



The Citadel Family Association

All In The Family



Parents' Day 2007

Mark your calendar. October 12 - 14 is an important milestone for knobs and seniors alike

Parents' Weekend, October 12 - 14, is a big deal. For the Moms and Dads of knobs, it's a first chance to see just what The Citadel has done to your baby. (For the record: he or she will stand taller, look skinnier, wear clothes that fit, eat a rotten mule if you let them and, given the chance, sleep for 12 hours straight.) This is also the weekend knobs are inducted into the Corps of Cadets, moving from "recruit" to "cadet private."

For seniors, Parents' Weekend boils down to one thing: The Ring.

Seniors receive their class rings at a ceremony on Friday and they immediately puff up like the prized toad. They've worked for three years to get the ring. Now all they have to do is work one more year to keep it.

The Ring Ceremony will be held this year in McAlister Field House to accommodate the crowds. This is a change of venue from the past. Seating, however, is limited. See the schedule on page 4 or at citadel.edu.

New parents, you will be allowed to visit your knob's room in the barracks (a rare treat) and see that, yes, it can be done: That slob who left home in August has learned to pick up dirty clothes and clean the sink.

This is also a good time to get to know your knob's roommate and his or her parents. You may have had a few minutes to meet on Matriculation Day but you all had other things on your mind. Besides, when you have two or more knobs together, you'll start to hear stories from the past few weeks. It's then you'll learn your child is well on the way to being a true Citadel Cadet.

The blessings of the host family experience

by "Chauncey Company" – Bill, Lois, Jenna, Meghan & Daniel Chauncey, In Honor of The Citadel's Finest

Whether you're a knob, Cadet or Citadel parent, it's easy to see the benefits of participating in The Citadel's Host Family

It has been a wonderful journey watching each of them grow into proud Citadel men.

program. While the purpose served to each group may be vastly different, the benefits are all noteworthy.

As a knob, Host Family provides a place to escape, where rank has no bearing for the first time in a while. In fact, time spent with the Host Family can be a "ledge-ending" experience, where a taste of home

and civilian life can provide knobs with the motivation to see their commitment through.

As a cadet, it's a friendly place to come back to, just the thing to cure an occasional bout of homesickness or boredom, or rejuvenate from those mid-semester slumps or pre-exam jitters. A Host Family can be a place to sleep, watch TV, wash clothes, find solitude, talk over concerns, be around surrogate siblings and parents, and rediscover home cooking (with condiments).

For parents, Host Families are eyes on the ground and a support system, providing needed comfort during one of life's most difficult transitions for any family. While originally established as a means of reducing Fourth Class recidivism, the Host Family program has reduced the fear and anxiety of many parents throughout the years.

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At the CFA barbecue on Matriculation Day (above), a future cadet, already missing his brother or sister, tries to figure out if he himself will be Class of 2024 or 2025.

In This Issue

Blue Shirts show up big time

•
What is "bracing?"

•
Special appreciation from the CFA

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Host Families get just as much benefit from the program as knobs and knobs' parents

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Remarkably, however, there is another group that benefits from the Host experience. The experience has been completely underestimated but profound on the Host Families themselves.

Our family is fortunate to have served as a Host Family for the past four years. We graduated three of our first "sons" last May and



watch closely as they begin their lives and careers beyond The Citadel's walls. We also brace for the bittersweet moments to come next year where eight more of our guys will join the ranks of Citadel Alumni. We have more Cadets

behind them and we know this is all a part of the master plan for their lives. It has been a wonderful journey with each one, watching them grow into proud Citadel men.

Over the years we have:

- Attested to parents that, indeed, the stitches were healing nicely.
- Assured several Moms that their sons hadn't lost too much weight.
- Taught a couple of Northern Moms how to make that Southern delicacy "grits" so their sons could enjoy them during their breaks from school.
- Reinforced study habits and the importance of grades (at the request of most parents – or as we saw necessary – in a non-threatening, casual conversation).
- Discussed evacuation plans when faced with several storm-related events.
- Coordinated airport pick-up times and ensured calls home upon arrival.

With our guys we have:

- Created Sunday brunches for "Chauncey Company."
- Celebrated many birthdays and some holidays away from home.

- Watched a lot of movies together.
- Housed all of them for overnights, breaks, Summer sessions or just passing-throughs.
- Been a listening ear for some of life's toughest topics.
- Met lots of girlfriends, most of whom we still adore to this day.
- Provided a home-away-from-home with a big welcome mat.
- Shared life-lasting memories.

But for our part we have received tremendous gratitude and love from some of today's finest young adults. We have also received the blessings of good role models and positive influences for our three children.

While having no previous connection to The Citadel prior to this experience, it is easy to see the important values and lessons our guys carry with them both on and off campus. They have become protective older brothers, screening all incoming calls our teenage daughters receive, and adamantly discouraging any behavior or activity that remotely resembles dating. They also play sports and video games with our son, all the while discussing Citadel life and ideals. In fact, the bond formed from our Host Family experience is so strong that our children consider themselves to be a family with 15-plus siblings (we lost count along the way) versus a family of three. If asked, they wouldn't have it any other way.

When we answered an ad in our church's bulletin seeking Host Families, we thought, "wow, that sounds like a great ministry" – providing hospitality to college students so

Our children consider themselves a family with 15-plus siblings.

far away from home. It was, and is, an age group my husband and I enjoy, and we thought we could make a positive impact on behalf of The Citadel. In reality, we can't imagine life without our guys.

While the blessings of the Host Family program may have been intended for knobs originally, it has certainly come full circle, growing to include First – Third Class Cadets, Alumni, Parents and the Host Families themselves. As for us, we see evidence of these blessings daily and are so grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role. We may be that home-away-from-home for many, but we always feel right at home with this program.

Editor's Note: Priority participation in the Host Family program is given to Cadets who live more than three hours away from Charleston. For more information on Host Families, contact Ms. Mary Ann Dorton, Office of Cadet Activities, 843-953-7776.

Citadel Language

- **Brace** — To pull the chin and stomach in and the shoulders back and down.
- **Cadre** — Cadets of the upper three classes who train incoming fourth class cadets.
- **Confinement (a.k.a. Cons)** — Awarded as punishment; confined to quarters for breach of discipline.
- **Fourth Class Cadet** — A first year cadet; also "knob" or "smack."
- **Mess Fact** — Fourth class cadets may be required to give mess facts at the lunch and evening meals. These mess facts may be any item of "Knob Knowledge," the next day's menu or a current event from the day's newspaper.
- **PT** — Physical Training.
- **SMI** — Saturday Morning Inspection. A formal, personal room inspection.
- **TAC** — Tactical Officer. A military officer assigned to oversee all cadet activities at the company/battalion levels.

Knob parents notice CFA's contribution during Matriculation Day; won't you help next year?

Our Citadel Family was evident during Matriculation Day as we welcomed the class of 2011. There were Blue Shirt volunteers from Texas, Georgia, New York, California, Tennessee, Colorado, Missouri, New Jersey, Maryland, South and North Carolina, and Oregon. Telephone calls and emails began last February. Since then we estimate our CFA volunteers have responded to 1,200 – 1,500 emails and no fewer than 200-300 telephone calls (perhaps more).

“We could not have made it without you ... count on us next year to help.”

Our Blue Shirts did make a difference. Here is just a sampling of remarks we have received:

• *I have to extend to you and the CFA a heartfelt “THANK YOU” for the kindness, helpfulness and big welcome we received upon entering the campus.*

• *Your organization did a beautiful job assisting everyone. For such a difficult day you made it easier. Thank you for all your efforts.*

• *The CFA did an excellent job of providing support for family members. Thank you so very much for doing such a fantastic job preparing the volunteers and supporting the incoming knob families.*

• *Thank you for your help and support the past few months as we prepared (as much as we could!) for knob year. We are now in the one day-at-a-time mode!*

• *How can we ever thank you enough? You responded to our endless emails and picked up the phone each time we called. We could not have made it to Matriculation without you! You can count on us next year to help the CFA welcome new knobs.*

• *What a fantastic service that you so freely gave to all of “us new knob parents!” Thank you for being with us through the day and answering our questions for the 10,000th time. You made it “easy.”*

On behalf of The Citadel Family Association we express our sincere appreciation to everyone who gave of their time and effort to make this a special day for the parents of the class of 2011.

You braved the heat; you extended the hand of friendship; you answered questions and you gave words of encouragement and advice. You set up, tore down, set up again, decorated, cleaned up ... and you never stopped smiling. We are so grateful to be part of this wonderful family!

So we have begun the journey of the 2007 - 2008 year together as the Citadel Family. The countdown is underway. Even before we left Charleston we overheard several seniors already shouting out the number of days until they, too, will wear The Ring.

How stirring it is for seniors to begin their final year. How exciting it is for all the knobs to tackle this new chapter in their lives. Parents, we have our work cut out for us.



Matriculation Day is a lot better when Mom gets a hug from the CFA.

It is our job to keep encouraging our knob or Cadet. Remember to send emails, letters, cards and packages – not only to knobs, but to sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well.

This first year will go by more quickly than anyone can realize. For parents of seniors, the tender, sweet moment of graduation for the 2008 class is only a breath away.

We look forward to seeing you Parent's Weekend. Yes, indeed, the countdown has begun.

*With warmest regards,
Mark and Kaye Youngren, Chair
The Citadel Family Association
Charlie Company, 2008*

**For their sponsorship of the barbecue Matriculation Day, 2007,
the CFA Board of Directors,
on behalf of The Citadel Family Association,
expresses its special appreciation to:**



**The Citadel Foundation
and
Sticky Fingers BBQ**



**Thank you for your support.
Matriculation Day 2007 was a great success.
The food was fantastic. The service was great.**

Parents' Weekend schedule brings changes in venues, no parade Friday afternoon

Friday, October 12

Noon Women's Soccer vs. Elon – Washington Light Infantry Field.
12:45 p.m. First Class procession piped to McAlister Field House
1 p.m. *Presentation of rings to the Class of 2008, McAlister Field House.*
1-2:30 p.m. Academic Department Open Houses, respective departments.
1-4 p.m. *Parents' Information Reception, Mark Clark Hall Reception Room.*
3:30 p.m. *Report to parents by the Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa, Buyer Auditorium, Mark Clark Hall.*
6-9 p.m. *Ring ceremony, McAlister Field House.*
8:30-11 p.m. *Ring and Parents' Weekend Hop, featuring The East Coast Party Band, Deas Hall.*

Saturday, October 13

8-11 a.m. Information Center: Coffee, juice and pastries for parents and guests, sale of lunch tickets, football tickets, mementos and company pictures, Buyer Auditorium, Mark Clark Hall.
8:30-10:15 a.m. *Barracks Open to Parents. The Citadel Pipe Band will perform at all barracks.*
8:45 a.m. Fourth Class Squad Drill Competition (Kelly Cup) on the Padgett-Thomas Barracks quad.
9:15 a.m. *Rifle Legion Performance, Padgett-Thomas Barracks quad.*
9:30 a.m. Regimental Band concert, Summerall Field.
10 a.m. *Fourth Class Promotion in all barracks.*
10:30 a.m. Carillon Concert.
11 a.m. Parade, Summerall Field. Fourth Class Acceptance, Awards presentations. (Inclement weather: Parade is cancelled and awards presentation relocated to Summerall Chapel.)

11:30 a.m. Pre- and post-game festivities, Holliday Alumni Center. Sponsored by The Citadel Alumni Association, food will be available for purchase. Open to parents as well as alumni.
Noon Parents' Prayer Ministry Luncheon, Greater Issues Room, Mark Clark Hall. (Reservation only; call 843-953-5049)
Noon Family style lunch, Coward Mess Hall.
Box Lunch, Deas Hall.
Tickets: \$8 each. Must be purchased in advance.
1:30 p.m. The Corps marches to Johnson Hagood Stadium.
2 p.m. Bulldog Football vs. Furman University.
Summerall Guards perform at halftime.
7 p.m. Women's volleyball vs. Wofford College, McAlister Field House.

Sunday, October 14

9 a.m. Protestant (Interdenominational) Worship, Summerall Chapel. Reception, Mark Clark Hall Reception Room.
10:45 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass, Summerall Chapel (Blessing of the Rings).
11:15 a.m. Episcopal Reception, Mark Clark Hall Reception Room.
Noon Catholic Reception, Mark Clark Hall Reception Room.
Noon Episcopal Communion Service, St. Alban's Chapel (Blessing of the Rings).
1 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. College of Charleston, Washington Light Infantry Field.
3 p.m. Women's Volleyball vs. Furman, McAlister Field House.

Note: Items in *italics* are changes in either time and/or location from previous years.

CFA's web bonus: More Matriculation Day photos

