furniture business and have raised a beautiful family.

In order to move forward in educating and updating the constituents of the school,

*Below, Chapman with
Jeri & Gene Pade*



my visits will continue throughout the state of Kansas and nationally. There is so much to learn by meeting personally with those who have an interest in St. John's.

A travel schedule indicating dates and areas to be visited is available.



*Above, Virginia &
Walter York with
Chapman.*



*Al & Kathy Ransom, Mom
Winnie, and Chapman.*



*Bob
Crooks &
Chapman*



Top row, from left to right: "Old Boys" Jim Dennett '43, Larry Rice '55 and John Lang '62. At right, a group picture of the not-so-old "Old Boys". Chad Mathis, DeAndre Grassity, David Godin, Dan Moran, Blaine Moller, Sean Radway, Chris Nicola, Jeremy Baerns and John Irish.



Candids taken during Alumni Reception

A big thanks to all the "Old Boys" who were here during the weekend. We enjoy having you with us and want you to return home often.

Keith & Liz Duckers
147 Overhill Rd
Salina KS 67401-3581

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