



# THE SKIRMISHER

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



Vol. LXXXVI

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April 1998

## D. Dale Browning, Class of '55 'Old Boy' Commencement Speaker

Old Boy D. Dale Browning, Class of 1955, will return to campus in May to be the speaker for Commencement ceremonies.

Mr. Browning, a current member of the Board of Trustees, has had a long association with St. John's. He entered St. John's as a high school junior. As a Cadet company commander, he is best remembered as always being fair and an officer who championed the little guy.

Following graduation, Dale worked his way through Kansas Wesleyan by serving as a counselor on the St. John's

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## Faerbers will Retire with Commencement



Kenneth and Lillian Faerber will retire from St. John's in May after a combined 51 years of love and dedication for the hundreds of cadets that have attended St. John's since their arrival.

The Faerbers came to St. John's in 1970 after Ken taught for 12 years in other schools in Kansas. He started as a social science teacher and coach during his first year and then held the combined title of director of Studies and Admissions for the next six years, eventually becoming the principal with the title of academic dean for the last twenty years. (See his comments on page 2). The campus was not just a job but a way of life for the Faerbers. Growing up on campus, their three children, Patty, Bill and Bob, "woke up to revelry and went to bed with taps."

Mrs. Faerber, a "surrogate mom" to the school's students, began her employment by transporting cadets for the nurse. She

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## President's Message

### Capt. E. A. McAlexander

It is my pleasure to formally dedicate this issue of the Skirmisher to Ken and Lillian Faerber. We will lose a few other employees over the summer as they move to other positions for personal or professional reasons, and they will indeed be missed. It is only once in a decade, however, that a couple such as the Faerbers retires.

In other parts of this paper you will

read the details of their time at St. John's. From personal knowledge, I can write that their last five years have been very productive and the school is richer for their contributions. On a personal note I would like to thank Ken and Lillian for their friendship and advice. Pat and I have enjoyed learning the St. John's story from people who have lived it to the fullest.

On behalf of the extended St. John's family, including the Board of Trustees, let me say to Ken and Lillian that they have the love and respect of literally thousands of

current and former cadets, their families, teachers, and the people who care about them. All of these people know of the hours you have spent at sporting events, plays, talent shows, etc. They also know that many of these activities would not have happened without your investment of energy and resources. We will not say goodbye because we hope to see you regularly, but we will say God Speed. May you always have fair winds and following seas.



## Academic Dean's Message

### LTC Kenneth Faerber

Since this is my final article in the Skirmisher, I've been asked to comment about educational changes during my tenure.

My first major change was convincing the administration that teachers' primary responsibility was to gain professional respect from their students by offering a meaningful and relevant educational program. I argued that teachers, without a previous military background, weren't effective when assigned weekend duty to manage the entire Corps, all of the related military duties, be the sole disciplinarian, and return to the classroom with the same

teacher/cadet rapport. Now the commandant has a team of retired military personnel responsible for evening and weekend supervision of the Corps. Teachers have more time to assist individuals with academic problems, time to plan a wide variety of educational activities that will enhance learning, and yes, just precious time to be a "good listener." I sincerely believe this change has strengthened both departments and has greatly benefited the cadets.

Another academic change that I'm extremely proud of is requiring all cadets to take core courses, English, science, math, and social studies, every year. These core courses, coupled with JROTC, religion, speech, computer applications, physical

education/health, and many other electives have definitely strengthened St. John's educational program and have improved students ACT and SAT scores. Also, with the enthusiastic approval and encouragement of President McAlexander, more and more cadets have classroom access to computer technology.

I'm also very pleased to have convinced the administration and cadets, (the teachers a little slower coming around because not all classroom clocks are on the same electronic system) of a 'school house' and 'living quarters' without bells. This may seem insignificant to some, but to the cadets it was a blessing. Cadets really

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## Commandant's Message

### LTC Mike Furlo

Although it may be a little premature to be thinking about next year, we must, nevertheless start

planning our transition to operating with a new campus pattern. The projected opening of our new Stevens Multi-Functional Facility will require some changes in the way we conduct on-campus activities. Just as a reminder, the new building will not only house our dining facility, but also other key school departments. Some of these include: the Commandant's and Duty

Offices', the nurse's quarters and infirmary, the recreation center, rifle range and fitness center, as well as, the cadet Battalion Staff's quarters. Over the summer break period we will certainly attempt to make as smooth a transition as possible. This will include moving furniture, our record files, and the myriad of odds and ends accumulated over the years in both the Commandant's office and the Duty Officer Operations center. Of course, some of the most important aspects of the move will be telephone, internal communications, and computer capabilities. Hopefully, all of this will be accomplished with minimal disruption of services. However, "Murphy's Law" will probably

crop up and unforeseen problems are likely to occur. We plan to make the majority of the move during the July 1998 time frame when on-campus administrative activity is at a low point. Along with the move we will also be developing new procedures for the 111th Corps of Cadets, as well as, continuing analysis of our established traditional routines. Some of the procedures that will require review include mess formations, feeding and office administration. Any changes will be reflected in the Cadet Handbook and the Omnibus to parents.

## The 110th put on a "gooooooooood show"

# 997 points out of 1,000

## Honor School With Distinction

With approximately 50 high schools in eight states under this ROTC inspection program, and with thirty field inspections completed, St. John's received their highest score ever, assuring

received high praise for the way they performed in the sloppy conditions.

The Battalion Staff was on hand for the critique following the day long inspection. They were



them another Honor School With Distinction rating.

The Annual Formal Inspection was held on Tuesday, April 28, with Commander Terrance Nelson of the 2nd Brigade in the 4th ROTC Region leading the inspection team.

In the second day of a continuous light rain, the inspection team arrived on campus about 9 a.m, and departed about 3 P.M., after a day-long review and inspection of the troops. They even donned rain gear for the pass-in-review which was held on the parade field in lieu of the gymnasium. With water puddles and slippery mud, the Corps didn't miss a step, and the band

encouraged to share what they were heard during the critique with the remainder of the Corps. This is something that former Staffs had obviously done considering the continual improvement of the school's score.

About the only remark made during the critique which was not included as part of the score was the suggestion that the Staff maybe include more history of the school during their briefing. Colonel Nelson said there were some very minor things, and would always be, but overall, the Corps "moved a mountain today and did a great job."

MSG Dave Porter from K-State reflected on this visit com-

pared to his prior inspections.

Two years ago he was impressed with St. John's, last year he could see improvements from the year before, but this year he was really impressed. He noticed no strings on uniforms, no unshined boots, and no sign of facial hair, believing the whole Corps must have shaved if they needed to or not.

One officer gave the senior staff members some words of advice as they left high school this year. "Freedom is sometimes hard to digest, so to maintain focus, fall back on the discipline you received here." They were told that the great job they did at St. John's was preparation for their next life, the life after leaving St. John's. Military or civilian, they can make good leaders and good citizens.

They ended the briefing by praising the faculty. Even though this inspection was focused on the military aspect of St. John's, the officers picked up from the cadets how great of a job the teachers were doing.

**Congratulations, 110th!**



## Cadet Talent Show

Sponsored by Mrs. Lillian Faerber, a Talent Show was held on St. Patrick's Day with the full Corps in attendance. Eight events were entered with a total of 18 Cadets participating. This was the first talent show held for several years and you could tell from the audience that it was appreciated by all.

The judges awarded first place to Peter Wilcox for "Until the Last", a piano composition which he wrote himself and dedicated to Mrs. Faerber. Second place went to Joe Gable, Mike Crothers and Ricky Greenwood for "Motivational Speaker-Matt Foley," a forensics selection. Ryan Levitan and Michael Harris received 3rd place for "A Few Good Men," another forensics selection.

The remaining events placed in the order listed: "Special Rap/Song"

by Jordan Jeffries and Rick Greenwood; "The Rats" by Neil Bundy, Alois Peter III and Chris Simmons; "Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail" by Kelly Coggins; "The Rotundra" by Jordan Jeffries, Mike Rolle and J.H. Johnson; "A Guitar Ballad" by Ricky Greenwood and Ethan Noll; and "This is How We Do It", by Evan Marquez and Ken Smith.

Co-Master of Ceremonies for the event was John

Kunkel and Tom McAllister. John Cantrell was the lighting and sound technician, and Ms. Pauline Donabauer gets a big hand for preparing the costumes.

A special thanks goes to the Commandant's Department, the Blue Beret Club, the NHS, the NJHS, the Stock Market Club and the Quartermaster for donating money for prizes. Great show, guys!



## Staff has talent too

During an in-service training session, Tim "T. C. Trebeck" Chapman and Terri "Vanna White" Hunnacutt did a great job with "Jeopardy." With four teams competing, Mike Keith's team came out the winners.



## Following are **Special Orders** announcing Promotions since the last **Skirmisher**.

### **SO 235-98 dated 2/24/98**

Cody Humphrey to PFC; Jordan Jeffries, Chad Landers, Kenneth Smith to CPL; Richard Detlefsen to PV2; Samuel Hinderliter and Stephen Young to PV1.

### **SO 242-98 dated 2/27/98**

Christopher Bicknell, Devin Tappan, Kyle Quinn and Tyler Gilles to PFC; Robert Ryman and Brent Sztrik to CPL.

### **SO 247-98 dated 3/3/98**

Adam Beem, Jeffrey DeJarnett and Barry Troutt to PV1.

### **SO 256-98 dated 3/5/98**

Richard Cuba, Lance Hoover, Bradley Manzanares and Daniel Sybert to PFC; Ryan Knowlton, Brent Menendez and Peter Wilcox to CPL; David Clarke, Derek Pinkham, Pedro Remero and Christopher Ryman to PV2; George Vogler to PV1.

### **SO 265-98 dated 3/10/98**

James V.F. Bray to CPL; Derek VanMichael, George Vogler and Thomas Cargill to PV2.

### **SO 267-98 dated 3/10/98**

Brand Cather to PFC; David Dickinson to WO2; Michael E. Harris to CPT; Adam Beem, Jeffrey DeJarnett and Samuel Hinderliter to PV2; Mark Davis to 1LT.

### **SO 268-98 dated 3/10/98**

Adam Clark, Jacob Rieple and Adam Vrana to PFC; Joshua Bailey, Matthew Brown, Nicholas Karpowich and Thomas McComber to CPL; Daniel Seul to SSG.

### **SO 271-98 dated 3/12/98**

Travis Foster, Robert Gardiner, Eric Schmeer to PFC; Kenneth Bradley, Samuel Fujiwara, Brian McDonough, Scott Sprencz and Donald Reed to SGT; James Rutherford to SFC.

### **SO 272-98 dated 3/12/98**

Brett Boegel and David Miller to PV2; Lee Strange to CPL.

### **SO 276-98 dated 3/16/98**

Matthew Watson to PV1

### **SO 277-98 dated 3/17/98**

Thomas Zackary to CPL; Ricardo Greenwood, Bobby Harris, Jerry Martin and Robert Ryman to PV1.

### **SO 282-98 dated 3/30/98**

Tyler Brooks and Derek Pinkham to PV1

### **SO 292-98 dated 4/02/98**

Rhett Belcher, James Hill, Kody Schnase, David Clarke and Christopher Ryman to PFC; Nathan Bell, Steven Katzman and James McFall to CPL; Jason Edwards to PV2.

### **SO 296-98 dated 4/03/98**

Robert Hettchen, Gavin Moore, Pedro Romero, George Vogler and Stephen Young to PFC; William McGuire to CPL; Tyler Brooks, Barry Troutt and Matthew Watson to PV2.

### **SO 300-98 dated 4/06/98**

Richard Detlefsen, Jeremy Miller, Tyler Schell and Brent Sztrik to PV1; Jerry Martin and Robert Ryman to PV2.

### **SO 303-98 dated 4/07/98**

Jonathan Mossinghoff to PFC; Darrel Egger, Cody Humphrey and Jonathan McGuire to CPL; Richard Greenwood, Bobby Harris and Derek Pinkham to PV2; Jason Smith and Matthew Webster to SGT.

### **SO 308-98 dated 4/8/98**

Travis Foster to PV1.

### **SO 316-98 dated 4/13/98**

Brennan Caffery, Adam Jones and David Miller to PFC; Ethan Noll and Devin Tappan to CPL.

### **SO 317-98 dated 4/13/98**

John Cherin, Samuel Hinderliter, Jeremy Miller and Brent Sztrik to PV2; Tyler Gilles and Justin Randolph to PV1.

### **SO 319-98 dated 4/14/98**

Trevon Sickmann, Adam Beem and Jeffrey DeJarnett to PFC; Steven Mitchell to CPL; Anthony Alavarez and Tarik Trujillo to SGT; Matthew Beynon to 1LT; Mark Davis to CPT and Ryan Levitan to WO1.

### **SO 322-98 dated 4/16/98**

Kellen Beer to PFC; Christopher Boesker, Richard Crumbliss and Kevin Yert to CPL.

### **SO 323-98 dated 4/16/98**

David Anderson to 1LT; Neil Bundy and Thomas Cargill to PFC; Robert Flynn, Travis Foster, Ricardo Greenwood and Patrick O'Neal to PV2.

### **SO 329-98 dated 4/22/98**

Richard Detlefsen, Tyler Gilles, Robert Kitchens, Andrew Malveaux and Jesse Studebaker to PV2; Adam Vrana and Nathaniel Wells to PV1.

## **New Boys make Old Boy**

Listed are those promotions pertaining to New Boys making Old Boy Status since the last Skirmisher, and authorized to procure and wear the proper insignia.

### **SO 250-98 dated 3/03/98**

Rhett Belcher, Jonathan Mossinghoff and Stephen Young to PV2; Timothy Lombness, Kevin Yert and Richard Crumbliss to PFC.

### **SO 260-98 dated 3/06/98**

Brennan Caffery to PV2.

### **SO 274-98 dated 3/13/98**

Trevor Sickmann to PV2.

### **SO 286-98 dated 4/01/98**

Brent Hardrick, Blake McMurtrey and Benjamin Weir to PV2.

### **SO 302-98 dated 4/06/98**

Gabriel Martinez to PV2.

### **SO 326-98 dated 4/17/98**

Philip Biggs to PV2.

Thanks, Mr. Weideman, for keeping the hallways interesting. This particular exhibit was not by our talented Cadets, but, wow!

## Art Display in Vanier



## M.S. Media Club

Because of writing talents by some of the middle school cadets, Mr. Steve Ash decided to reward them by giving them deserved recognition. He formed a Media Club at Linger and the same criteria were established for earning the cords and ribbons as those adopted by the existing Media Club.

Current members of the club are Lucas Moore, Josh Lane, Justin George, Auxtin Cox, Jason Edwards, Henry Madsen, Justin Randolph, Kenny Musch, Ryan Knowlton, Mike Speelman, Tony Alvarez, Scott Rideout and Richard Cuba.

### Dale Browning *(continued from page 1)*

staff. When he completed his degree at Kansas Wesleyan, he became a full-time faculty member at St. John's, coaching the basketball team, assisting the Commandant, and teaching social studies.

Following several years at SJMS, Dale entered the banking field in Denver. Banking positions include President and CEO of Rocky Mountain BankCard System, Inc.; Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Colorado National Bankshares, Inc., President and CEO of Colorado National Bank, and President of Plus System, Inc.

Upon his retirement in 1994, the Plus System members presented St. John's with a gift which established the D. Dale Browning Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from this fund provides a full scholarship grant annually.

Since his retirement with Plus Systems, Dale served as Senior Consultant for Visa International and currently serves as President and CEO of ProCard, Inc.

Mr. Browning is an Honorary Colonel at St. John's, and his photo is also included on the Wall of Fame in Vanier Academic Center. Welcome back, Dale!

### FAERBERS

*(Continued from page 1)*

became secretary to the Lower School, Parkview, in 1975 and her many talents led to a full time position. Along with Capt. Gerald Woody, she started the Parkview 'activity room' which became a very famous campus spot with the games, books, and assortment of snakes, rabbits and hamsters. She assumed the duties of Quartermaster in 1986 and "mothering" the young cadets continued with the issuing of uniforms, books, toilet articles, weekly allowances, "hugs" and just about anything a boy needs from "mom." Her great laugh and beautiful singing voice will be part of the legacy she leaves at St. John's.



## Spring Prom

by Dustin Rekow, Ft. Collins, CO

It was a fun evening for those junior and senior cadets and their dates who attended this year's Prom. The dinner and dance was held at the Salina County Club, with 34 in attendance. Prom 'privs' were extended until midnight for the occasion. The D.J. was really good, making you dance to different music selections, such as the "chicken". She also provided village people "props" which are shown in the related photo.

The Presidential Liaisons, David Dickinson and Dustin Rekow, under the direction of Mrs. Pat McAlexander, were responsible for the arrangements. Chaperones for the occasion were Capt. and Mrs. Skip McAlexander, LTC & Mrs. Mike Furlo, Major and Mrs. George Stelljes and Mr. & Mrs. Mark Polzella.

## Cadets visit D.C.



## April Fools

Major Stelljes got even, but probably not quite, when he presented Cadet Kelly Coggins with a beautifully decorated birthday cake on April 1. Kelly has a summer birthday, so was surprised, but delighted, when



Stelljes brought the cake into his first hour classroom. Cutting into a "styrofoam cake" wasn't quite what he was expecting but it was a partial pay back for the numerous times Kelly has greeted Major Stelljes as "Mom," due to Stelljes' participating in the "Moms and Mr. Mom's Club."

## Four Seniors see D.C.

The Foundation - your PTA, again sponsored four cadets to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. The week long forum kept the cadets busy with lectures, activities and visiting historical sites.

Shown with General Dennis Reimer, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army are Scott Norris, Mark Triebwasser, Michael E. Harris and Nathan Bilotte

## *Presenting the Senior Class*



*David Anderson*



*Adam Beem*



*Matthew Beynon*



*Jeremiah Blakney*



*James Bray*



*Joshua Cantrell*



*David Celmer*



*Aaron Cowdin*



*Michael Crothers*



*Mark Davis*



*Jeffrey DeJarnett*



*David Dickinson*



*Matthew Fortelka*



*Jose Garmendia*



*Ricardo Greenwood*



*Michael E. Harris*

*of the 110th Corps of Cadets*



*Bobby J. Harris*



*Samuel Hinderliter*



*Taylor Johnson*



*James Johnson*



*Steven Marcy*



*Jerry Martin*



*Scott Norris*



*Michael Rolle*



*James Rutherford*



*Robert Ryman*



*Eric Schmeer*



*Eric Siskosky*



*Scott Sprencz*



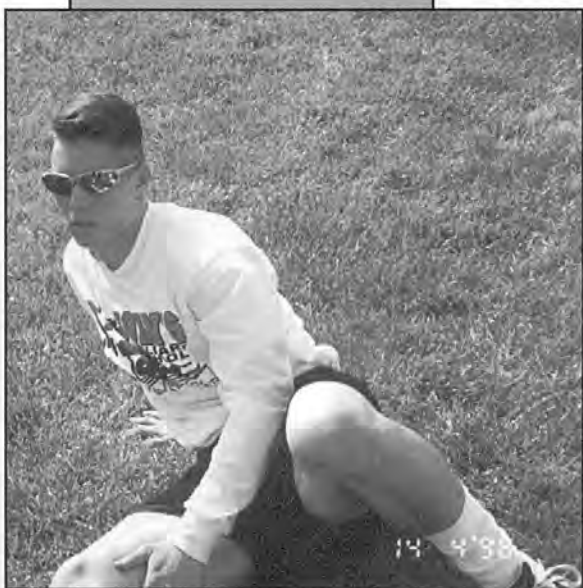
*Mark Triebwasser*



*Joel Vance*



*Benjamin Wallace*



## swoosh .. by Josh Lane, Colleyville, TX

This year's middle school basketball team was coached by Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Shaw. We began on November 27 with a group of 20 cadets. After the first day, we were split into Varsity and Junior Varsity teams with 10 players on each team. Mr. Rudolph coached the Varsity and Mr. Shaw led the Junior Varsity.

The Varsity players were: Fabian, Cox, Egger, McGivern, Trujillo, Knowlton, Lane, Martling, Speelman and Stafford. The Junior Varsity consisted of Randolph, Bridges, Cox, Beer, Trujillo, Robichaux, Holdcraft, Burkhardt, Vrana and Paul.

Our first game was against Tescott after only one week of practice. We finished out the season in a loss to Geneseo at the league tournament. Our record for the season was 3 and 7. Our coaches said that the team made improvements in shooting and passing as the year progressed.

It was an enjoyable season and I'm sure everyone on the team had fun.



## Spring Sports Organized

... Team members listed

### Track

U.S. Robert Fitzgerald, Nathan Bilotte, Derek Michael, Cody Welch, Michael Ratliff, Devin Tappan, Nathan Alexander, Derek Connelly, Michael E. Harris, Casey VanLandingham, thomas mComber, Pedro Romero, Frank Horn, Adam Beem, Mark Triebwasser, Kenneth Bradley, Eric Siskosky, James Bilotto, Ethan Noll and Thomas Zachary, coaches by Dan Walker and Mike Keith.

M.S. Rex Robichaux, Trent Peterson, Paul Hotholt, Christopher Boesker, Jeff Paul, Alan Daly, Daniel Wilcox, Chad Burkhardt, Darren Egger, Adam Jones, Alvaro Trujillo, Henry Madsen, Peter Wilcox, Thomas Stafford, Austin Cox, Blake Bridges, Thomas Cargill, Kellen Beer, Richard Cuba, Alex Fabian, Jimmy Martling, Joshua Lane, Lucas Moore, Jonathan Mossinghoff and Justin Randolph, coached by Steve Ash.

### Golf

Chad Landers, Tyler Gilles, Kelly Coggins, Ben Warren, Charlie Beriault, Matt Webster, Ivan Cunningham, Brennan Caffery, Brian McDonough, Nick Karpowich, Dustin Rekow, James Rutherford, Jens Petersen and Cody Humphrey, coached by Travis Shaw and Beryl Reichardt.

### Tennis

Rhett Belcher, Matt Gallegos, Joel Vance, Samuel Hinderliter, Ben Wallace, Stephen Young, David Clarke, Shaun Dumas, James VonNormann, Jason Smith and John Kunkel, coached by Gerald Martin.



# Shop Class very versatile

## Canine Capers

Sometimes shop students receive unusual requests. Cadet Aaron Cowdin came through when Major Stelljes shared the need for an A-frame obstacle for the Saline Co. 4-H Canine Capers group to use while training their dogs in obedience, showmanship and agility.

Being a dog owner himself, Cowdin not only built the frame, but has become almost an honorary member of the Club. He was invited back to watch and participate while the dog handlers trained their dogs to use the obstacle. It was amazing to see how quickly the dogs improved their agility with the use of the A-frame.



## Go-Cart

Part of the shop package is a go-cart. It even runs!

## big mountains

*by Rex Robichaux, Cortez, CO*

On the weekend of February 20, about 36 cadets went on the annual St. John's ski trip. It took place at the Silvercreek Lodge in the mountains near Denver.

A total of 10 hours could be spent skiing with, six hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday morning before departure.

On the way to Colorado, we ate in Goodland, Kansas and on the way back we stopped at Furr's Cafe in Denver.

We didn't arrive back to the school until 2 a.m. on Monday morning.

You could ask anyone who went and they would tell you how nice the lodge was, with its video game room, the spacious rooms and just **Good Living!**



## little wrestlers

*by Thomas P. Stafford, Norman, OK*

The middle school wrestling season consisted of nine matches and one tournament. In the tournament, Trent Peterson, Richard Cuba and Tyler McGivern all received first places; Rex Robichaux, Alvaro Trujillo and Josh Lane got 2nd places and David Holdcraft, Darren Egger, Chris Boesker and Peter Wilcox placed 3rd.

With nine matches and one tournament, the three best wrestlers were Tyler McGivern with 12-0 record, Richard Cuba with 7-4 record, and last but not least, Josh Lane, with a 7-3 record.

# spring break a real bust

by Dustin Rekow, Cortez CO

On Thursday morning, at the beginning of spring break, two charter buses left the St. John's campus about 7:30 a.m. enroute to Wichita. A light snow falling in Salina grew to blizzard proportions as they traveled south. By 11 a.m., the storm had grounded all flights out of Wichita Continental Airport and the cadets along with CSM Brent Hodges were stranded until Friday morning. With Hodges not being prepared for an extended visit at the airport, and with no real food discounts at the airport, Hodges used his cell phone and advised the school of what was happening. Those cadets 18 years of age or older were provided motel rooms for the evening, but not enough rooms were available at any one motel to handle the 30 cadets remaining so it was decided to remain at the airport. Stomachs were soon putting out hunger signals when it was learned that the roads between Wichita and Salina were so bad that no one would be arriving from campus to help out, especially when it was announced that one of the returning buses ended up in a ditch close to McPherson. But the "mule-skinners" slogan was tested, and MSG Joe Stewart and SFC Roy Lawrence both came through, arriving at the airport with money in hand and lots of moral support.

Most of the stranded travelers got away from the terminal for the night, but the cadets stayed together and stretched out preparing for a long night. I was one of the travelers that was awakened by a television newsman and a camera in my face. I later learned I made the evening news. Several of the women in the terminal recognized me and made mention of it to me. It was an uneventful night if you disregard the squeaking and rotating doors that kept busy all night.

Spring Break got started for most of us on Friday morning, with only one Cadet due to leave shortly after noon. But even then, things didn't go smoothly for me. After a 2-hour layover in Chicago and arriving at Ft. Lauderdale my luggage wasn't there. Due to the wet and cold conditions in Kansas and the heat and humidity at Daytona Beach, when I did get my clothing, it was nice and wet. This will be one Spring Break to remember.

# Curriculum: A Boost Up

by Robert Kitchens, Glenwood Springs, CO

The thing I like most about St. John's Military School is the academic curriculum. What I like the most about the curriculum is there are so many interesting classes. The classes at St. John's aren't classes you have at your average public school. For instance, Mrs. O'Neill's aerospace technology class. It is very interesting because you learn so much and you have so much fun at the same time. Overall the academic curriculum is great and well thought out.

My personal opinion is that the teachers are the main reason that the classes are so fun and interesting. All of the teachers have at least three classes a day with about six classes to plan for and that's a lot of work.

Another reason that I believe the teachers are the main reason for all of the fun and interesting classes is that the teachers are so nice. The teachers aren't just teachers, they are friends. Major Randolph, the school's principal, makes some very good decisions in selecting his teachers.

## ***The SKIRMISHER***

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## Blue Berets announced for 3rd grading period

Top scholars from the Upper School (those three students receiving the highest grade point average and authorized to wear the Blue Berets) were Scott Norris 97.35, Robert Bilotte 96.98 and Mark Triebwasser 96.32. Also making the Academic Dean's Honor Roll were Thomas McComber 96.26, Kelly Coggins 95.87, Benjamin Warren 95.49, Taylor Johnson 95.27, Thomas Zachary 94.69, James Rutherford 94.64, David Anderson 94.52, Eric Schmeer 93.90 and Matthew Beynon 93.77.

Top scholars from the Middle School, and also authorized to wear the Blue Berets, were Rex Robichaux 96.39, Thomas Stafford 95.58 and Michael Speelman 94.12. Jeffrey Paul also made the Honor Roll.

Upper School cadets making Honorable Mention were Joseph Gabel 93.44, Ivan Cunningham 93.29, Robert Fitzgerald 93.26, Kyle Quinn 93.23, Lance Hoover 93.22, Brian McDonough 93.10, Michael Sriver 93.04, Matthew Webster 92.98, Justin Vondrak 92.89, Aaron Cowdin 92.79, George Vogler 92.58, Jeremiah Blakney 92.55, Michael Crothers 92.38, Mark Davis 92.23, Matthew Fortelka 91.81, Michael E. Harris 91.49, Jake Solbakken 91.04, Joel Vance 90.99, Michael Rolle 90.91, Carlos Machado 90.75, Jerry Martin 90.43, Evan Marquez 90.29, David Dickinson 90.21, Steven Marcy 89.97, Michael Leonard 89.78, Scott Rideout 89.44, Joshua Lett 89.42, Anthony Alvarez 89.29, David Clarke 89.24, Timothy Lombness 88.73, Thomas McAllister 88.70, Samuel Hinderliter 88.68, Nathaniel Wells 88.68, Ryan Levitan 88.61 and Bobby Harris 88.51.

Middle School cadets making Honorable Mention were Kellen Beer 93.03, Christopher Boesker 93.01, Henry Madsen 92.21, Peter Wilcox 91.92, David Holdcraft 91.88, James Martling 91.24, Ryan Knowlton 90.79, Darren Egger 90.55, Joshua Lane 90.29, Daniel Wilcox 90.05, Blake Bridges 89.64, Jason Edwards 88.55 and Jason Hawkins 88.52.

## Cadets Authorized Ribbons

By Special Order, several cadets have recently been authorized to procure and wear cadet items with their uniform.

Awarded Community Service ribbons were Matthew Beynon, James V.F. Bray, Kelly Coggins, Cameron Oertel and Justin Vondrak.

As participating members of the Cadet Court, ribbons were authorized to Jonathan Allaband, Robert Bilotte, Scott Norris, Benjamin Warren and Jared Winer. Receiving cords were Alois Peter, Lee Strange and Justin Vondrak. Receiving the Bronze Lamp were Mark Treibwasser and Justin Vondrak.

Participating members of the Cadet Patrol and authorized the Cadet Patrol Beret, Cord, white gloves and ribbon were James Bilotto, Ivan Cunningham, Brandon Holsworth, John Hinshaw, James Martin, Cody Welch, Blake Bridtes, Jason Hawkins, Scott Matney, Paul Hotholt, Rex Robichaux and Thomas Stafford. Mark Davis received the Figure 8 cord along with the beret, gloves and ribbon, and Matt Fortelka received the ribbon.

## The League of Dreams

*by Kelly Coggins, San Antonio, Texas*

On April 8, St. John's hosted the Eisenhower league Forensics tournament. With over 170 people in attendance this event required help from the faculty and cadets to make it successful. The forensics class and the 13 schools who attended would like to thank Mrs. Chris Peterson, all the judges, the time-keepers, the Forensics Class, and all other helpers for their participation in this tournament.

**Please request in advance for special needs on campus during Commencement Weekend.**

## News from Old Boys

**William Sherman**, Atten '74-81

2951 Virginia Ave. South

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Asked to be put back on the mailing list, and provided his E-mail address for the Alumni Directory.

**Bret Hagglund**, Clas of '77

3168 Dean Court

Minneapolis MN 55416

Wants back on the mailing list and provided his E-Mail address for the Alumni Directory. Plans to be back for Commencement.

**Bob Odell**, Class of '89

865 S. Quebec St., Apt. 103B

Denver, CO 80231

Gave us his change of address and also wants addresses of "Old Boys" during his era who now reside in Denver.

**Brad Issler**, Class of '96, writes to Capt. McAlexander.

"Well, it's over. I graduated from IET. Right now I'm training on the TOW missile. I'm an 11 H tow gunner. After this, I go to airborne school, then on to 82nd of Fort Bragg. I'm excited. Before we graduated we did a 6-day FTX and on the last night at 2300 hrs we did a 15 mile road march in the pouring rain. That was pretty tough. It took about 5 hours but when it was over, we were all pretty proud of ourselves. I hope the year is going well. Please tell all the teachers and faculty I said Hi."

**Joseph Miller**, Class of '97

3104 N. Woodburne

Chandler AZ 85224

Provided us his new address.

**Patrick McKnight**, Class of '97, writes to SJMS.

".. I am currently in Aberdeen Proving Grounds attending ALT learning how to work on track vehicle mechanics. So far the Army life has not been bad. I had a lot of fun in basic training. The best part about it was going to shoot the AT4 rocket launcher, the M203 grenade launcher and my favorite, the M60X. I am very grateful for the discipline and training St. John's taught me. It kept me out of trouble. It also got me a squad leader position. I made it through basic without killing myself, and now things have slowed down. I graduate from here on April 8 and ship out to Fort Knox, Kentucky. If I'm lucky, I'll get shipped to fight in Saudi Arabia and see some combat! I'm going to try and go to Airborne and Air Assault school. I'm not sure if I'm going to make this a career but it's a good possibility. To all the cadets I don't know, no matter how hard it gets and no matter how hard it may seem, don't give up. Listen to the advisors, they will not steer you wrong.....Charlie Company, rock on!"

## FAERBER

(continued from page 2)

disliked the bells in the barracks and therefore most bells had frequent "accidents"! Anyway, now we don't have bells as a symbol telling cadets to get up, go to bed, go to school, or ring on weekends. This change has given cadets more responsibility and has prepared them for the real world—without bells.

School Improvement Plan. No matter what title it's given by the state department of Education or the North Central Accrediting Association, I'm happy that the administration, President Duckers and President McAlexander, have supported my annual efforts. Each year I have asked the teachers to submit current information to develop new courses, upgrading of textbooks, and to add new soft and hardware for computer programs. With the combined efforts of middle and upper school teachers, we have constantly improved the quality of education and have made learning more enjoyable and relevant to the cadet world.

There have been numerous other changes, class schedules ranging from six hour days with Saturday A.M. classes, seven and eight hour days, some evening and weekend classes while making the movie; and of course, now, the block schedule. Class instruction times of forty, forty-five, fifty, fifty-eight, and the block of ninety minutes have all been a part of various school improvement programs.

However, I feel the most important factor in my twenty-eight years at St. John's, is being given the opportunity to work with people that really and truly care about cadets and their quality of education. Mrs. Faerber and I have always believed in the mission of St. John's, 'to provide each cadet with the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically in a structured environment.' We will definitely miss the cadets expression of appreciation—a big smile and a sincere—thanks a lot for taking the time to help me.

We SALUTE those, past and present, who have dedicated their lives helping St. John's cadets.

# *Alumni Reception honoring the Faerbers*

*Commencement  
Weekend*

*Saturday, May 16*

*7:30 p.m.*

*Salina Bicentennial Center*

*All "Old Boys" invited*

## **TAPS**

### **A. D. Greer, 93**

Austin, Texas, died February 9, 1998. Aubury Greer attended St. John's from 1918 thru 1922. An artist, known best for his western landscapes, had work exhibited throughout the United States including his painting "Cattle Country" which was purchased by Lyndon B. Johnson and exhibited at the White House during his presidency. Greer is survived by his wife, a daughter and stepdaughter.

### **Gene W. Penny, 73**

Burlington, Colorado, died April 20, 1998. Gene was an "Old Boy" in the class of 1943. Farming and ranching was a major part of his life until his retirement when he turned to woodworking. He and his St. John's classmates returned often to campus during Commencement Weekend for their class reunions. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy and four sons.

## **Morrisons give Map**

Charles M. Morrison '44, and his wife Rachel recently visited St. John's. Charlie refers to St. John's as home. He spent eight years at the school prior to joining the armed forces.

Charlie was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment. The 80th Division's march through Europe began in France on August 3, 1944. PFC Morrison joined in the fighting to close the Argentan-Falaise gap. The Division went on towards Chalons, crossing the Meuse River in September of that year and fought its way across the Moselle at Dieulouard, north of Nancy. Through April of 1945, the 80th continued to move eastward losing thousands of men.

The division took part in the bitter fighting at the Wiltz and Our Rivers, helped clear the Viaden Bulge, was part of the Saar-Palatinate Campaign, crossed the Rhine taking Kassel and Erfurt, and on May 1, crossed into Austria.

The map that Charlie and Rachel presented St. John's is an original map of the 80th Division trek.



## Commencement Weekend 1998

### *Schedule of Events*

#### Friday, May 15

12:30 - 1 PM . . . . . Registration  
 1:00 - 4:00 PM . . . Parent/Teacher/Staff  
    Conferences  
 4:15 - 5:00 PM . . . Reception for Patrons, Alumni  
    and Guests. East Lawn  
 5:00 PM . . . . . Retreat Parade, Teardrop  
 7:00 PM . . . . . Military Ball 1998  
    Salina Bicentennial Center

#### Saturday, May 16

7:50 AM . . . . . Flag Raising Ceremony  
 8:10 AM . . . . . Thompson-Moran Center  
    Dedication  
 8:25 AM . . . . . Continental Breakfast -  
    East Lawn  
 10:30 AM . . . . . Commandant's Military  
    Awards Ceremony  
    Perkins Field, SJMS  
 12:30 PM . . . . . SJMS Foundation Luncheon  
    Salina Bicentennial Center

2:00 PM . . . Educational Honors Convoca  
    tion and Eighth Grade Grad.

7:30 PM . . . . . Alumni Reception  
    Salina Bicentennial Center

#### Sunday, May 17

8:00 AM . . . . . The Senior Eucharist  
    < Mandatory for Seniors  
    Everyone Welcome  
    Armstrong Memorial Chapel

9:15 AM . . . . . Freedom Tree Ceremony

10:00 AM . . . COMMENCEMENT  
    Perkins Field, Speaker  
    D. Dale Browning,  
    "Old Boy" Class of '55

11:30 AM . . . Final Retreat Parade  
    Pass in Review  
    Dismissal - 110<sup>th</sup> Corps of  
    Cadets



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