



The Citadel Family Association



All In The Family

Matriculation Day 2007

'I promise John and I will take very good care of each and every one ...'

Once again, I find myself asking the question: "Where has the time gone?" And I am sure each of you are doing the same. Not too long ago your sons and daughters were beginning kindergarten, then grade school, middle school and now they have just graduated from high school. Where HAS the time gone?

You are probably wondering how can it be that in a short

couple of months you will be dropping your sons and daughters off to begin the next phase of their young lives. It is a time filled with joy, pride and apprehension all rolled together. However, from John and my perspectives, we could not be happier.

On Matriculation Day, look for Cadets in uniform and CFA Representatives in blue shirts for help, advice or directions.



On May 5 we had to say goodbye to 438 of "our sons and daughters." We were so very proud of each of them as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas at graduation. I cannot begin to tell you how much we are looking forward to meeting and getting to know our newest group of "children."

Questions from incoming parents & answers from parents and Cadets who have been there

You have heard the stories; are they true? As the parents of an incoming Knob you know your son or daughter has been accepted to one of the finest military colleges in the United States where someone

"As a parent, how do we prepare? ... How do you survive this?"

else will tell them what to do, when to do it and how to do it. You can sleep secure ... sort of ... knowing they will be checked in each night, awakened each morning and fed three squares a day. You may feel your work is done at Matriculation Day. But, for both parent and Knob, the journey is just beginning.

But you still have questions. The following questions (and answers) that have been collected from conversations and correspondence between parents, CFA Representatives and experienced Cadets:

Q: What is the one piece of advice you would give to a Knob that would help them succeed?

Cadet: *Keep a good attitude. Do your job. Stay focused on why you wanted to come to The Citadel in the first place. You will need to remind yourself of this from time to time.*

Q: What stands out in your memory about getting your Knob ready to report for Matriculation Day?

Parent: *We bought the shoes and boots beforehand so they could be*

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I promise you John and I will take very good care of each and every one of them. Last year we had a ball watching as they grew and matured into wonderful young men and women and this year will be no different.

Thank you for entrusting your child to us. Please know that John and I do not take this responsibility lightly. We realize it is going to be a year filled with mixed emotions but at the same time each of them will be extremely proud of themselves for all they are accomplishing.

Please come by and say hello when you come back to visit. John and I would love to meet each of you and say thanks for letting us

"borrow" your child for the next four years. We look forward to seeing you at parades and on campus in the future.

*Sincerely,
Donna Rosa*

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MATRICULATION DAY 2006



Count on hot weather. Count on heavy lifting. Count on an air thick with excitement.



2007 Citadel Football Schedule

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------|
| Sept. 01 - 2 p.m. | Chas. Southern | Home |
| Sept. 08 - 2 p.m. | Webber Inter'l. | Home |
| Sept. 15 - 2 p.m. | Wisconsin | Away |
| Sept. 29 - 6 p.m. | Chattanooga | Away |
| Oct. 06 - 2 p.m. | Wofford | Home |
| Oct. 13 - 2 p.m. | Furman | Home |
| Oct. 20 - 1 p.m. | W. Carolina | Away |
| Oct. 27 - 2 p.m. | Georgia Southern | Away |
| Nov. 03 - 2 p.m. | Appalachian State | Home |
| | (Homecoming) | |
| Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. | Elon | Home |
| Nov. 17 - 1 p.m. | VMI | Away |

One Knob mother's experience

Dear Mark and Kaye

Walt and I want to thank the CFA and all of the members of the Citadel Family for the support we received in getting our son, John, through his Knob year. The system does work.

I wrote to you after John burned his leg on Christmas leave and wanted to quit. With your guidance and the support of his senior mentor, Mr. Russell, and a senior private, Mr. Whipporman, he didn't just make it through, he thrived.

Mr. Russell told John that he could and would make it. Mr. Russell was such an outstanding example of a gentleman that John was determined not to let him down. Of course, the two of you handled the parents' panic.

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Questions and answers

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broken in. We encouraged our son to work on his physical training. And we asked him many times: "Are you sure this is what you want to do?" The answer was always, "yes." We reminded him of this later.

Q: What is the one thing you now know that you wish you had known before your Knob reported on Matriculation Day?

Parent: *I think what stands out the*

"They will make friends who are closer to them than you or I could begin to understand."

most for me is the quickness with which the knobs are whisked away from the parents once cars are unloaded and when the luncheon was over. I was utterly amazed, Cadets hugged Mom and Dad and away they went. I also didn't know that I would not be hearing from my son for a few weeks and if I had known that I would have had that set in my mind.

Q: Ever think about quitting?

Cadet: *Sure, I do not know of anyone who didn't. But I made a commitment to stick it out for one year and as I look back, I am glad my parents were strong as they encouraged (and reminded) me many times, especially the first semester. I will graduate in 2008 and I will be proud to wear The Ring in just a few months.*

Mom's experience

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What amazed me is that every step of the way was predicted and explained by the CFA and General Rosa. When one realizes that these emotions are normal and expected, it becomes clear [The Citadel and Knob year] is a system.

He was given the opportunity to go to another company. After Recognition Day, he said "no." He loves Oscar!

He is doing Maymester and Summer I to get ahead and is excited for next year.

Walt and I look forward to helping the CFA in anyway we can and any Knob parent who panics.

*Thanks again,
Toni and Walt Williams*

Q: What would you tell a Knob who questions, "Did I make the right decision to come to The Citadel?"

Cadet: *My parents told me, "Quitting was not an option!" Remember that you are one of several hundred Knobs who are going through the same thing. Others before us have made it and you can too!*

Q: What advice would you give a parent and a Knob?

Parent: *A Knob's best attitude is invisibility. Be where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there, and be prepared. Don't do anything to draw attention to yourself. And, Mom, that includes Matriculation Day. Moist eyes and a few tears are fine. So is a hug ... but the "last hug" should be like a good handshake: not too limp, not too firm or clingy. Out and out blubbering is never a good idea. All that does is saddle a Knob with the "momma's boy" label.*

Q: From a parent of an incoming

Knob: "As a parent, how do we prepare? I know how to read the list of what he needs. I know what I need to do about his shoes. I know that it will be muggy ... I know the ache of leaving a child at college. [But], how do you survive this? What advice can you give me that will help me help our son get through this as easily as possible?"

CFA Representative: *It sounds as if you're in the right place in your mind: excited, confused, scared, and proud. And you should be. It's perfectly natural. The Citadel is rarefied air: at once full of pomp and circumstance and, at the same time, demanding and tough. It can also petty, trivial, mundane and sneaky. It's a fine academic organization. Its leadership training is evolving, for the better, and yet, at some*

CFA BBO RSVP

The CFA looks forward to meeting you on Matriculation Day at the CFA barbecue. Meet other parents and your Company Reps. Share your concerns. Ask questions ... and make friends that will last a lifetime. Welcome to the Citadel Family! Look for an RSVP form in the mail later this summer!

levels sometimes, it can behave like a state agency. All in all, it's probably the best real-world training 18-year-olds can get. Cadets are exposed to great leadership, competent leadership and bad leadership. It's important to recognize and learn from all three. They learn to work within a system of rules and regulations that, at first seem cut and dried, but, as they learn the ropes, they see that, as in any system, there are nuances and gray areas.

They will make friends who are closer to them than you or I could ever begin to understand. And I can think of no better proving ground.

On Matriculation Day, do find a CFA representative (in the blue shirts) and lean on us. That's what we're there for. Take advantage of the Company Representatives. There are at least two for each company. These are parents who have agreed to field questions from parents throughout the year. Their phone numbers are published in this newsletter; you can also find them on the CFA website (www.citadel.edu/cfa). Of course, you won't know your son or daughter's company until Matriculation Day but you will have an opportunity to meet your Company Rep. then.

Also take advantage of the Host Family program. Priority is given to Cadets who live more than three hours away from Charleston. Host families will take in Knobs for a Saturday, for example. Feed them, listen to them, and let them do laundry. Or just let them sleep on the sofa.

For more information on Host Families, contact Ms. Mary Ann Dorton, Office of Cadet Activities, 843-953-7776.

Citadel Family Association Company Representatives

Company Representatives are available to answer your questions or help you learn about how The Citadel works. Feel free to contact us. We've all been through this before. We understand what you and your Knob are going through ... and we're here to ease that transition as best as we can. If you know of someone who would like to be a Company Representative, please contact Andy & Kim Creech, Volunteer Coordinator, at 864-848-6096.

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