The Citadel of the 21st Century

When members of the graduating class take the review during their final parade, their march across Summerall Field symbolizes a major transition. Such graduation ceremonies serve as a symbolic bridge between their cadet years and their future.

The Citadel builds this bridge by preparing graduates for a world that is becoming ever more complex, diverse and unpredictable. This issue of The Citadel — whose theme is The Citadel of the 21st century — presents ways the college is forging ahead while remaining faithful to the immutable values that have produced generations of successful alumni.

We call The Citadel a leadership laboratory, and much of that preparation for leadership takes place in the barracks as evidenced by the feature cadets have written about barracks life. The four pillars segment highlights the traditional components of a Citadel education — academic excellence, military training, physical fitness and character development — by presenting stories about a cadet who studied in South Africa, a Marine officer candidate, the wrestling team and one of our many service programs. The outreach of our College of Graduate and Professional Studies through the Senior Scholars Program provides an example of how The Citadel is building bridges into the community. A report on Auschwitz survivors who return to a European history class each year underscores the principle that we must acknowledge the past in order to improve the future. The article on the Cooper River bridge project, arguably the most spectacular bridge construction underway in this hemisphere, reflects the professional accomplishments of alumni who are literally building a bridge to the future for South Carolina’s Lowcountry.

And the profiles of donors feature other types of bridge builders who are strengthening our institution in countless ways.

I hope you enjoy The Citadel and will share it with others who want to know more about the college. In that way, you will be building a bridge to our future.