Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Citadel, an annual magazine produced by The Citadel and The Citadel Foundation to showcase this institution. Born out of The Citadel Magazine, this new publication is a complement to Alumni News, which includes information on class news and events and is distributed to alumni association members three times a year.

This first issue features an eclectic group of writers beginning with Citadel President Maj. Gen. John S. Grinalds who writes about leadership, a theme that weaves throughout. We were delighted when New York Times bestseller James O. Rigney, '74, The Citadel graduate behind the Robert Jordan penname, accepted our invitation to write for the magazine. The author of the popular Wheel of Time series, Mr. Rigney takes us back to the late 1960s to tell how he came to be a veteran student at the college. Another graduate, Todd Garrett, '98, offers a stirring account of his service in Iraq so real that you almost feel the heat and the dust and the mania of war. In CGPS goes to Costa Rica, Max Ballard describes a unique adventure he had in his pursuit of a master’s degree in business administration through the College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

The foundation pages continue the theme of leadership with an article on The Krause Initiative in Leadership; Joe Galloway’s piece on fallen Citadel hero, Tom Metsker, '61; and a memorial to three graduates who died recently while serving their country. Thoughts from the Society of 1842 is about the generous donors who support the college. Leaders in their own right, these extraordinary people help the college in its quest to produce the next generation of leaders.

The central piece of this magazine, Inside Lesesne Gate, is not even an article. A pictorial of the 2002-2003 academic year, it highlights some of photographer Russ Pace’s never-before-seen pictures, telling The Citadel story in a way words cannot. While telling The Citadel story is the mission of this magazine, the mission of the college is to educate principled leaders, and as you make your way through this magazine, we hope that you will see just how the military college continues this tradition.