

The last time the Barracks were open was 16 August. Here's a chance to see what's changed

Parents' Day, 11 October, is a big day in the life of all Cadets. But for Knobs and First Class Cadets it is an especially important landmark in their Citadel careers.

In the eight weeks between Matriculation Day and Parents' Day, Knobs undergo a remarkable transition from civilian to Cadet. The transition is both physical and mental.

Parents will find their child stands taller, wears clothes that fit snugly on a sculpted body and presents an air of confidence he or she has rarely displayed in the past. And, if you let them, they will also eat an entire cow then sleep for solid 18 hours.

During those eight weeks, Knobs carry the rank of "Cadet Recruit." At a ceremony held in each Company, Cadet Recruits receive their company insignia and the word "Recruit" is dropped from their rank and they become "Cadet Private."

Also on Parents' Day weekend, academically eligible First Class Cadets receive their Citadel Rings at the hallowed "Ring Ceremony." The display of exuberance of 150 senior Cadets wearing their rings for the first time is not to be missed.

There will be no parade Friday, 10 October. The Parents' Day parade will take place at 11 a.m., Saturday, weather permitting.

Barracks and classrooms will be open for parental inspection until 10 a.m.

At 2 p.m. the Citadel Bulldog football team will play Elon in the newly renovated Johnson-Hagood Stadium. You can order tickets online at www.citadelsports.com. Out-of-town parents be sure to make your lodging reservations early. Some Charleston hotels offer discounts to Citadel families. Be sure to ask. For an up-to-date schedule of activities, visit the Citadel's website, www.citadel.edu.



Citadel Heroes Project receives thanks from Kunar, Afghanistan

Last fall, the CFA learned that 15 of our active Citadel Cadets had been deployed to serve in The War on Terror. Our interest was immediately peaked by the fact that these were not alumni, but actual Citadel Cadets who had answered the call of duty while actively attending The Citadel.

The Citadel Family Association immediately embraced these Cadets by letting them know they had not been forgotten, thus beginning our Citadel Heroes Project.

Our project started with mailing packages at Christmas in 2007. This endeavor was so successful that we added mailings for Easter and July 4th in 2008.

We started with four parents and have now grown to 25 parents, Citadel staff, and alumni.

These 25 have managed to work with their places of employment, churches, alumni clubs and communities to collect need-

ed items to send to the deployed Cadets.

These packages are, of course, shared with other members of the soldiers' Battalions, so we are reaching beyond the walls of The Citadel to other members of our military.

School children mailed handmade Christmas and Easter cards, governors sent Christmas cards, and boxes were brimming over with goodies packed to the top.

A special thanks goes to General Rosa and his staff for joining this group and adding their own notes of encouragement.

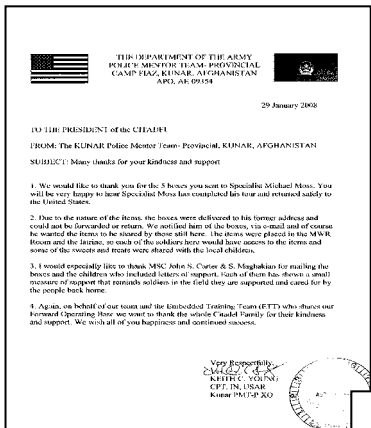
According to Patty Walk, a kindergarten teacher and Charlie Co. parent, "my elementary school leadership group really enjoyed making cards for the cadets. It helped them realize that freedom isn't free, but it's worth fighting for."

This project has opened doors allowing us to not only serve our

cadets, but also to give support to injured alumni and Citadel Cadets recovering at Walter Reed Hospital.

We are gearing up for Christmas 2008, so if you are interested in assisting in our efforts you may e-mail Loretta Smith, Citadel Heroes Project Director at tofamlyfarm@aol.com or call 803-957-8958.

Additional information will be at the CFA tables during Parents' Weekend and on the CFA website, citadelfamilyassociation.com.



A note from soldiers in Afghanistan thanking The Citadel Family for our "kindness and support."



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SCENES FROM MATRICULATION DAY 2008



Matriculation Day ran very smoothly... at least from the CFA's perspective. New parents and Knobs probably think all was chaos and mayhem. Yes, it was muggy and, yes, there was plenty of standing in line. That's par for the course. Overcast skies helped. And it didn't rain.

The Citadel staff, Cadre and CFA volunteers all pulled together to ensure a tough day for everyone had as few glitches as possible, and that everyone's experience was positive one. Now more than new 700 families have joined the Citadel ranks. Welcome to the Family.



TAC officers offer teaching, advising and coaching, and yeah, they've got the skills to do the job

by David M. White, Columbia, SC

The Corps of Cadets, approximately 2,000 men and women, is divided among five battalions and 19 companies. For nearly a dozen years the Citadel has had the goal of having on staff one TAC officer for each battalion and one for each company.

This year, according to Col. Jim Dorton, the assistant commandant for Discipline and the Regimental Tactical Officers, the Citadel is almost at its full complement.

According to the Guidon, the cadet handbook, TAC is short for "Tactical Officer," a "military officer assigned to oversee all cadet activities at the company/battalion levels."

According to Dorton, the definition of TAC is a little more involved.

"Even though it's spelled out 'Tactical Officer,'" said Dorton, "we think of it as Teaching, Advising and Coaching. Their main job is to be the college's official presence within the barracks, and provide adult advice and mentorship based on experience that young people need as they grow."

TACs are also the disciplinary arm of the Commandant's Department; "counseling and disciplinary oversight," Dorton calls it.

"When we first started," he said, "we only had two TACs per barracks: a battalion TAC and an assistant. Two people trying to cover 500 young people 14- to 24-hours a day ... it was more of a loose framework.

"After about five years we had a battalion TAC and two company-level TACs in each battalion. But we still couldn't do what we wanted to do, which was to have enough TACs where each could focus on a small number of cadets so he could see every kid.

"When we have one per company that means, instead of one guy handling 200 -250, you've got one handling about 100. That's more manageable. You get more quality time and a TAC can reach out to cadets who are quiet, shy, ... good kids who have questions and don't have problems, but may be reluctant to come to the TAC."

It takes a lot of experience to be a Citadel TAC officer. It's not a matter of keeping 19 year olds from snapping towels at each other. These guys are serious and have significant pedigrees. In fact, one of the new TACs this year is a retired Marine colonel. His last job? Number two man at Parris Island. Yeah, he's got the chops for the job.

"The job description is pretty daunting," said Dorton. "A battalion TAC can be up to the rank of colonel. In fact one of the new ones is a retired Air Force colonel. They must have had at least 20 years of military experience and at least a Master's degree.

"A company TAC can be a colonel but they're usually captains, majors or lieutenant colonels. They've got a college degree. They have had some Master's level courses but not completed it, necessarily. And they have had, at the military level, 20 years experience and an amount of command at least at the company or possibly battalion level. They also have had the command and staff level military schooling."

The TAC officers are not there *in loco parentis*. The TAC officer is not mommy or daddy. It's the job of the cadet chain of command to teach discipline and "followship" as a foundation to learning leadership. It's the TAC officer's job to oversee and step in with a solid, adult perspective when needed.

The TAC officers' experience, knowledge and dedication are part of what sets the Citadel experience apart and gives unseen value long after cadets become alumni.

Depth of commitment helps make the Family Association a true asset to the parents of Cadets

by Mark and Kaye Youngren, CFA Chair, Portland, OR

First of all, on behalf of the CFA Board of Directors, we send enormous appreciation to Mark and Kathy Jagger, Volunteer Coordinators; and Assistant Volunteer Coordinators, Darlene and Jim Filan, for organizing Matriculation Day 2008.

The CFA "Blue Shirt" volunteers turned out in greater numbers than ever before, about 150. We welcomed approximately 711 Knobs and their families with smiles, hugs and encouraging words.

Parents travelled from every area of the country including California, Tennessee, New Jersey, Texas, Georgia, and all points west, east, south and north to greet the Class of 2012. And of the parents who volunteered had to come back to Charleston a week later to bring their upperclass cadets back to school. What dedication.

Our volunteer base now includes Battalion Representatives (the brain child of Lou Ann Coleman) and our Company Representative list continues to grow as well. Maureen Boyle came up with the idea to gather information from parents during check in.

We plan to use this information to establish a Yahoo Group for each company. This was very successful for Delta Company last year and we hope to duplicate it for each company this year. If you want to be added to this list, please contact your Battalion Representative.

Merchandise sales hit an all time record. As a non-profit organization, all proceeds from the merchandise sales go to defray CFA costs. If you were part of this volunteer effort you know that

**CFA has a new web address:
citadelfamilyassociation.com**

it was hot and muggy. Yet, you began reporting for duty at 6 a.m. and did not leave until the job was finished at 4 p.m. Your efforts were lauded by General Rosa, Colonel Stone and Provost Hines during their speeches at McAlister Field House.

The Area Representative program launched earlier this year is flourishing under the leadership of Maureen and Jack Boyle. Please visit the website, citadelfamilyassociation.com to find out more information; perhaps you might consider filling one of the slots in your area.

This leads to a story from Toni Williams of Tennessee.

"After I finished my daily Curves workout, I went to the grocery store. On this day I was wearing my blue Citadel Mom shirt. A woman stopped me and asked if I was really a Citadel mom. I said 'yes.'

"She told me she was a Citadel wife. Her husband is Delta Company, class of '60. I told her my son was Oscar, class of '10. Her husband had retired after 30 years in the army.

"We realized her husband will join the Gold Corps the year my son is on track to graduate.

"I have a Citadel mom sticker on my car and I get stopped everywhere from Charleston to Knoxville to Cincinnati. I love hearing the stories from the alumni and relatives. We are all El Cid Ambassadors."

We first got acquainted with Toni during her

son's Knob year. After an exchange of emails we were delighted to finally meet her. It was because of the "Blue Shirt" volunteers that Toni decided to become a volunteer herself. And, now Toni is an Area Representative for the CFA.



(L-R) CFA volunteers Rick and Dianna Kirkpatrick from Daniel Island, and Mary Gamble from Columbia, stand ready to help in front of PT Barracks on Matriculation Day.

This is just one example of how parents continue to be involved and, by the way, living in South Carolina is not a prerequisite to serving in a volunteer capacity.

A Knob parent's role is to sit back and let the CFA serve you this year. However, the year

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ON-LINE BONUS: MORE SCENES FROM MATRICULATION DAY 2008



Feedback from brand-new Knob parents, the latest members of the CFA ... and, perhaps, next year's volunteers?

Comments submitted via email:

• "You have been a true blessing from God! I never felt more at peace than I did on Saturday. Please let all of your CFA folks know what a wonderful job they did!

"This is my third 'drop off at college' experience and I have never felt the true sense of family that I felt on Saturday. My

husband and I commented on how much the family association as well as the upperclassmen and [Citadel] staff genuinely seemed to care about the hearts of the parents and the success of our kids.

"As we were leaving on Saturday afternoon, we stopped back by campus. One of the colonels stopped and asked us how

we were. He talked to us for the longest time and *he* initiated the conversation. I was so impressed."

• "I must say that I woke up [on Matriculation Day] with lots of apprehension about what's happening this week, but I also know from you and the other parents that it'll all be ok."

A special "Thank You" to Sticky Fingers and the Citadel Foundation for their sponsorship of the barbecue. We couldn't have done it without you and, as always, it was a spectacular treat.

Commitment is an asset to parents

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will pass more quickly than you can imagine and then your invited to join the ranks of the Blue Shirt volunteers. We are always actively recruiting. Please visit our website for volunteer opportunities.

We are working toward having CFA tents for each Battalion during Parent's Weekend.

This will be an area where everyone can meet CFA Representatives as well as other parents. We also hope to expand this to a "tail gate" party at some of the home football games. We have found that the "more we get together, the happier we'll be."

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during Parents' Weekend. In the meantime, keep those cards, letters and packages coming ... to your Knob ... to your Sophomore ... to your Junior ... and, yes, to your Senior. Your continued encouragement and support will always make a difference. We are happy, proud and blessed to be part of The Citadel.

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