

Many West Point agencies help fire Families

By Eric S. Bartelt

"The synergy was great," remarked Jill O'Brien, Army Community Services director. In a time of great distress, four West Point Families were displaced after a fire ravaged through their housing unit in Gray Ghost Housing here May 8.

Something of the magnitude of a fire has a way of overwhelming its victims and the loss that comes from it; however, what was more apparent was the overwhelming response that the West Point community made to help its "Family" in need.

Within a mere couple of hours, help was pouring in from volunteers to provide vital living supplies and the coordination came fast and furious to provide a true synergistic moment from the entire community.

"It was amazing the support (of the people) who came out," said Jen Pagio, ACS Army volunteer coordinator. "As I left at 7 p.m. (May 8), there were people still coming asking for sizes of clothing (for the Families) and what they needed for food."

The main goal the first evening was to get the Families affected by the fires set up in their new residences in Stony I. The quarters were ready to be moved into, but they all needed the necessities that

were quickly provided.

"Father Matt Pawlikowski, the Catholic chaplain, went shopping and got the basic staples into the refrigerators, which were items like milk, bread, orange juice, peanut butter and jelly and other important items like toilet paper and paper towels," Pagio said. "From delivering the furniture to getting the furniture set up, getting the beds built, tables assembled, shower curtains hung, the houses became livable and it was amazing. Our goal at 5:45 p.m. was for the Families to come in where they would open up the doors to the homes and it would be presentable and ready to be lived in."

Pagio said the reactions of the Families were significant with a considerable 'Wow,' not believing that this was done for them at the rate everyone worked to make it happen.

The whole Army Family, as O'Brien put it, from Family members to civilian employees to active duty Soldiers to retirees, all chipped in. Agencies all over post to include Child and Youth Services, Housing and Housing Maintenance, Legal, the American Red Cross, the Chaplain's office and the Adjutant General's office, to name a few, made a difference in the four Families' lives.

The ACS Lending Closet



Fire, rescue and ambulance personnel from at least seven departments in the greater West Point area provided mutual aid to the fire efforts at 311 Winans Place May 8, to include West Point, the Town of Highlands, Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery, Garrison, Woodbury, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Vails Gate and Keller Army Community Hospital. West Point Department of Emergency Services personnel and many other agencies were also involved in putting out the fire and helping the four displaced Families who were affected by the fire. (See page 2 for information about donations.)

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

provided a kitchen pack, cribs for the children, an iron, toaster, foldable beds and other basics for the Families.

"Anything to serve them --

we're here to help the Families," O'Brien explained. "We really wanted to get the Families in their new homes settled as quickly as

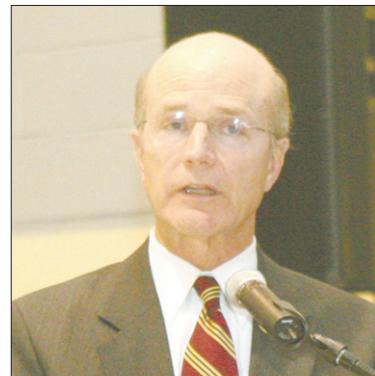
See FAMILIES, page 3

INSIDE



See OLYMPICS, page 8-9

Sec Army Geren is graduation 2008 speaker



Secretary of the Army
Pete Geren

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren will address approximately 900 graduating members of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 2008 May 31 at 10 a.m., during the annual commencement exercises at Michie Stadium here.

While Geren makes the commencement address to the USMA graduates, President George W. Bush will speak at the U.S. Air Force Academy graduation and

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen will speak at the Naval Academy commencement exercises.

As the Secretary of the Army, Geren has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army to include manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management. He is responsible for the Army's annual and supplemental budget of \$170

billion.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Geren is a 1974 graduate of the University of Texas and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas Law School in 1978.

After being admitted to the Texas bar in 1978, he practiced law privately until he became an executive assistant to U.S. Senator Lloyd M. Bentsen from 1983 to 1986.

From 1989 until his retirement in 1997, Geren was a member of

See GEREN, page 3

Thanks to the entire West Point Family

To all who are assisting, assisted and continue to assist with the recent fire:

It is with appreciation and respect that I send this note to all who have responded and continue to respond to our Families from the recent fire. First, I want to emphasize that we still have a long way to go to re-establish these Families to some degree of normalcy, and we will ensure there is a plan for continuity of care.

What I was most impressed with were actions taken within the first 90 minutes of receiving the 911 call. I was in the training area inspecting dams and, consequently, calls did not get through because of poor reception. When I was finally contacted after 90 minutes, everything that needed to be happening was already being executed.

From the first responders and DES, to ACS, to Chaplains, medical support, media support, Red Cross, Housing, DPW, neighbors and volunteers, schools, chains of command, area coordinators, CYS, FMWR, DOL, DECA, EOC/DPTMS/G3, SJA, AAFES (and others I apologize for not mentioning that were there or working behind the scenes) ... all were on site and/or taking action to care for the needs of the Families and those taking care of the Families.

The heroism, technical expertise and compassion truly make up the essence of this Community and its ability to respond to crisis.

Let me share one event that particularly struck me. One of the Families was missing a wedding ring. Six fire fighters went back into a dangerous structure to find it and after being unsuccessful, they were sifting through six feet of ashes and debris in the backyard for a long period of time. While not YET successful, this dedication and compassion reflect what makes up the core of what matters in a time of need.

We've conducted a number of exercises involving our preparation and response to force protection and security events. We have our after-action reports (and will have them for this event), and we are rightfully hard on ourselves.

However, AARs don't have a way to measure "heart" and that is what ends up being the "wild card" in crises like we experienced this (past) week.

Proud to serve with you and thank you.

Col. Dan Bruno
Commander
U.S. Army Garrison West Point

RCI UPDATES

RCI/BALFOUR BEATTY TOWN HALL MEETING

RCI/Balfour Beatty will hold a Town Hall Meeting May 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the West Point Club Ballroom.

All West Point residents are encouraged to attend or watch it on the Command Channel and call in your questions.

The call-in number is 446-5504.

www.westpointfamilyhousing.com

Help for the fire Families

To the West Point Community,

To accommodate all the interest and generosity of the community, it has been determined that the best way to support the Families is to donate cash (checks or credit cards will also be accepted) to the Red Cross -- specifically to the *West Point Fire Families*.

Receipts for tax purposes will be generated by the West Point Red Cross Office located at Bldg. 2104, Visitors Center (Pershing Center) West Point.

Via mail to: Red Cross, West Point Fire Families, P.O. Box 35, West Point, NY 10996

At this point, donations of clothing, furniture and other necessities should NOT be made until specific requirements are identified for each family.

Thank you for your assistance in supporting these Families effected by this unfortunate event.

Need Voting Assistance?

Call the West Point Voting Assistance NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo at 938-8450.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

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| | | 1 | | | 3 | | | |
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| 7 | | 5 | 6 | 1 | | 3 | | |
| 8 | | | | | 9 | | 3 | |
| | | | 2 | | | 7 | | |
| | | 4 | | | | | | |

Difficulty: Hard

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

SOLUTION, see page 10

SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Dan Toohey (Victim Advocate), Maj. Maria Burger (USCC), Maj. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and Lt. Col. Tasha Williams (Dean).

Community members can e-mail McMahon at Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here.

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215. West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

POINTER VIEW

Lt. Gen.
Buster Hagenbeck,
Superintendent

Col. **Bryan Hilferty**,
Director of Communications

Linda L. **Mastin**
Acting Chief,
Command Info.

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Local and National News

FAMILIES, cont. from page 1

possible.”

Countless acts of kindness from a meal tree to provide a steady stream of food to bags that provided health and beauty aids, a triage to get medication needs under control and an abundance of tennis shoes, socks and athletic sweatshirts provided by the Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics just touched the surface of every act of compassion.

According to Mike Santiago, Housing division chief, everyone participated in his housing office to help a move that involved more than 20 children.

“The housing maintenance staff went in and checked the entire housing unit to see that everything was in working order,” Santiago said. “They performed a wipe down because the houses had sat vacant for awhile. We took all the beds we had in the DPW warehouse and called the Five Star Inn and they loaned us five beds.”

Stony I mayor, Sgt. 1st Class Carol Oberwager, NCOIC of Radiology and BLS director at Keller Army Community Hospital, welcomed her new neighbors with

open arms.

“The biggest thing that could be done for the Families was to ensure that they had a good support group and basic comforts (food, clothing, linens, bath items) once they were moved into their new unit,” Oberwager said. “This included just talking with them, letting them know that we are all going to take care of them and giving them an occasional hug, and making sure washers and dryers were delivered.”

Oberwager felt the generosity of West Point and the surrounding communities was phenomenal. The donation point at the commissary was overflowing with basic necessities to help supplement earlier donations by Sunday.

Helping the Families cope with the changes in their lives and recover from their devastating loss is the most important thing, Oberwager explained, and being in the Army is a great help with that.

“I love the Army Family and what we give to each other,” Oberwager said. “I love the community closeness. As I listened

to horror stories of similar events being told over the last few days in other settings, with all of them ending with very little support being given ... it shows West Point and the local community is something special -- the military is something special.”

For those who want to donate money, checks made to the ‘West Point Fire Families’, or other various forms of ‘credit’ type cards to the Families, contact the American Red Cross at 938-4100. For those who want to provide non-perishable food items, contact Father Pawlikowski at 938-3721.

According to West Point Fire and Emergency Services chief Curt Krieger, the fire was investigated and shown to be accidental. The point-of-origin appears to be a portable heater cord that shorted out due to an abrasion from a love seat sofa leg, although there were no issues with the heater itself.

GEREN, cont. from page 1

the U.S. Congress representing the 12th Congressional District of Texas for four terms.

He served on the Armed Services, Science and Technology and the Public Works and Transportation committees during his tenure in Congress.

Geren joined the Department of Defense in September 2001 to serve as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense with responsibilities in the areas of

interagency initiatives, legislative affairs and special projects.

He became the 20th Secretary of the Army July 16, 2007, following his nomination by Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Prior to his confirmation as Secretary, he served as the Under Secretary of the Army and then became the acting Secretary of the Army, a post he held for more than four months before becoming the Secretary of the Army.

Geren and his wife, Beckie, have three daughters, Tracy, Annie and Mary.

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT CHARLENE MARTIN AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT CMMARTIN@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.

TSP TICKER

MAY changes (as of 05/15)

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| C FUND | +1.78 percent |
| I FUND | +1.01 percent |
| S FUND | +2.86 percent |

QUICK NEWS NOTES

Rich Stephenson, computer officer, Dept. of History, was selected as NCO of the Year for the 77th Regional Readiness Command and honored May 9.

MP presence increased in housing areas

By Sgt. 1st Class
Peter Thens
PMO Operations Sergeant

Over the past couple of weeks West Point residents may have noticed an increase in Military Police patrols (walking or by vehicle) through the on-post housing areas. The increased patrols stem from a number complaints received from residents.

MPs have added new requirements which include four-to-six hours of daily walking patrols and up to 14 hours of daily radar surveillance.

While conducting these patrols, the MPs are looking for anything out of the ordinary that indicate a security breach or criminal mischief.

An additional responsibility of the patrols is to check vehicles which are in serious violations of the New York Vehicle & Traffic Laws and may cause unsafe conditions for pedestrians living and vehicles traveling in the housing area to include:

- parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- parking within 30 feet of a stop sign or intersections
- parking within 20 feet of crosswalks
- speeding
- parking on seeded areas
- illegally parked or unregistered trailers, boats or vehicles

MPs have ticketed vehicles in housing areas, but most of the tickets recently handed out have been DD Form 1408, Armed Forces Traffic Tickets which do not include fines, but are sent to the military member's chain of command.

Those who may have committed

a more serious offense may have received a District Court Violation Notice, which does include a fine.

All monies paid for DCVN tickets are sent to a Department of the Army Central Violations Bureau, although the collateral amounts are no different than the tickets one would receive off post from a State Trooper for speeding or some other similar offense.

There are two options if one receives a DCVN:

- paying the ticket by enclosing a check, money order or credit card information in the ticket envelope, placing a stamp on the envelope and sending it to the ticket processing center, or

- challenging the ticket where no payment is mailed but the individual waits for a court notice of appearance. At that appearance at the courthouse Goshen, N.Y., the case is presented to the Federal Magistrate for adjudication.

The MPs are also checking the identification of people walking late at night (between 1 and 5 a.m.) throughout the installation to deter vandalism and other inappropriate actions and are also checking vacant quarters for unusual activity.

The MPs are in the housing areas to uphold the law and provide additional security to West Point residents.

Please assist in supporting a safe West Point by reporting unusual activities to the MPs at 938-3333.



Physics Dept. officially opens NSERC

Col. Raymond Winkle, Physics Department Head (left) and Dr. Edward Turano, Director of the Nuclear Technologies Directorate at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va., cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the Nuclear Science Engineering Research Center lab located at 100 A/B in Bartlett Hall May 9. The NSERC has been at Bartlett Hall since August 2007, but the official opening was held May 9.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Cadets, staff and faculty receive a briefing from Maj. Neil Mayo on the events before the start of the 2008 Infantry Send-off May 10 at Camp Buckner. The send-off gives those cadets branching Infantry and Infantrymen at West Point one last opportunity to meet before graduation. This year's event included a four-mile ruck buddy team race followed by a barbecue and awards presentation.



Infantry Send-off held at Camp Buckner

PHOTO PROVIDED

Community Features and Photos

Projects Day capstones academic careers

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt

The capstone experience of the cadets' lives took place May 8 with the 9th annual Projects Day.

Projects Day involved 11 U.S. Military Academy departments and six additional colleges that presented more than 200 projects as the Firsties introduce their senior thesis, capstone projects or research activities in either an individual or collective capacity from work throughout their senior year.

It's an intellectual voyage where cadets show off their vast knowledge and tout the hard work and many hours of labor spent to complete their projects, sometimes mere minutes before presentation.

Every year there are projects that appeal to the audience that views their presentations, and this year was no different with the unveiling of the new Spirit Tank.

Six Civil and Mechanical Engineering cadets worked through many bumps in the road to get the Spirit Tank project up and running. While funding for the project took much longer than expected as the original vendor opted out, the six cadets took it in stride and put out an outstanding product.

"The CME Spirit Tank team is a great story of strong will and

a group who had a lot of hurdles in front of them in getting the resources needed for this project," said Lt. Col. Robert Rabb, CME assistant professor and Spirit Tank team advisor. "Once they came together, they went the extra mile to put it all together.

"The vehicle's shell, the gun tubes, functioning T-shirt cannon, a turret that traverses and elevates, all of these things put together," he added, "gave them a much more realistic-looking tank than we've had previously."

Members of the six-man cadet crew jumped at the chance to build a new tank for the Corps because it was a chance to leave a long-term impression on future cadets.

"We felt this is a project that we could leave a lasting impact on the Corps and we designed it on our own," said Firstie Quentin Walsh, project leader. "There was no rulebook that said we couldn't do this or that, so we basically made our own tank from scratch."

After an arduous beginning when a vendor dropped out, the team looked to Army depots to help with the project. Then, in January, the components of their project started coming in and it wasn't until March when they got the biggest and most expensive piece, the sheet metal hull, from Picatinny



Firstie Amit Patel (middle in tank) takes a seat in the turret as his six-member team unveiled the Spirit Tank. Despite complications, the group was able to finish on time and during the demonstration shot a T-shirt from the air cannon more than 100 meters. The six-man cadet team that built the Spirit Tank included Firsties Patel, Quentin Walsh, Adam Dotts, John Hutchison, Michael Murphy and Robert Squier.

Arsenal, N.J.

"(The Picatinny Arsenal workers) didn't charge for labor," said Firstie Amit Patel. "They didn't take time out of their duty schedule, they worked on weekends for us."

The welding work for the tank was equivalent to \$30,000 and the overall project could have cost \$50,000 if it was something that was bought on the market, but the total expenditure for the project was \$12,500 for the cadets.

The experience of putting together the tank was a true culmination of their two years working in the CME major.

"My favorite part about this project by far is the fact it's called a capstone project and it honestly turned out to be a capstone for us," Patel said. "We used tons of things, whether we knew something about it, such as heating and air flow for our gas-powered engine or seeing if the fumes would be too dangerous.

"Safety is our responsibility as professional engineers in the future," he added. "We used a little bit of everything from all of our classes (16 courses in all).

I honestly can leave here and say I got a good deal out of my education."

The hardest part of the project was getting all the systems integrated, and as Patel said, "It was a heck of a job."

"The turret would not rotate because the air cannon was running into it. At first the turret ring mount wouldn't fit on the hull and we had to cut off some pieces to make it level," Patel explained. "In the end, I'm really impressed with our product because when you look inside the structure you would be impressed with some of the ingenuity created to solve some of the problems we had at first."

Walsh talked about a feeling of great accomplishment seeing their project coming to fruition and getting cheers from those who watched their presentation. For as satisfying a feeling it was to see their tank move up and down the hills of Williams Road and shoot T-shirts at more than 100 meters, it will be more satisfying seeing it in use on football Saturdays in the fall.

"Every football game from now on we should see that tank roll out

to the field," Walsh remarked. "It should go down to Army/Navy and it should be something that the Navy guys go, 'Oh, man, I wish we had one of those.' It'll be great to put that 'Go Army' spirit out there."

Jokingly, the guys would like to see the T-shirt air cannon hit not only the Michie Stadium upper deck, but want to hit D lot from the field. "But, as long as it's safe and doesn't hurt anybody, there are all sorts of possibilities," Walsh said.

There are many possibilities to improving what they have made and they offered suggestions themselves from adding speakers to light and sound effects. However, to complete the original part of the tank was the engineering task of a lifetime for them.

"I like challenges and I think that's why I came to the academy, and engineering has been a challenge of a lifetime," Patel said. "I wonder if there is anything that can push you to the mental limit that I've been at because I learned so much and I was so busy.

"I can look back at our work and I'm so happy we did it," he added. "I have no regrets right now."



The Mini-Baja is one of more than 200 projects introduced May 8 at Projects Day throughout West Point. There were two Mini-Bajas made as final projects and this particular Baja was built by a seven-member cadet team. The cadets who helped build this Baja were Firsties Joseph Dywan, Christopher Farrington, Thomas Harris, Leo Krystof, Jonathan Meier, Gregory Sievers and Jeffrey Taylor. The cadets (above left) talk about their experiences building and driving the Baja.

Weather doesn't dampen A-P Heritage Festival

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood

For the last six years, the annual Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Festival has been held at Trophy Point, which is the perfect venue for an event that generally draws heavy crowds.

Because of the cold and rainy weather May 9, the seventh annual festival was held at Robinson Auditorium in Thayer Hall and was just as crowded as it usually is with roughly 350 people attending.

The tantalizing aroma of an assortment of Asian food could be detected before entering the lobby, where long lines of attendees waited to sample the cuisine.

"We can fit 100 people in the lobby," said Col. Bryan Goda, officer-in-charge and accreditation director in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department. "We must have that many in here now though. I was concerned the rain would keep people away."

Goda, with the help of Staff Sgt. Michael Dotson, equal opportunity advisor for the U.S. Corps of Cadets, and Master Sgt. Garrett Gardner from the Equal Opportunity Department came up with the idea of putting the food and tables in the lobby allowing people to eat then view the show in the auditorium.

The festival is put on by firsties within the Cadet Asian-Pacific Club and the cadet-in-charge this year is Daniel Asis, who was also the CIC

last year as a Cow.

The cadets get together with other clubs, such as the Martial Arts Club for demonstrations and performances. While the bulk food is generally catered, some dishes are made by West Point community members.

"The Firsties run the whole show," Goda said. "I like to have Cows involved to help with the planning because it is good training and it will be something they know when they need to do it next year."

The mission of the Cadet Asian-Pacific Club is to educate and promote the culture of the Asian-Pacific people, its region and its culture. They do this with the show of great cultural food, traditional dances and martial art demonstrations.

"This is my first year doing this," said Firstie Liliane Delva, one of the cadet hula dancers. "Most of the girls have done this for two or three years. It's fun."

Not all of the cadet dancers are members of the Asian-Pacific Club, which is also known as the Asian-Pacific Awareness Club. Dancers are recruited by other members, according to Valerie Duttut, archives technician at the Library and volunteer on the festival planning committee.

Plebe Cezarina Viqueira said she has been dancing since she was four.

"I've done some hula before and I especially love the first dance

we will do," she said. "The APAC meet maybe twice a week to talk about Asian-Pacific culture and learn some of the traditional dances before the festival."

Many of the cadets said they missed former Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Laidlaw and his wife, Alex, as they were very much involved in the club.

Alex, former Department of Military Instruction secretary was a volunteer for the festival planning committee and often had members of the club at her quarters for meetings.

Duttut, who also was a volunteer with Alex, now helps the group in learning the culture as well as the dances. Last year, Duttut was the only non-cadet hula dancer.



Cadets from the Martial Arts Club demonstrate Kendo, a 600-year-old martial art, at the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Festival May 9 at Robinson Auditorium.



Cadet hula dancers join youths from the Child and Youth Services on stage at Robinson Auditorium May 9 at the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Festival. Approximately 350 people enjoyed the festivities at the seventh annual festival, held inside for the first year at Robinson Auditorium due to the very inclement weather.

BS&L Class samples 'deviant' foods

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood

Cadets from the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership class had a different kind of class experience May 6 when they sampled 'deviant' foods.

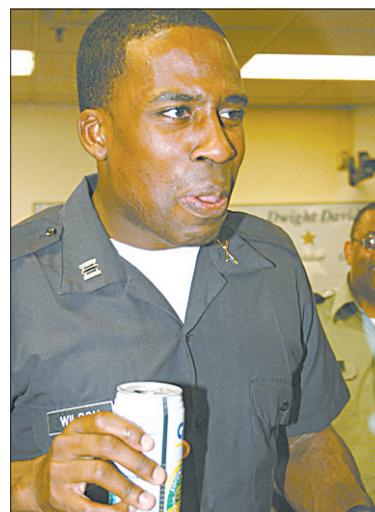
"Most of us have some notion of certain things being deviant, (which can also apply to certain foods)," said Ryan Kely, Ph.D., assistant professor in BS&L. "What may seem deviant to one culture isn't to another. The purpose here is to expose the cadets to what may be considered deviant food even though it isn't deviant to certain cultures. Everything on this table is normal in some context."

Kely said people tend to form opinions of foods that differ from what they are used to despite never having tasted the food.

The cadets sampled Kimchee, a traditional Korean dish made out of fermented vegetables and a variety of seasonings; snails; matzah ball soup, which is a Jewish dish with dumplings made from ground matzahs, and gefilte fish, a deboned fish, usually carp or a combination of fish mixed with eggs, onion and flour or matzah. The variety of food also included desserts in the form of sugar free cricket lollipops, chocolate-covered ants and a variety of juices including papaya nectar and coconut water.

"Doesn't taste like the pizza pie I'm used to," said Firstie Cortlandt Armstrong, after tasting the papaya nectar.

Major Keirya Langkamp, BS&L instructor, said people can also see food from a social point of view.



Firstie Eric Wilson begrudgingly tries coconut water.

"It can go beyond cultures," Langkamp said. "People may have a different view when looking at food in a social context. Some people may eat pig's brains only because it is the only thing they have to eat, yet to others it would be considered deviant."

Firstie Connor Lewis said he grew up on venison and enjoys trout and had no problem trying the venison, but he wasn't too interested in the fish.

"I've tried everything here mostly, but I don't think I can get into the snails or the gefilte fish," Lewis said.

Most of the cadets participating said they were turned off by some of the food due to the texture, but Firstie Heather Owney said her reaction to food is due mostly from the way it looks.

"I always take looks and smells into account when trying any food," she said.



Firsties Jackie Oeser and Mary Ford (front) check out different cultural foods.



Levroy Blackett, from the Taconic Developmental Disabilities Office in Wassaic, N.Y., clears the bar in the long jump event of the pentathlon at the Regional West Special Olympic Games at Shea Stadium Saturday. At five feet, four inches tall, Blackett made a modest best jump of 1.25 meters.

By Spc. Vincent Fusco
PAO

West Point was the field on which courageous athletes, despite physical and mental challenges, came to "go for the gold" in friendly competition. About 550 athletes competed in the Hudson Valley Regional West Special Olympics Games at the U.S. Military Academy Saturday.

"The Special Olympics here at West Point have become one of our most cherished traditions, proudly extending back well over two decades," said Cow John Dibble, Company E-4 cadet first sergeant and cadet-in-charge of the games.

Track and field events were held at Shea Stadium and swimming events took place at the intramural pool in Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

About 650 cadets and 250 community members volunteered in assisting the athletes during the games.

The games were sponsored by the West Point Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, which has made the event its yearly service project.

The society worked with Special Olympics New York to coordinate the athletes' sponsors and the games' logistics.

"To you, I say, 'job well done,'"

said Tom Hay, regional director of Special Olympics New York. "It's been a privilege to work with you."

Before the games, the Capt. Andrew Houghton (USMA class of 2001) Memorial Award was presented to Julio Lopez from Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities Office. A gracious Lopez, who suffers from muscular dystrophy, thanked the Houghton family for their support.

Houghton, who as a cadet coordinated activities for past Special Olympics games, was wounded and killed in Iraq in 2004. The award is given to the athlete who personifies the phrase of the

Special Olympics Athlete Oath, "let me be brave in the attempt."

At the games, all the athletes were happy to be a part of the competition and do their best in whatever ways they could.

"You've worked hard to get here," Hay said. "Today is your day."

An enthusiastic Special Olympian from ARC of Rockland walks with volunteering Yearling Joseph Schafer (left) around the Shea Stadium track before the opening ceremonies of the Regional West Special Olympic Games Saturday. Schafer was one of about 650 cadets to volunteer.



Tom Spear, from the Taconic Developmental Disabilities Office, competes in the shot put event of the pentathlon.



Adonis Marable, second from the right (above right photo), of the Orange-Ulster Board of Cooperative Education Services, wins the 50-meter sprint in the young men's heat. A 15-and-under heat ran at the same time, which was won by Tanachian Malachi, far left, also of Orange-Ulster BOCES.

Elaine Schmidt from ARC of Rockland (right photo) receives a gold medal in the age 21-35 women's 200-meter sprint from Col. Patrick Sweeney, professor of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership here.

FMWR Blurbs

Kids' Fishing Derby

The Kids' Fishing Derby will be at Round Pond Rec Area Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register, call 938-2503.

Military Spouse Appreciation

In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Month, ACS thanks you for the personal sacrifices you make everyday in support of the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you!

Army Ten-Miler sponsorship

The Army Ten-Miler Race is in Washington D.C., Oct. 5.

FMWR is sponsoring four Active Duty runners to represent West Point.

Qualification requirements and application are online at westpointmwr.com.

The application deadline is July 15. For info, call 938-6497.

AFAP Steering Committee

The Army Family Action Plan Commander's Steering Committee meeting will be held Tuesday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Jewish Chapel Social Hall. Members of the West Point Community are welcome to attend. For info, call 938-3655.

Army Arts and Crafts Contest

Submit original artwork to the FMWR Craft Shop from May 21-June 30 to enter the 2008 contest.

There are 11 categories and it is open to all experience levels.

For full contest details, go to westpointmwr.com or call 938-4812.

CDC part-day preschool enrollment for 2008-09

CDC part-day preschool enrollment for the 2008-09 academic year will be held on the following dates at 8 a.m. at the

CDC:

Military Families: Monday through May 23

DOD Civilians: May 27-30

For more info, call 938-3921.

Father's Day at WP Club

Treat dad to a Father's Day Champagne Brunch at the West Point Club June 15. Seatings are at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Pierce Dining Room. For more info, call 938-5120.

Kids Craft Classes

There will be kids craft classes at the Craft Shop every Saturday in May, 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is required. Call 938-4812 for more info.

Morgan Farm

Morgan Farm Kennel will be closed May 19-23 for maintenance and will re-open May 24. The stables will remain open.

Registration is now open for Kids Summer Riding Camps at Morgan Farm including English and Western style riding, grooming, tacking, mucking and proper TLC. Beginner and intermediate levels are available at affordable rates.

Morgan Farm is also offering horseback riding lessons and is open to the general public. Call 938-3926 for more information.

CYS Summer Technology Camps

The following CYS summer technology camps will be held Mon.-Fri., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Bldg. 500, Youth Center:

•Movie Making: Children will learn to story board, make props and sets, film, download, edit and take home their own creation on DVD.

June 23-27: School-Age (must have completed 3rd through 5th grades). July 7-11: Middle School (must have completed 6th grade).

•Lego Robotics: Children will build Lego Robots, create an obstacle course and program the robot on the computer to complete the obstacle course.

The finale will be a competition between other campers on the obstacle course.

July 21-25: School-Age (must have completed 3rd through 5th grades). July 28-Aug 1: Middle School (must have completed 6th grade). Call 938-3727 for more information.

Strength and Fitness Classes

Youth Strength and Fitness Classes for ages 12-18 will be held: Wednesday at 6 p.m. For more information contact Brian Szeli at 938-3550.

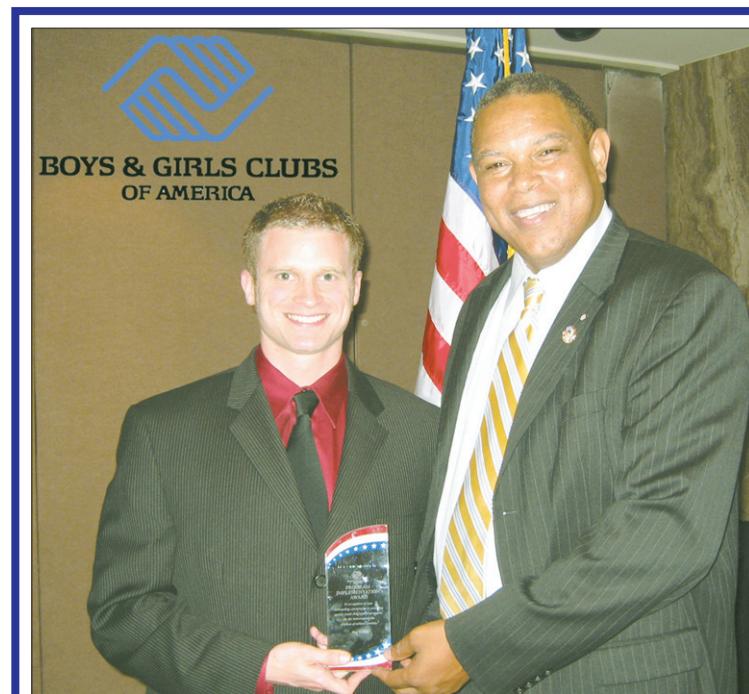
For other activities, go to www.westpointmwr.com.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- 21, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday -- Nim's Island, PG, 7:30 p.m.
 Stop Loss, R, 9:30 p.m.
 May 23 -- Stop Loss, R, 7:30 p.m.
 May 24 -- Prom Night, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.AAFES.COM



Boys and Girls Club honors

Kevin Sheffield (left), West Point Youth Center Director, accepts an award honoring the West Point chapter for implementing the most programs of any worldwide U.S. Army installation from Tim Richardson, Vice President of Military Services for the Boys and Girls Club of America, May 8 at the Annual National BGCA Conference in San Francisco. This is the fourth national award to be presented to the chapter, which offers programs in over seven categories, including: Character/Leadership Development, Education/Career Development, Health/Life Skills, the Arts, Sports/Fitness/Recreation, Specialized Program Initiatives and Technology, since its inception in 1998.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Command Channel 8/23

May 16-23

Friday, Monday, Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
 1 p.m. Army Newswatch
 6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
 1 p.m. Army Newswatch
 6 p.m. Army Newswatch
 7 p.m. RCI Town Hall Meeting (Live)

Thursday and May 23

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
 1 p.m. Army Newswatch
 6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 |

Are you at risk for a stroke? Keller Corner

**By Dr. Neomie Friedman
KACH Emergency Room
Director**

May is National Stroke Awareness Month.

Do you have any of the following uncontrolled medical problems: heart disease, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol or diabetes?

Do you smoke cigarettes? Then you have an increased risk of stroke or a CVA (cerebrovascular accident).

Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States.

Two types of strokes exist -- ischemic and hemorrhagic.

Ischemic is more common and

basically means that blood flow to the brain ceases due to a clot.

Hemorrhagic strokes occur when blood flow ceases due to a vessel that becomes disrupted and breaks and blood leaks into brain tissue.

There are treatments that exist for a stroke, but one needs to recognize the symptoms and get to a stroke center within three hours to be eligible for those treatments.

Use this mnemonic to help recognize stroke symptoms:

Face- Is one side of the face drooping down?

Arms- Can the person raise both arms, does one seem weak?

Speech- Is the speech slurred or confusing?

Time— It is critical. Call 911

immediately.

Time is the most critical factor in stroke evaluation and treatment. St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital is the nearest stroke center to West Point

Prompt evaluation of stroke patients can decrease morbidity and mortality from strokes.

A three-hour window exists for ischemic strokes to administer a medication called t-Pa. This medicine dissolves the clots that are causing the stroke.

If you believe someone is having a stroke, dial 911 for assistance.

Time wasted can result in brain tissue loss.

To decrease your risk of strokes, do not smoke tobacco, maintain a healthy lifestyle and control any chronic medical conditions.

Referral and Appointment Center Hours

Starting Monday, Keller's referral clerks will be available at 938-5373 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Appointment Center Clerks will be available at 938-7992 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Appointment services are also available 24/7 at www.tricareonline.com

School and Sports Physicals

The Primary Care Department is now offering school and sports physicals.

Beat the summer rush -- get your child's school and sports physical now. If you are moving, it is better to wait until you get to

your next assignment.

The physical exam must be within one calendar year to be acceptable. If the physical expires prior to the beginning of another sport, a new exam is required.

This is also the time to review your child's immunizations and to prepare additional documentation for the administration of medications during school hours or emergency instructions for children with known allergies.

Obtain the necessary forms from the appropriate school nurse and bring them to your child's appointment.

Call 938-7992 or 800-552-2907 to request an appointment for a school or sports physical and save the summer for vacation fun.

What's Happening

DeRussy Road/720 Parking Lot Closure

Starting at 4:30 today, De Russy Road and the 720 Parking Lot will be closed to all traffic to support the renovations for Bldg. 606.

The closure will last for the duration of the renovations (approximately January 2010).

The POC for the project is Randy McMurtrie, 938-5440.

Welcome Reception

The West Point Women's Club and Daughters of the United States Army invite the West Point Community to the Community Welcome Reception in honor of Brenda Linnington, wife of Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, Commandant of Cadets, and Gert Wells, wife of USMA Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Wells, Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Cullum Hall.

For more information call 859-4453.

Book Signings

The photographer and author will be available to sign a new book, *West Point: An Inside Look at The Long Gray Line* today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Well-known author Jeff Shaara will sign his new release *The Steel Wave*, a World War II novel May 29 from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The USMA Bookstore is located in Thayer Hall on the 4th Floor.

Role playing volunteers needed

Twenty-five volunteer community members are needed to be casualty role-players for an installation mass casualty exercise starting at Gillis Field House June 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

There will also be a walk-through for all participants at Gillis June 17 at 5 p.m.

Residents, military family members, civilian employees and retirees can volunteer and can be in the exercise for an hour or through the whole event, depending on your schedule.

For more information or if you are interested in participating in the exercise, contact Henry Cervantes, DPTMS at 938-4509 or e-mail henry.cervantes@usma.edu.

Mandatory Training

The following classes are part of the Department of the Army Annual Training for all DA

civilians. If you have not been to these classes in FY08, you need to attend one of these sessions.

- Sexual Assault Prevention and Responsibility Program and Violence in the Workplace - Robinson Auditorium, June 3 from 10-11:15 a.m. and June 4 from 6-7:15 p.m.

- Ethics - Robinson Auditorium, June 10 from 9-10 a.m. and June 16 from 6-7 p.m.

- EEO/TPOSH - Robinson Auditorium, June 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m.

- Suicide Prevention - Robinson Auditorium, June 16 from 10:30-11 a.m.

FAST Training

Functional Academic Skills Training will be at Army Education Center, 683 Buckner Loop June 4-24 from 12:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You need to sign-up by Wednesday.

The classes will help you strengthen skills to raise General Technical score on Armed Forces Classification Test.

Contact Nancy Judd at 938-3464 to schedule the Test of Adult Basic Education and to obtain a commander memo.

Vacation Bible School

Registration for Vacation Bible School for kids entering pre-K (age 4 by Oct. 31) through entering 5th grade (SY08-09) is ongoing at all chapels.

Volunteers are still needed. Rising 6th graders through adult, contact Melody Nuckowski at 859-4573 or melodyann@earthlink.net for more information. Classes and child care available for younger children of volunteers at the Post Chapel Nursery.

15th annual Alumni Golf Outing

The Directorate of Academy Advancement announces the 15th annual Alumni Golf Outing at the West Point Golf Course June 19-21.

All graduates and guests are invited. The event includes two rounds of golf, a welcome reception, all meals, prizes, a chance to spend some time in the barracks and much more. For more information and to register, please check our Web site -- www.usma.edu/daa.

If you have any questions, please call 938-3700/3024 or e-mail walt.banach@usma.edu.

MOAA Rep at PFCU-Cadet Branch

A representative from the Military Officers Association of America will be at the Pentagon Federal Credit Union-Cadet Branch May 28 and 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer any questions cadets may have about the organization.

Summer hours at PFCU-Cadet Branch

Starting the week of June 2, the Pentagon Federal Credit Union-Cadet Branch in Taylor Hall will only be open only on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the summer until Reorganization Week.

The Highland Falls branch will be open regular hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Greater Cornwall Art Walk

The Greater Cornwall Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Greater Cornwall Art Walk, a six-week long event that will display the artwork of more than 30 local artists in local businesses throughout the town and village. Artwork will be on display through June 28.

Army and Community Sports

Thomas blazing, Track & Field heads to ECACs

By Eric S. Bartelt

It could have been a devastating day when the men's team lost its 16-year stranglehold on the Patriot League Championship Outdoor title in Track and Field May 3 at Annapolis, Md. However, in a great turn of events, the women's team captured its first PL title since 1998, its eighth overall outdoor title, in a thrilling three-point victory over second-place Bucknell.

"It's been a really long road to climb," said Army head track and field coach Jerry Quiller. "The ladies just tore it up with their best times all year and as a team the best times in three years. It was exciting."

Quiller said it has been a struggle for the women to get back on top of the conference, but the year has been highlighted by many great memories highlighted by their victory against Navy in a home dual meet April 11.

"The amount of time we had invested in them has really paid off," Quiller said. "The ladies have some wonderful leadership to go along with the guys, and they stepped it up this year."

One of the women's team's

biggest producers is Yearling Ebony Thomas, who was named the Track Athlete of the Meet at the PL Championships. Thomas won the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, setting the Patriot League Championship records in each. She then ran the anchor leg of the championship 4x100-meter relay team and the third leg of the championship 4x400-meter relay team.

Thomas has the talent to become truly special, and Quiller said that is an amazing feat considering there hasn't been a sprinter at any of the academies that have made it to Nationals in the 13 years he's coached at Army.

"She's a dynamic runner. She's just relentless and I don't see how anyone can beat her," Quiller said. "There are people who are faster than her, but she is really good and there hasn't been a national-class sprinter at any one of the academies, men or women, since I've been here. There have been ones in other events like the hammer throw or the long jump, but not a sprinter."

"We've had some good ones, but they've all been IC4A (ECAC) capable," he added, "but that's one

notch away from being national capable."

Thomas, a native of Philadelphia, wasn't recruited by Army and was a walk-on after she impressed coaches at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. She has made a meteoric rise from her humble beginnings that included being named the Patriot League Championship Rookie of the Meet last year with a school-record performance in the 200-meter sprint.

She fought off the pain of a bad hamstring to help the 4x400 relay team (teamed with Firstie Katelin Grant, Yearling Lesa Boyd and Plebe Carissa Hauck) win the final event of the PL meet, posting a time of 3:47.65, which is the second-fastest time in Army history at the women's 4x400.

"We were only up by one point and even though I was hurting, I ran regardless of the pain," Thomas said. "I ran it; we gave our best effort as a group and won it. We were champions in the 4x400 last year and I certainly wasn't going to let someone beat me this year with the team championship on the line."

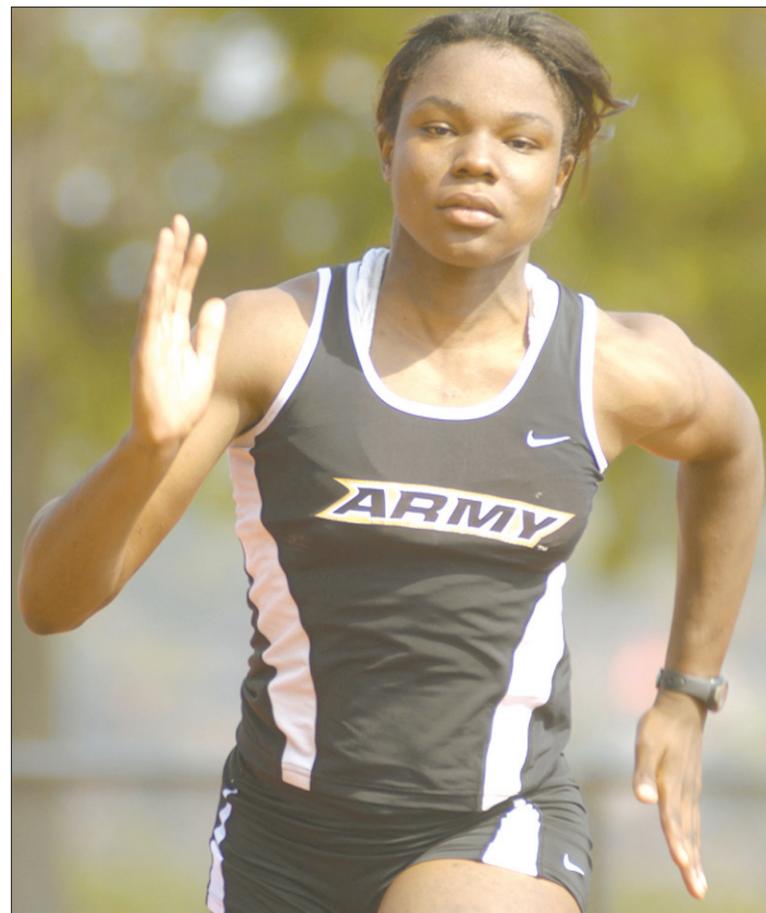
While individual honors seem to be showered on her with her running success, she finds nothing more exciting than to win as a team.

"I don't go out planning to break records, I go with the flow," Thomas explained. "I would rather win as a team than have personal accomplishments. Who is going to remember who broke the records at this meet years from now?"

"Everyone will remember we won the Patriot League championship this year like the team in 1998 because individual records are made to be broken," she added, "but you can't take away the accomplishments of winning as a team. We are the champions, we're number one."

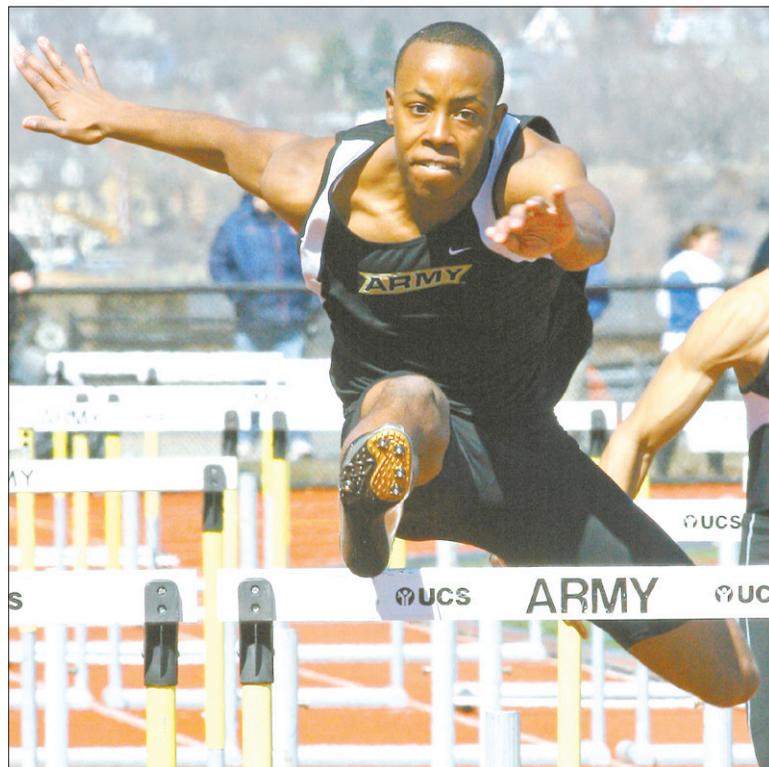
Thomas said she plans to skip this weekend's ECAC championships in Princeton, N.J., due to a conflict with her Portuguese test Saturday, but she will return for the NCAA Regionals at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., May 30-31.

While Thomas will skip this week, other athletes that Quiller See THOMAS on page 15



Yearling Ebony Thomas performed at a high level at the Patriot League Track and Field Championships May 3 as she earned the Track Athlete of the Meet.

JON MALINOWSKI/G&ENE



Plebe Domonick Sylve won the 110-meter hurdles at the PL Championships. His time of 14.07 seconds ranks second all-time at Army and qualified him for NCAA Regionals later this month in Tallahassee, Fla.

JON MALINOWSKI/G&ENE



Kayleigh Waters (left) runs the 1500-meter race at the 30th annual West Point Track and Field Spring Invitational May 2 hosted by the West Point Middle School. The West Point girls' team placed 3rd overall against 21 middle schools from New York and New Jersey.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tough loss in PLs, baseball looks toward future

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt

It was the toughest of losses, a loss that despite one more game on the schedule officially ended their season.

The fourth-seeded Bucknell Bison (24-22-2) took the third and deciding game of the Patriot League semifinal series 1-0 over the number one seed Army Black Knights (25-25) Sunday at Doubleday Field.

The loss eliminated Army from post season play and ended the careers of Firsties Cole White and Chris Simmons, who both had a great tournament weekend.

White pitched the deciding game and was brilliant as he threw eight innings, gave up five hits and only one earned run and struck out eight.

Bison leftfielder Drew Constable ripped a double in the eighth inning to score first baseman Mark Angelo and the game's only run.

However, throughout the game White battled hard and came up big, especially in the sixth inning with the bases loaded and only one out and a three and one count to pinch hitter John Avanzino. He came back to strikeout Avanzino and then got third baseman Ed Rubbo to ground out to Plebe shortstop Clint Moore for the final out of the inning.

"That's the type of performance Cole has been known for," said Army head baseball coach Joe Sottolano. "We went into game

three, the deciding game, and had the ball in probably our best athlete's hands which is what you want to do."

White, who also had one of only two Army hits on the day, felt that moment in the game could have been a game changer at the time.

"I battled with myself trying to do too much and got into a tight situation, so I stepped off the rubber and looked up, (pitching) coach (Fritz) Hamburg stepped out there and said, 'Don't back off, you're the man -- do it,'" White explained. "That was when it hit me that I knew everyone was playing hard and was behind me.

"So I stopped trying too much and tried to stay within the strike zone, got out of it and tried to keep the momentum," he added. "It was huge (to get out of the jam), it was awesome."

Moore, who had Army's other hit Sunday, drew a one-out walk and then would move to second on a wild pitch in the bottom half of the sixth inning, but he would be left stranded after Bucknell brought in Jason Buursma, the PL Player of the Year, to get the final out of the inning.

"(Buursma) throws strikes and he has some sink to his ball, he did a nice job," Sottolano said. "I know the lefthander (Eric Jarrett) shut us down for the most part, but I certainly didn't fear him. I just think Buursma did a fine job coming in throwing strikes and didn't walk anyone and that was



Firstie pitcher/rightfielder Cole White pitched a great game in a 1-0 loss to Bucknell Sunday. He pitched eight innings while giving up five hits and only one earned run and added eight strikeouts. In his last official collegiate game Tuesday versus Sacred Heart, he broke Army's school record for home runs, which now stands at 28.

key because they had only one walk all day."

Bucknell took game one of the series 5-4 in 10 innings and then Army bounced back to take the second game 12-3. Army hit well the first two games by getting 28 hits and 11 extra base hits, including two home runs from Simmons.

The Black Knights starters pitched into the seventh inning in each game, and probably one of the biggest factors on the weekend, especially when looking into the future, was the play of the underclassmen.

Moore, the PL Rookie of the Year, came off an 0-for-5 first game and came back with three hits in game two, which included a double and home run. Another Plebe, first baseman Kevin McKague, came up with two doubles and two runs batted in the first game Saturday.

While the loss is greatly disappointing, Sottolano sees a lot of growth gained by his young team from the experience of losing in the Patriot League Tournament.

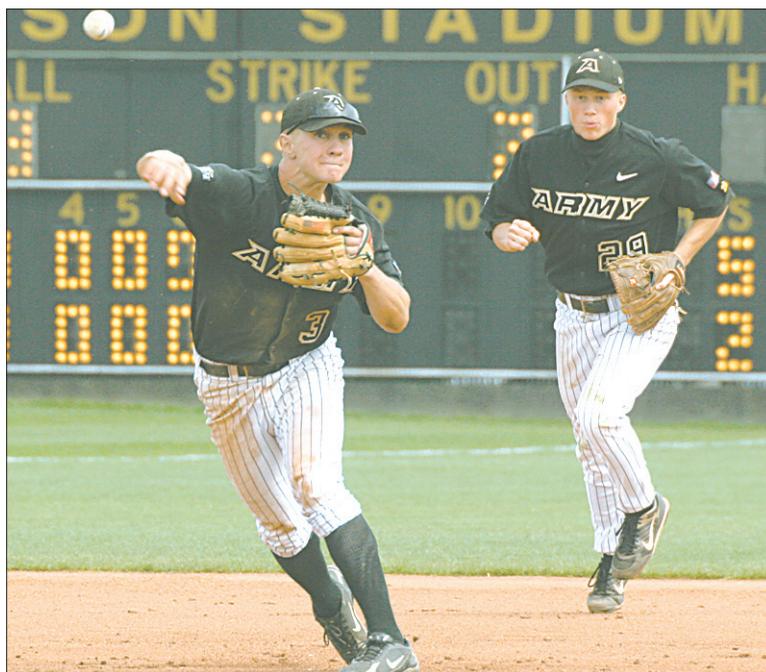
"It's good to be here and it makes them hungry to be here," Sottolano said. "I'm disappointed, obviously, that we didn't win, but you always look at the next phase and next step. I'm looking forward to getting back after it and there's work to be done."

"But, right now, I want to step back a little bit and enjoy the time we spent with the seniors and enjoy the moment," he added.

White was choking back the tears after the loss knowing that this was his last big collegiate game, but he sees great things ahead for the team as it heads into the future and hopes he steered the young guys on the right path.

"The senior and junior leadership

is outstanding and showed the younger guys no matter how bad things seem to be (especially after a 2-11 start to the season) you just have to keep grinding at it and good things will eventually come," White said. "The seniors busted their tails every single day and I hope we helped the younger guys to lead this program into the future and continue it in the right direction."



Cow third baseman J.P. Polchinski guns out a Bucknell runner Sunday as Plebe shortstop Clint Moore backs him up.

THOMAS, cont. from page 13

sees making a difference at both the ECACs and the NCAA Regionals are Firstie Brandon Lewis (decathlon), Plebe Domonick Sylve (high hurdles) and Jon Mickowski (mid-distance).

“Sylve, ‘Oh! My goodness,’ he is a guy that has surprised us and he is a stud in the high hurdles,” Quiller said. “He is good enough to qualify for nationals.”

The last Army track and field athlete to make it to the NCAA Championships, which this year takes place at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, June 11-14, was Jeff Weaver in 2004.

“Thomas has an outside chance to make it this year,” Quiller said. “But, our best chance to make it to the NCAAs is Sylve.”

However, the ECACs are first this weekend and Quiller is confident that the team will put forth a great performance.

“We have pretty good expectations with the kids that we’re taking,” Quiller explained. “It’s the best women’s bunch that we’ve ever taken regardless of the three or four (seniors) we’re leaving home and, maybe, it’s the same on the guys’ side as well.”