

Astronaut tells cadets how math helped his career

Story and photo by
Tommy Gilligan
Assistant Editor

At one point in their lives, a vast majority of people have looked into the sky and wondered what it would be like to be in space.

While some continue to dream about it, only a select few have the opportunity to be accepted into the space program. Yet, that does not stop people's curiosity about or interest in the great unknown.

On the other hand, not many people grow up dreaming of being a great mathematician. Unfortunately for many, it is a prerequisite skill that goes hand-and-hand with being an astronaut.

For Lt. Col. Shane Kimbrough, Class of 1989, his dreams of becoming an astronaut were nearly ended when he made his decision to attend West Point.

However, Kimbrough's aptitude and desire to excel in the world of mathematics opened doors along the way to get him where he is today.

"I want the cadets to understand that they have the ability to do great things," Kimbrough, the former Dept. of Mathematics instructor, said. "This (MA103) course that every cadet takes during their plebe year arms them with a skill set that allows them to critically think about how to solve problems in the classroom and in the field."

Kimbrough spoke to more than 1,000



Astronaut Lt. Col. Shane Kimbrough, Class of 1989, told more than 1,000 plebes that their MA 103 mathematics class "... arms them with a skill set that allows them to critically think about how to solve problems in the classroom and in the field" during a lecture Monday in Robinson Auditorium.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

cadets and staff in Robinson Auditorium Monday about his experience in space and his time assigned to the space program.

While Kimbrough's hourlong discussion focused on his STS-126 Endeavor mission, he stressed the importance of his path of academics over his career.

"After flying Apache helicopters, I had the opportunity to obtain my Master of Science degree from Georgia Institute of Technology," Kimbrough said. "After receiving my degree, I got to come back here and teach. I strongly believe that opened the door

for me with the space program."

Kimbrough is one of five Army officers who are currently astronauts, and he talked about his experiences and showed the audience a 15-minute video of the highlights of his 16-day mission to space.

The Math Dept. was glad the former instructor could make time in his hectic schedule to come to West Point and speak.

"We were excited when we found out that he could make it," Lt. Col. Gerald Kobylski, academy math professor, said. "It is important for the students to hear from prominent people who have had successful careers involving math. At times it just needs to come from someone other than their instructors for them to understand."

Kimbrough fielded questions from the cadets after his presentation.

While many questions had serious overtones, one cadet asked if he could comment about his experiences or knowledge about possible extraterrestrial beings that are in space.

With a smile, Kimbrough replied, "I could tell you, but I would have to kill you."

As the group continued to laugh, Kimbrough played some slides about his fun moments during his trip to space. From his varsity letter on his space suit to maneuvering through the five-way intersection in the International Space Station, the cadets appeared attentive to every word.

He spoke about his experience working with all branches of service.

"If you think you are just going into the Army and just being Army, you are wrong," Kimbrough said. "Throughout my entire career, I have worked with all the other services and each branch has so much to offer to the battle."

Although Kimbrough explained the rivalry between Army-Navy is all in good fun, his final slide appeared from in a window in outer space with a button saying, "BEAT NAVY!"

Christmas tree lighting and Santa's visit Monday



The annual Christmas tree lighting took place in a new location Monday behind the bleachers of the Plain near Daly Field. The festivities included holiday caroling from the Protestant Chapel Choir and the Jazz Knights Bass Quartet and a special appearance by Santa Claus. After the tree lighting, Santa traveled to the West Point Club where children told him what they wanted for Christmas.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Cadets videotaping and blogging about Army-Navy week spirit

To further promote Army-Navy Week and get more cadet stories out to a wider audience, the Directorate of Public Affairs and Communications teamed up with the Army Strong campaign and provided Flip video cameras for select cadets to record various activities centered around Army-Navy and post them to a blog site.

Check it out at <http://armystrongstories.com/category/usma-cadet/>

BEAT NAVY!!

Installation funding levels on the decline

Editorial by Lt. Gen Rick Lynch
Commander, Installation Management Command



In recent years, the Army and its installations have enjoyed unprecedented levels of funding.

In fiscal year 2008, the Army hit a high water mark in its fiscal history with a total annual budget exceeding \$250 billion—three times more than FY2001 funding level.

Much of this growth is attributed to funding the war, rebalancing our Army through investments in Army's force structure, equipment, infrastructure and key Soldier and Family programs.

Funding levels of this magnitude are unsustainable year after the year, and as the country faces some stiff economic challenges, we are forced to reduce funding and exact a greater level of stewardship over our

resources.

The Installation Management Command—like other commands throughout our Army—will operate at reduced funding levels. This means that starting in 2010, performance levels for some installation services will be notably less than what we have had in recent years and will remain at that level for the foreseeable future.

Our challenge is to ensure those key, higher-priority programs across our installations do not suffer.

We will maintain our full support to life, health and safety programs, the Army Family Covenant and those services that prepare our Soldiers and their Families for deployment in support of the Army's Force Generation model.

These are non-negotiables that will remain fully funded. This is our commitment and we will not depart from it. However, there will be other installation services that will clearly be reduced.

We have grown accustomed to some very high levels of service across the board in

recent years and we all need to be forthcoming with the expectation that things will be different in some areas.

Help manage this expectation across your garrisons. Educate everyone as to which changes they can expect to see. A simple explanation can go a long way to helping understand the changes some of our installation services will undergo.

Across the Army's installations, we can do much to help ourselves by becoming better stewards of our resources. It starts with the individual and everybody has a role.

Simple things like turning the lights off, powering down your computer at night, driving tactical vehicles instead of TMP vehicles or conducting a VTC instead of traveling to a distant site unnecessarily all save money—and no savings is too small to forego.

Commanders and leaders across the installation have a key role and are responsible for the efficient use of our resources. Costs should be an inherent consideration in your every decision. We too often marginalize this

key factor in making good, resource-informed decisions but we can no longer afford to do so.

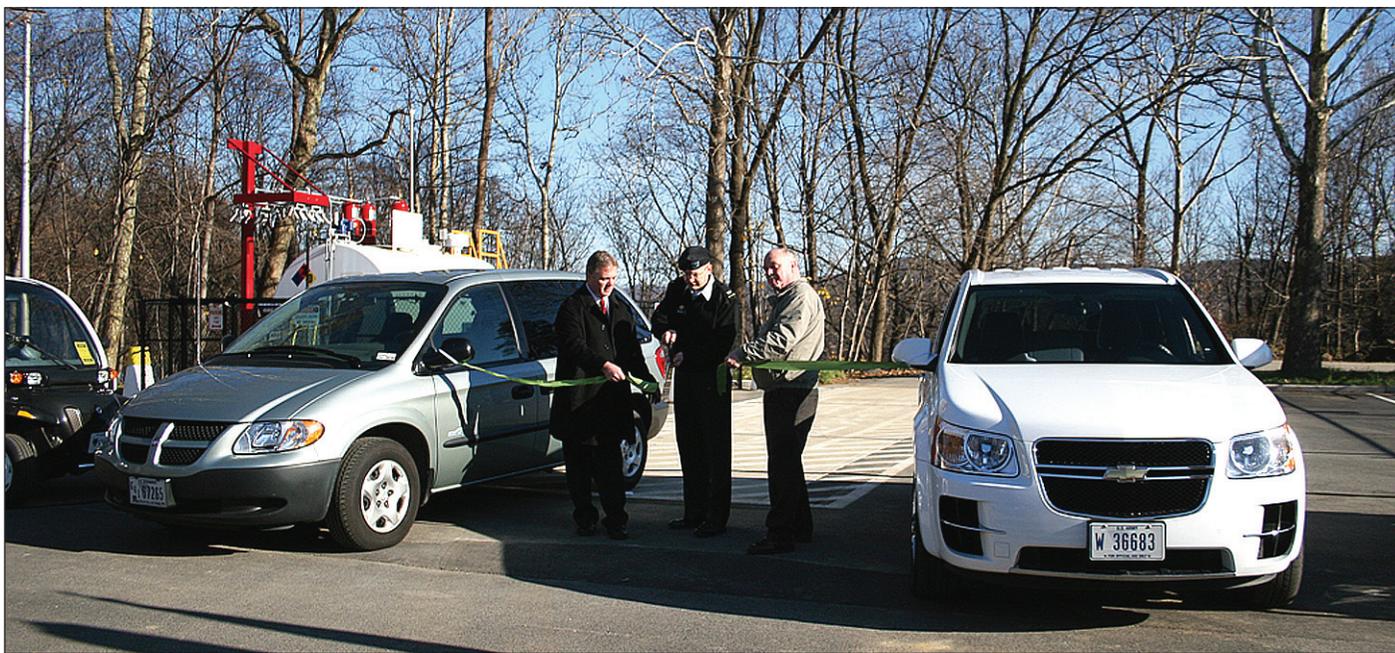
As I travel throughout the Army community, I carry the message that we can do business smarter and more efficiently without sacrificing the quality of service that our Soldiers and their Families so richly deserve.

I challenge everyone to do the same—to work together to ensure that those key installation programs that mean so much are well resourced and operated and that we do away with wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Every person—whether you are a Soldier, Family member, a Department of the Army civilian or a contractor serving our Army—is needed and can make a difference.

Ask yourself if you are doing the right things and then, are you doing them right? Doing things right means doing them in the most cost efficient way without sacrificing effectiveness.

Army Strong.



New fuel site now open

Directorate of Public Works engineer Pete McGaughran (left), Garrison Commander Col. Daniel Bruno and Dick King, Directorate of Logistics material services office, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of the new Green Fuel station located at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation lot near the West Point cemetery Dec. 4. The ribbon is spread between a fuel-cell vehicle, which uses hydrogen, and a flex-fuel vehicle, which uses E-85 fuel. E-85 fuel is 85 percent denatured alcohol made from corn. The two green fuel tanks store E-85 fuel and hydrogen.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Want to read the Pointer View on crisp paper rather than online? To get a yearly subscription (48 issues) of the Pointer View, contact Theresa Gervasi at the Times Herald-Record at 800-295-2187.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

See SOLUTION, page 8

SHARP

The members of the Sexual Harrassment/Assault Response and Prevention program are Maj. Maria Burger (USMA/USCC), Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Dan Toohey (Victim Advocate), Lt. Col. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and Bernadette Orland (Dean). Community members can e-mail Burger at Maria.Burger@usma.edu for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here. Cadets also can call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215. West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

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Cadets help with demo of Habitat house

By Firstie A.J. Drago
Civil Engineering Club President

Members of the West Point Civil Engineering Club took a trip to New Rochelle Nov. 21 for a full day's work on a housing project with the Westchester Habitat for Humanity program.

Some used jackhammers to destroy some of the concrete floor to allow a trench system in the basement to solve the flooding problem.

Others worked outside cutting down trees. Another group was on the first floor gutting a room that will eventually have new sheetrock installed throughout.

When asked why they went on the trip on one of their few days off, the replies were "It was kind of a stress reliever after a hard academic week" and "This was a great opportunity to serve those less fortunate and to give a helping hand for those in need and to spend time with some of my close cadet friends."

As to the actual jobs they completed,

one cadet commented "The house looked a lot better afterward and it will be much more livable after the final touches are made to it."

One member of the jackhammer crew said "I've never used a jackhammer until that Saturday and I give a lot of credit to those guys who do it every day. That was one of the hardest forearm workouts I've gotten in awhile."

The Civil Engineering Club does numerous other community service activities to include the biannual highway cleanup, working with the Special Olympics and Boy and Girl Scouts and teaching some engineering classes to Cornwall high school students.

The club is looking to build on this project and is hoping to have much more support in their upcoming community service events.

"Not only did I get the opportunity to help out the less fortunate, especially for such a reputable organization, I got a little taste of civil engineering. This will definitely help me next year when I have to declare my major," Plebe Rachel Kim said.



Demolition was the order of the day for members of the Civil Engineering Club who helped with tree removal (above) and plaster-and-lathe teardown (right) among other tasks at a Habitat for Humanity house Nov. 21.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Cheer for the one you're with?

By Sgt. Vincent Fusco
Dir. of Public Affairs & Communications

One of the unique opportunities afforded to students at the service academies is to attend a semester at one of their sister academies to learn how the other services do things.

Initially, those students are on the outside looking in, trying to fit into their new surroundings and making new friends.

When you are a cheerleader at your academy, like Firstie Matthew Kitchell and U.S. Air Force Academy cadet Siobhan Hulslander are, football games between the academies take on a whole new perspective.

Hulslander is currently finishing her semester exchange here; and Kitchell, West Point Rabble Rousers captain, spent a semester exchange last year at the U.S. Naval Academy.

When Kitchell, a Pekin, Ill., native, arrived at Annapolis, Md., in the fall of his cow year, he intended to spend his exchange learning about the Navy and attending spirit team practices to keep up his conditioning for his return to West Point. However, when Navy coach John Michael d'Halivand needed someone to fill a spot on the Navy cheer team, he turned to Kitchell.

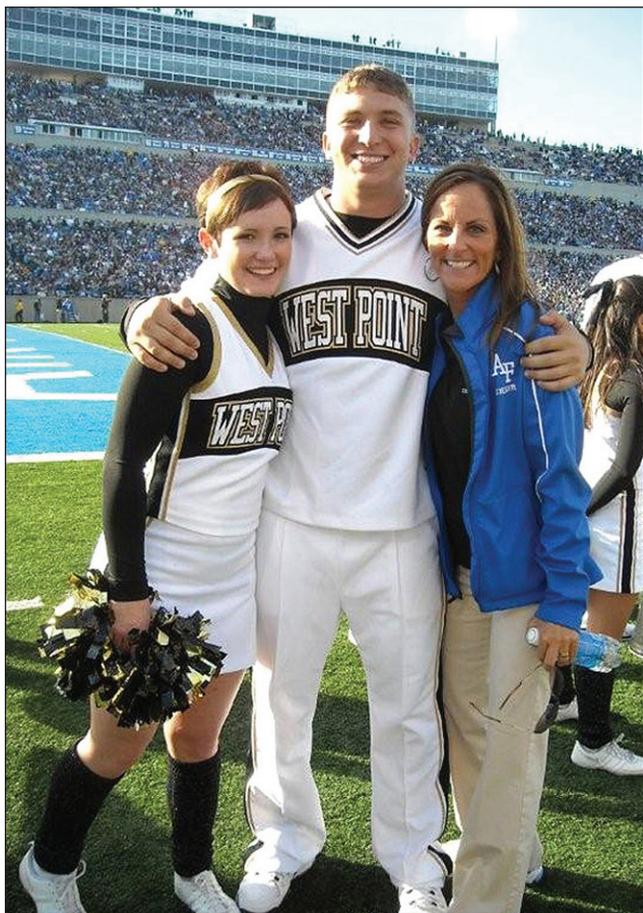
Being part of the team eased his transition.

At first, many of the midshipmen were hesitant to associate with him, while others went out of their way to talk to him. With his new association, his West Point friends and his new Annapolis acquaintances started hanging out together. They learned more about each other and found they shared many personality traits.

"Once I started associating with everybody in my company (at Annapolis) and realized I had a lot of friends there, it really bridged the gap," Kitchell said. "I could see how the exchange program works to bridge the gap between service academies while maintaining the sense of competitive edge."

For the rest of the semester, Kitchell channeled his spirit into every game and built upon his new friendships at Annapolis. Then at last year's Army-Navy football game, Kitchell took part in the traditional pre-game "prisoner exchange," where Army cadets studying at Navy are "exchanged" for Navy midshipmen studying at West Point. The students return to their roots and cheer on their team sitting with their classmates.

Unbeknownst to the midshipmen, Kitchell was already wearing his West Point Rabble Rousers uniform under his



West Point Firstie Matthew Kitchell and U.S. Air Force Academy cadet Siobhan Hulslander meet with Air Force cheerleading team coach Laura Hutcheon at the Army-Air Force football game at the U.S. Air Force Academy Nov. 7.

COURTESY PHOTO



U.S. Air Force Academy cadet Siobhan Hulslander salutes while West Point Firstie Matthew Kitchell performs a military press during the Army-Iowa State football game in Jack Trice Stadium at Ames, Iowa, Sept. 26. Hulslander, an exchange student from the USAFA this semester, will cheer alongside Kitchell and the other members of the Rabble Rousers spirit team during the Army-Navy football game Saturday. The 110th playing of one of college football's most storied rivalries takes place in Philadelphia and can be seen on CBS television. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

cadet uniform when the Army spirit team welcomed him back.

"When we marched off, the cheerleading team came off and scooped me up out of the crowd and onto the field," Kitchell said. "It made me realize that I missed my team and knowing that they missed me too was a really cool feeling."

After spending the preceding months cheering for Navy, Kitchell was back "home," even for just an afternoon.

This year, Kitchell, the West Point spirit team and spirit coach Angie Senger have extended the same gratitude to Hulslander, who chose to spend her exchange at the same academy her father taught at as an Army officer.

"I was more than happy to bring Siobhan along on the team," Kitchell said. "She had a lot to offer, good spirit and knew the value of bringing the two teams together."

Since making the team in August, she has also attained a new appreciation for the different military services. Being on the team has helped her make friends with cadets outside of her classes and her company, and it provided an active break in between heavy course loads and company duties.

"The Rabble Rousers have definitely been one of the best parts of my experience here at West Point," Hulslander, who is expected to graduate from the Air Force Academy in 2011, said. "It's really nice to have ... something that's fun that you can look forward to at the end of your day."

When the West Point spirit team went to Colorado Springs for the Army-Air Force football game, Hulslander found herself at odds with balancing her level of spirit for each school.

"That was actually really strange because I wanted to cheer for Army and for Air Force—because it's my home," Hulslander said, "but also because of all the ways West Point has become my home for this semester."

Hulslander confided that, of course, she had to cheer for Air Force a few times in that game, but otherwise found that she could be happy for whomever won the game.

"I got to be the winner because I had a wonderful experience here at West Point and the Air Force Academy as well," Hulslander said.

This weekend, both Kitchell and Hulslander will be on the Army side of Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia cheering on the Black Knights in the 110th playing of the Army-Navy football game. One thing for certain is that no matter where they come from, or where they've been, both will be united in backing Army.

"I'm an Army brat, so I've grown up always cheering for Navy to lose," Hulslander said. "I guess in a way I was an Army cheerleader long before I was an Air Force cheerleader."

Hulslander and Kitchell have made connections through the exchange program they hope to continue throughout their careers.

No matter what side of the stadium they happen to be on, they know they are all part of one team.

"We're going to be future leaders in our respective branches," Kitchell said. "When we graduate, we're all in the same fight. It's not that hard to coexist and work together."

Army-Navy can be a Family rivalry

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Dean Welch
Dir. of Public Affairs & Communications

Choosing a side to cheer for during the past two years of Army-Navy football was a lot easier for the Benson Family than this year's game.

With a son, Granger, at the U.S. Naval Academy, the Family's allegiance was soundly behind the midshipmen. But when youngest son, Everett, arrived on the banks of the Hudson River in June, choosing sides became more difficult for Mom and Dad.

When the two schools met in Sprint Football earlier this semester, Mom dressed in Army colors and Dad wore the blue and gold of Navy.

Saturday, in Philadelphia, for the 110th playing of the storied rivalry, their wardrobe is a topic of conversation.

"I joke with my friends that I am going to try and find a sweatshirt from both schools and sew them together so I can show spirit for each side," Claire Kimmel said.

Her husband, Tracey Benson, is keenly aware that when the couple goes to dinner on Friday night with Granger and another midshipman, his oldest son will make note of the Army lapel pin he now wears alongside his one from Navy.

The Bellefonte, Penn., lawyers said in a phone conversation that when people find out they have a son at each academy they inevitably ask where they will sit for the game.

This year it will be on the Army side of Lincoln Financial Field, but only because they needed more tickets for Family and ended up buying their tickets from a West Point faculty member. Their original seats were bought through Navy and on the Navy side.

Both brothers chose their schools at a young age.

Everett said that as a first- or second-grader he dreamed of attending West Point. Granger took a little longer, waiting until he was 17 years old to announce his college choice.

"We picked him up from swim camp at the Naval Academy and he climbed in the car and said 'I'd like to go here,'" Tracey said.

Granger wrote in an e-mail that he tried to sway his brother to Annapolis during his first two years there, but the pull of the Point won out.

"I brought him down for a weekend last fall and tried everything to influence his decision," Granger, who hopes to be a Marine officer, said. "But in the end, I knew that attending West Point and being in the Army had been his dream since he was very young."

Claire said that even though Everett knew he wanted to go to West Point, they made him apply to Navy as a fall back. He received an appointment there as well, but it was always going to be West Point.

"It is just the perfect fit for him," she said.

The rivalry is more than Army versus Navy, it is brother versus brother.

Granger wrote that he "can't even bear to ride" in his

mother's car because there's a West Point sticker on it. Although his father points out that "if you go to the other side there's a Navy sticker."

"We try to keep it pretty much equal," Tracey said.

What hasn't been equal is Navy's dominance the last seven years.

With those victories the older brother has a firm hold on bragging rights.

"I really can't get through a major holiday, or seeing him at all, without him reminding me that Navy has won seven straight Army-Navy football games," Everett said.

"I give Everett such a hard time," Granger, who served as a sprint football videographer, said. "I think a [Navy] win this weekend will render him speechless for Christmas leave."

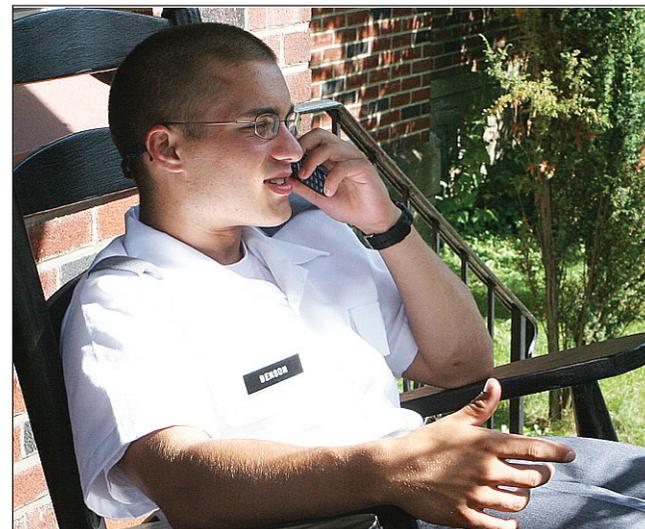
Both boys are confident that their team will win the nationally-televised game.

One will leave disappointed, but the weekend is more about Family than football.

"We realize that when Granger graduates (in 2011) there are going to be very limited chances where we will all be together as a Family," Everett said. "So each opportunity is special."

Mom is going to take advantage of the fact of having both her sons in uniform to add to the Family photo album.

"I don't have a photo with them where both are in uniform yet," she said. "So that is going to be a very important moment for me this weekend."



Plebe Everett Benson makes a phone call home during the New Cadet Ice Cream Social this past summer. Benson said he "always had a soft spot for Navy," where his brother, Granger, is a Midshipman, but now is firmly behind the Black Knights. The two teams meet in Philadelphia Saturday in one of college football's most storied rivalries. The game can be seen nationally on CBS television. Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m.



Midshipman Granger Benson, videographer for the Navy Sprint football team, videotaped the Army-Navy Sprint football game in October. Granger and his brother, Everett, will both be in Philadelphia rooting on their schools this Saturday for the 110th playing of the Army-Navy football game. Granger is confident that Navy will continue its dominance over Army, while Everett thinks "Army can win this one."

Arts and Crafts Shop still has renovations to finish

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The West Point Arts and Crafts Shop renovation is nearing completion, so the shop celebrated with an open house Nov. 21.

The renovations began mid-July and are still ongoing.

Along with painting the walls in bright blues, yellows and greens, much of the shop now has regular walls (instead of walls with garage doors), a new front counter, new work areas and an enclosure for children's crafts.

The Arts and Crafts shop also has a new manager, Lori Frisbie, from Campbell Hall, who is an accomplished mural and graphic artist.

"I used to travel around the country a lot doing faux finishes and murals," Frisbie said. "(After that,) I worked at a day school and a parent told me about this position (for shop manager) opening up here, so I decided to give it a try."

Along with the new decorative look of the

shop, Frisbie has other ideas on a variety of arts and crafts projects and instructions.

She plans to add to the Shop's offerings.

"I would like to see different groups come into the shop," she said. "We had a wives' club here who made Christmas ornaments."

She further explained that although the regularly scheduled hours are fairly limited, she will work with those interested in pursuing different projects and learning different crafts, making the facility available at other times.

"If people want to do something on their lunch break, they can bring their lunch with them and work on a craft project on 'fall Fridays' to create West Point-themed Christmas ornaments," she said. "We also offer birthday parties where the children design a craft project according to the child's interest and we order the pizza."

Frisbie said special art classes are offered throughout the year such as the Mommy and Me reindeer apron class, which was Dec. 5, and the just completed 'create your own barware,' where participants bring in their margarita, wine or beer glasses for glass

painting.

"The primary purpose (of the craft shop) is to be of service to the community," Lori Kendrick, program manager, said. "We are open to new ideas. For example, if someone has a group or club (they belong to), and they are interested in a specific craft project, they can come to us and we will work with them.

"Cadets can create gifts or have their graduation photo framed," she added, "or we can teach them how to frame."

Kendrick said she would like to see teens become more involved in crafting during the evenings.

"We are open to everything," she said.

For special requests such as lunchtime classes, teen classes or birthday parties, call to arrange times and specific projects.

The Arts and Crafts Shop currently offers classes in framing, engraving, creating shadow boxes and Moravian stars, lanyard beading, stained glass and reverse painting.

The Arts and Crafts Shop is located behind the Post Office in Bldg. 646.

The hours of operation are 3-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call 938-4812.



Major John Culpepper helps his son, Ethan, make snowman thermometers in the new enclosure for children's crafts along with sisters, Corinne and Phoebe Sparrow, during Arts and Crafts Shop open house to show off some of the new renovations.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday—Astro Boy, PG, 7:30 p.m.**Saturday—Closed.****Dec. 18—Michael Jackson's This Is It, PG, 7:30 p.m.****Dec. 19—A Christmas Carol, PG, 7:30 p.m.****Dec. 19—Law Abiding Citizen, R, 9:30 p.m.**THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.AAFES.COM.

Keller Corner

KACH outpatient clinic closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Dec. 18 (closing at noon), Dec. 24 (training holiday), Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 31 (training holiday) and Jan. 1 (New Year's Day).

The emergency room will remain open.

Blood Drive kickoff campaign

There will be a kickoff campaign meeting from 2-3:30 p.m. Dec. 18 in the Army Education Center Bldg. 683, Training Room #10 to prepare for the Armed Forces Blood Program's Jan. 11-14 Blood Drive.

Key personnel from each activity should attend this meeting.

Provide the names of those attending to Mary Mandia at 938-2583 (BLUD) or via e-mail at mary.mandia@amedd.army.mil on or before Dec. 18.

KACH Christmas Tree

A special thank you to Fred P. Malizia, former West Point Band member (section leader of percussion) and in later years data processing school teacher, for donating a beautiful Christmas tree and trimmings for the KACH Lobby.

Flu shot update

Keller has an open (walk-in) door for flu immunization at the clinic now.

Immunization clinic duty hours are:

- M/T/W/Th/F—8-11:30 a.m.;

- M/T/W/F—1-4 p.m.

The exceptions are:

- For seasonal flu—only beneficiaries receiving their primary care at Keller can receive this vaccination at Keller—if they are TRICARE prime approved.

This vaccine is in very short supply.

- For H1N1 flu—vaccinations are being given to all age groups 6 months and older as long as there is vaccine.

KACH is giving this vaccination to beneficiaries (active duty and their Family members, military retirees and their immediate Family members) as well as non-primary care beneficiaries (Department of Defense civilians and contractors working on West Point).

If non-primary care beneficiaries come to the immunization clinic, they will be asked to complete a form that allows KACH to bill their insurance (for the service provided, not the vaccine itself).

They may need their insurance card to complete the form.

Keller dining facility patrons

Due to increased issues with parking and seating in our dining room, and to enhance our patient access and customer/staff satisfaction, beginning this month, our dining room seating area will be open only to the individuals meeting the following categories during lunch hours—11 a.m.-1 p.m.:

- Hospital Employees (government workers, military and contractors with valid hospital badge);

- Hospital inpatients/outpatients;

- Contractors with specific duties in the Hospital (Must have a valid hospital badge);

- Guests of Hospitalized Patients.

However, we invite all other individuals to purchase meals to go, although we no longer are able to accommodate them in our dining room.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

For questions or comments, please contact the Nutrition Care Division at Keller Army Community Hospital.



Black and Gold volunteers

The Black and Gold Volunteer Awards Ceremony was held Dec. 3 at the Army Community Service building. Pictured from left to right is Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno and awardees Melanie Shattan, Angela Kreh, Emily Meng and Sgt. Sigmund Wilson. Kreh earned volunteer of the month.

VIN GUARIGLIA/DPTMS VID

BBC LifeWorks events

Help decorate our Mitten Tree

Bring any new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves to help decorate our holiday tree. Make the holidays special for someone in need and feel good by doing it.

The Mitten Tree will be in the housing office for our residents to help out needy children. Collections continue through Dec. 19.

Celebrate the holidays

Residents are invited to join us at the West Point Bowling Center from noon-2 p.m. Dec. 29 for bowling and pizza.

If you plan to attend, RSVP by Dec. 23.

Letters to Santa

Write a letter and drop it into Santa's special letterbox at 132 Bartlett Loop by Dec. 18. Balfour Beatty Communities will get it to the "Big Man" at the North Pole just for you.

Make sure to check your mail box for your letter back from Santa.

Holiday decorating contest

Show your holiday spirit. String the lights, hang your greenery and turn West Point into a winter wonderland. Get in on the fun and you may win \$50. Judging will take place Dec. 17.

All events are free and open to West Point residents. Contact Jodi Gellman, LifeWorks coordinator, at 446-6407 or e-mail her at jgellman@bbcgrp.com to RSVP or for more information on any event.

What's Happening

Christmas Cards to our Heroes

You can send letters and Christmas cards to Soldiers recovering from injuries or currently deployed around the world this holiday season.

Letters going to Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom should be addressed as follows:

Any OEF or OIF Soldier
Holiday Mail for Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Letters going to Walter Reed Army Medical Center should be addressed as follows:

Any Recovering Soldier WRAMC
Holiday Mail for Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Due to security restrictions, Walter Reed cannot accept generic mail addressed to "A Recovering Soldier" or "Any Soldier."

In past years, thousands of cards were returned to senders because of generic addresses, many sent in response to misleading e-mails. However, the Red Cross can accept, screen and deliver holiday cards and letters sent to encourage our wounded heroes recovering at Walter Reed at the address shown above.

Do not enclose gift cards or money. Letters should be postmarked no later than Monday at Walter Reed.

Retirement Ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend the retirement ceremony for garrison employees at 3:30 p.m. today at Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall.

Candy Cane Drive

The West Point Firefighters Union will have its 2nd annual Candy Cane drive starting at 10 a.m. Saturday in Stony II and continuing throughout post until all the housing areas have been covered.

The fire department drives Santa who will be giving out candy canes, cookies and a fire prevention information flyer for the parents.

For more information, call Paul Cheski at 938-7484.

WPAOG Army-Navy Tailgate

The West Point Association of Graduates and the West Point Society of Philadelphia have teamed up again for the 2009 Army-Navy Tailgate beginning at 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia.

Army-Navy game kickoff is at 2:30 p.m. at Lincoln Financial Field. All are welcome

to attend and rally for the Army Team.

The menu includes Philly cheesesteaks, grilled hot dogs, salads, fresh baked cookies, soft drinks, beer, wine and specialty drinks.

For more information on costs and to register, go to www.westpointaog.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=3727.

Advanced registration is required and will close on or about Tuesday.

Durning portrait exhibit

A reception with refreshments is taking place at 11 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Saturday at the Town of Highlands Library when the portrait of Charles Durning, decorated World War II hero and renowned actor, by Donna Kosiorek will be exhibited to the public.

All are welcome.

Caroling for cadets

The West Point Women's Club invites you to join them as they sing for the cadets at 6:30 p.m. Monday. Everyone will meet at Qrts. 100.

Please RSVP by Friday at wpwreserve@hotmail.com.

Chanukah events

The Jewish Chapel is hosting two Chanukah events. The Chanukah Party Extravaganza starts at 6 p.m. Tuesday and the Jewish Chapel Menorah Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday.

If you have any questions or need more information, call 938-2710 or e-mail the chaplain at shmuelfeltzenberg@usma.edu.

American Society of Military Comptrollers Luncheon

Please join ASMC for their December Luncheon/Christmas Party from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday at the West Point Club Gray Room.

It is a pay-as-you-go lunch followed by the annual ASMC Christmas Auction.

Please bring an item to be donated for the auction to raise money for some worthy causes at West Point—the more donations, the more opportunities to win and have more fun.

For more information, call Carol Spisso at 938-8831 or e-mail her at Carol.Spisso@usma.edu.

O'Neill Chamber Singers perform

The James I. O'Neill High School Chamber Singers (also know as the Select Chorus) is presenting "A Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols" on two consecutive evening

The first performance is Dec. 19 at the Most Holy Trinity Chapel at West Point and the second show is Dec. 20 at the Church of the Holy Innocents in Highland Falls.

Both performances begin at 7 p.m.

The program includes several readings, choral anthems and congregational carol singing, led by the Chorus.

The public is invited.

Protestant Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Everyone is invited to attend a combined West Point Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24 at Cadet Chapel.

This will be a unique and meaningful service for the entire Family to enjoy.

Post Chapel 801 Worship Service

The West Point Community is invited to attend a contemporary worship service at Post Chapel at 8:01 a.m. Sundays.

The service features a Cadet Praise Band, a time for prayer and reflection and relevant preaching for practical Christian living. Watch-care is provided for preschool-age children.

A fellowship—including coffee, juice, pastries and sausage biscuits to be served—follows the service.

Mine Torne Road closure

Mine Torne Road is closed from 6 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Sat. from Route 293 to the Stilwell Pump House through the entire month of December.

The closure is necessary to install water pipes under the road for the new Transportation Motor Pool being constructed in Training Area V.

Emergency vehicles will be able to pass,

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

if needed. Flagmen will be on-site full-time and they can pull the heavy equipment off the road to allow passage in an emergency.

Army-Navy shirts available

The 2009 Army-Navy shirts are available at the USMA Bookstore or can be ordered online at www.usma.edu/uscc/dca/stores/2009ArmyNavy.pdfgame.

Sizes range from small to 2XL. The shirts are black with long sleeves. The Bookstore is located in Thayer Hall, fourth floor.

Spouse BATTLEMIND Telephone Support Groups are available now

A Department of Defense and Army-funded research study administered by the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center for spouses of servicemembers who have been deployed at least one time to Iraq or Afghanistan offers free confidential telephone support groups.

The groups are one-hour, one-time a month for 12 months. Spouses can learn ways to manage stress and solve problems related to reintegration education about post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other common problems.

For Information or to enroll, contact Spouse BATTLEMIND at www.memphis.va.gov/spousebattlemind/ or contact Sgt. Maj. Robert D. Wojtaszczyk, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and TRICARE Management Activity Senior Enlisted Advisor Office at (703) 681-1730 or Fax (703) 681-3665 or at www.health.mil or www.tricare.mil.

TSP TICKER

DECEMBER share prices (as of 12/7)

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|-----------|
| C Fund | — | + 0.09 | (13.0595) |
| S Fund | — | + 0.42 | (15.8679) |
| I Fund | — | + 0.41 | (18.6847) |

Command Channel

8/23

Dec. 10-17

Army Newswatch
(broadcast times)

Thursday-Friday, Monday-
Wednesday and Dec. 17
8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and
7 p.m.

FMWR Blurbs

Santa Paws Photo Shoot

Photos with Santa and your pet will take place from 3-6 p.m. today at the West Point Vet Clinic, Bldg. 630.

Digital photos will be e-mailed to owners and printed photos will be available for pick up the following week.

All pets will receive a special treat from Santa.

All pets must be leashed or in a carrier. There is a minimal fee for the photos.

For more information, call 938-3817.

Family Spaghetti Night

A Family Spaghetti Night will be held from 5-9 p.m. today at the West Point Club's Pierce Dining Room.

There will be fun for the whole Family including face painting, pin the tail on the donkey, ring toss, sack races and Macaroni the Clown.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Coping with Deployment

A course about Coping with Deployment sponsored by the American Red Cross will be held from 1-5:30 p.m. Saturday, at the Child Development Center, Bldg. 1207A.

This course provides hands-on tools to help Families cope with deployments and teaches adults how to support children as a result of changes they may experience due to a deployment of a Family member.

There are a limited number of slots for free on-site childcare available.

Children must either be registered with CYSS or you must provide a copy of your children's current immunization records prior to the event.

Dinner will be provided.

For more information or to register, call 938-5654.

West Point Community Project Angel Tree

Project Angel Tree runs through Monday at the West Point PX.

Please pick a decoration with the age and gender of a West Point child and purchase an age appropriate gift.

Put the gift and the decoration from the tree in the box and make a child's Christmas morning special.

Thank you for your generosity.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Right Arm Night

A bring your right arm night will be held at the West Point Club from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 17.

Wrap your worst gift for a holiday gift exchange. Wine, cheese and finger foods will be served.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Family Fun Night for the Families of deployed Soldiers

Family fun night for Families of deployed Soldiers is presented by the ACS Mobilization and Deployment Program from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Youth Center Bldg. 500.

Dinner and special activities will be provided for the entire Family.

To register and for more information, call 938-5658.

Crandall Pool Holiday Hours

The following are the days and hours that FMWR will operate the community swim program at Crandall Pool during the holiday break.

Hours are from noon-1:30 p.m. Dec. 19, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30.

Regular hours resume Jan. 4.

For more information, call 938-2985.

CYSS Babysitting Classes

A CYSS babysitting course is designed to help middle school and teenage youth learn what it takes to be a responsible, caring and safe babysitter.

The course is eligible for children ages 12 years old and up. Class dates are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 28 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 29.

Participants must attend both classes in order to receive credit for the course.

Classes will be held at Bldg. 695 and are free to CYSS membership children.

To register, call 938-3921.

LTS has moved

Leisure Travel Services (formerly known as ITR) has temporarily moved to the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion, Bldg. 628. No BSP programs or reservations will be affected.

The LTS phone number will remain the same—938-3601.

Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience.

Army Family Team Building

Army Family Team Building is designed to educate and empower members of the military community to develop skills and encourage behaviors that strengthen self-reliance, promote retention and enhance readiness.

Are you an AFTB Master Trainer or would you like to become a Master Trainer?

For more information, call Army Community Service at 938-5654.

Fall story hour

The West Point Post Library has its fall preschool story hour at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday, open to all West Point community children, ages 3-5.

Pre-registration is required on a weekly basis.

Call 938-2974 or stop by the library in Bldg. 622 for details.

Adult indoor tennis lessons

Tennis lessons are ongoing at the Lichtenberg Tennis Center.

Classes are available for beginner, intermediate and advanced players.

Registration is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday at LTS, Bldg. 695.

For lesson days and times and more information, call 938-3066.

2009 AFAP out brief issue slides

The 2009 AFAP out brief issue slides are now available online at westpointmwr.com/afap.htm.

Instructors needed

Certified Kickboxing, Step, Pilates and Body Pump instructors are needed at the

FMWR Fitness Center.

If you are interested, contact the FMWR Fitness Center at 938-6490 or Rita Tenuta at 446-3630.

NFL Sunday Ticket available

Love football, but your team's game isn't available here? No problem.

The West Point Club has NFL Sunday Ticket each Sunday.

Enjoy all of the games on the club's flat screen TVs.

The West Point Club opens at 11:30 a.m., so come early and spend the day watching your favorite teams.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Adult Hockey Program

The Adult Hockey Program is now underway, and runs from 7-8:30 p.m. Sundays and 9-10:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Tate Rink.

All participants must be 18 years of age or older, and must purchase a season hockey pass at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion, Bldg. 628.

The program continues through March 10. Participants must provide their own hockey gear and skates.

For more information, call Jim Liney at 938-3066.

EDGE! Fitness and Nutrition classes

EDGE! Fitness and Nutrition classes are available for children in grades 3 and up that are registered in the CYSS program.

Classes run Jan. 19 through Feb. 11.

Register at the Youth Center, Bldg. 500.

For more information, call 938-0829.

ACS Employment Readiness seminars and workshops

Why not make your New Year's Resolution something that will pay you back for years to come.

Sign up for an "Employment Makeover" after the holidays. All workshops take place in the ACS Training Room in Bldg. 622.

- Jan. 19, 10-11:30 a.m., Resume Success: Building Accomplishment Statements;

- Jan. 20, 1:30-3 p.m., Interview and Dress for Success;

- Jan. 21, Occupations Inc. interviews and Family empowerment. Call Employment Readiness to schedule an appointment;

- Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Medical Transcription Information Session;

- Jan. 26, 10-11:30 a.m., Business Etiquette 101;

- Jan. 27, 1:30-3 p.m., Career Plan Development.

For more information, call 938-5658 to sign up for a class or to schedule a one-on-one session.

Family Child Care Program

The Family Child Care Program is looking for a special person to provide care for "special needs children."

Are you that special person willing to be trained to spend time with a special child?

If you are interested in being part of the Family Child Care program, call the Outreach Services office at 938-3921.



Brown promoted to 7th degree Black Belt

Jan Brown, instructor for the West Point Child and Youth Services Martial Arts Program, was recently promoted to 7th degree black belt in Taekwondo Chung Do Kwan. The West Point Youth Hapkido and Taekwondo Club, under Brown's direction, was recently recognized by the International Tae Kwon Times Magazine as its Club of the Month in November 2009. Brown has served as instructor of the West Point Youth Martial Arts Program for the past 10 years. The program is accredited and chartered through the American Chung Do Kwan Limited & Universal Tae Kwon Do Association. The West Point Youth Martial Arts Program is administered year round to children ages 6-18. Children and youth who are interested in participating in this nationally-recognized program can contact Kirsten Rautter at 938-8893. PHOTO PROVIDED

Family First: Anthony's bond despite academy differences

By Tommy Gilligan
Assistant Editor

Much like the license plates that say “house divided” between two hated sports rivals, those feelings truly only go so deep, however, the relationship between Families prevails over the athletic or service affiliation, even though at times it may not seem so.

As the holiday season approaches, the weather has begun to feel more winter-like, which can only mean that the Army-Navy football game is right around the corner. With so many subplots building up within one of the biggest and historic athletic rivalries in the country, one thing that can be forgotten is Family relationships are often more common than any one may think within the rivalry. With so many different connections between these time honored rivals, many who have been around this rivalry for an extended period of time, it's easy to believe there have been more stories forgotten over the years than have been told.

When it comes to Cow Erin Anthony and Midshipmen Mac Anthony's story, the Army-Navy rivalry only goes just so far. Their relationship is much more important. However, they are both top performers on their respective athletic teams—Erin, the captain of the Army basketball team, was named Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year, while her brother Mac was the Patriot League rookie of the year on the Navy swimming team.

“The rivalry does exist, but not to the extent most people expect,” Mac said. “We don't go home and argue over which school is better, that's just not us. There has never been a game that Erin has played against Navy that I did not want to see her come out on top.”

With every experience Erin has gone through here at West Point, she has been able to relate to and understand what her brother has gone through.

“I just check in with him, texting, short phone calls, or even letters when he was going through his plebe year. I can relate better to him (be)cause I have been there,” Erin said. “With so many things like our curriculum being similar, I know the struggles he might be having, where our parents may not get it.”

From both of their accounts, their friendship has become much stronger going through these very similar experiences from their days in high school to their budding military careers.

Due to their athletic schedules, they have not been able to see each other play since entering the academies.

“Even though I have not seen him play, I do check out his athletics site so that I can keep a close eye on how he is doing,” Erin said. “I want him to do well no matter whom he plays.”

Mac has become one of the top freestyle swimmers not only on his team but in the league, setting a school and league record last season in the 200-meter and helping his team set a new league record in the 800-meter relay.

Last year, Erin and Mac had the opportunity to spend some time in Philadelphia during the 109th football game.

“After the march-on, my brother and I sat with our dad and got to hang out for awhile before the game,” Erin said. “With our schedules, it is very difficult to see each other, so it is great to see each other whenever we can.”

Erin credits her brother with helping and encouraging her in her physical fitness.

“Since his cadet leadership course, he has been at the top of his class in physical fitness. He has helped me to build my upper body strength and overall fitness,” Erin said. “While I have benefited from his help in my fitness, I have helped him through the challenges of the mental games that you experience during plebe year.”

As they continue through their athletic and academic year, these siblings have shown the importance of Family supersedes any rivalries that develop from personal decisions



The Army-Navy rivalry hasn't hardened the relationship of Black Knight women's basketball player Cow Erin Anthony (above) and her brother, Mac, who is a top swimmer at the Naval Academy. They show that Family supersedes any rivalries that develop from personal decisions made to go to different academies.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

on where one goes to school.

Yet using sibling and school rivalry to make one better is not a bad thing by any means.

McNary plays key role in success of double-eagle flex

By Eric S. Bartelt
Editor

Being undersized can be a detriment in athletics, especially in football where size can rule the gridiron. However, as a 6-foot-1-inch, 225-pound defensive end, Cow Josh McNary hasn't let his lack of size against bigger, more powerful offensive linemen keep him from his goal—sacking the quarterback.

McNary enters the Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia Saturday third in the NCAA with 12.5 sacks while adding 22.5 tackles for a loss, both totals lead Army defenders by a wide margin in 2009.

The undersized lineman has made up for his shortcomings with his heart and tremendous speed off the corner. However, add the biggest wrinkle—the change to the double-eagle flex defensive scheme—and McNary benefited to become Army's all-time leading career and season sack leader.

"Josh is a guy who is specially gifted," Army head coach Rich Ellerson said. "He plays a role in our defense that frankly requires him to be productive. We give him some latitude and allow him to play a little bit further on the edge than some other guys around him because he does have that playmaking ability."

"If we can get him matched up with people in space," Ellerson added, "he's going to win his share of battles and finish plays."

From his days of coaching at Arizona and Cal Poly as a defensive assistant coach and head coach, respectively, Ellerson employed the double-eagle flex and the player who performed at the "quick" position tended to benefit greatly from the blitz-oriented defense.

The "quick" role at Cal Poly led Chris Gocong to 42 career NCAA sacks and, currently, a three-year

NFL career with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Back in the early 1990s, while Ellerson was at Arizona, a young defensive lineman named Tedy Bruschi took advantage of the pressure-style defense to get an NCAA-record 52 sacks before a 13-year NFL career with the New England Patriots.

McNary now can think of himself with the likes of Gocong and Bruschi because his head coach strongly feels he belongs with them.

"Those guys belong in the same sentence as they carried the same responsibility and did it rather successfully," Ellerson said. "(McNary's) absolutely the right guy for this role. He plays the role that needs to be played (in this defense) and because of his success, it makes us collectively successful."

While McNary has been a success every step of the way from being a standout defensive lineman in high school in Houston to 11 sacks in 2006 at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, it hasn't been exactly handed to him especially considering he was a "walk-on" at the prep school.

"I had offers from Division II schools, but I really wasn't interested in playing football at a Division II school," McNary explained. "To me, it was playing at the big level, Division I, with thousands of people watching or not playing at all and focusing on my academics."

"Prior to getting accepted at West Point, I was going to go to the University of Houston to focus on school and try to become a pharmacist," he added. "I feel blessed that I was able to get an opportunity to play here."

Getting the Army sack record means a lot to McNary because



Cow defensive end Josh McNary is third in the NCAA with 12.5 sacks while adding 22.5 tackles for a loss. McNary benefits from the double-eagle flex defensive scheme that helped launch Chris Gocong and Tedy Bruschi's NFL careers.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

he gets to leave his own legacy at the academy while passing his mentor, defensive tackles coach Clarence Holmes, on the Army single season sack-record list. The record also shows that size isn't the only way to determine the strength, determination and greatness of a player.

"It's rewarding to see my work pay off in this way and get in the record books," McNary said. "From countless hours in the weight room to running on the field to improving my speed, quickness and technique, all that work paid off and it's a glorious feeling."

The opportunity to be remembered in the same way as Glenn Davis, Doc Blanchard and Pete Dawkins is what inspires McNary and it drives him forward every day, but he also understands to be remembered like those immortal

Army players there has to be many wins involved.

"In order to be remembered you have to do more than just perform on an individual level, it's a team effort," McNary said. "You can have all the sacks in the world or lead the nation in sacks, but if your team doesn't win it really doesn't mean anything."

Timing has been a big part of McNary's collegiate career. Injuries gave him more playing time his plebe year and then an injury along the defensive line allowed him to move from linebacker to an end position his yearling year. His first play from scrimmage last season as a defensive end resulted in a sack against Texas A&M.

He had the best individual game of his career this year when he made four sacks against Temple; however, he felt that the Vanderbilt game was more rewarding because of the team's victory.

"My numbers didn't speak too loudly (the Vanderbilt) game, although I did have one sack and felt great to do it against an (Southeastern Conference) team," McNary said. "However, the fact we were able to pull off the victory and upset them made that performance a lot more special ... it is definitely the best team moment of my career, but, hopefully, that will change in the future when we beat one of our rivals, Navy or Air Force. I'm thankful for the opportunity upcoming (against Navy), so stay tuned."

McNary sees Navy as a formidable opponent and has been impressed by their play throughout the season, particularly the close loss to Ohio State in September.

"It gave me a good impression on the way Navy competes," McNary said. "We will have to step our game up, play sound and play at our highest level. We can't afford to make many mistakes against a team

like Navy, who is very disciplined and tough."

Being a part of the Army-Navy rivalry is special to McNary considering all the greats on both sides who've played in the game for more than 100 years. However, McNary sees the game as more than its history and splendor, but a coming together of brothers.

"It represents two branches (of service) and brothers in arms, but on this day we're intense rivals of each other and we represent our Army when we play this game," McNary said. "What makes it so special is the fact we represent a group of people who choose to lay down their lives to serve our country, at least that is what makes it special to me."

Beating Navy and earning a bowl bid Saturday would be amazing to McNary, something that words can't quite describe. He's committed to those goals and the commitment to playing his best every game, a commitment that has allowed the versatile, quick defensive lineman to beat the odds and become one of the best pass rushers in college football.

"It speaks a lot about him ... with recruiting, I know a lot of people who would have passed on him because of his stature," Ellerson said. "It seems to be a common thread with extraordinary guys over the years whether they are mike linebackers, rush ends or free safeties, guys who have been overlooked and underappreciated through their (high school) careers, but then evolved into spectacular players (in college)."

"I'm not sure why that is (that certain guys get overlooked), but it goes back to the recruiting and evaluation process, which does not overlook stature," he added. "(Army) looked for that other spark (smaller players have), and (McNary) clearly has it."



Cow defensive end Josh McNary broke Army's season and career sack records in 2009.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

Prior service suits Army football Firstie

By Tim Volkmann
Athletic Communications

Sitting in the driver's seat of a lightly armored Humvee surrounded by the dead of a pitch-black Iraqi night, Matt Coulthard wasn't sure what to expect when an unmarked vehicle crept slowly to a stop directly in front of the large bush that was concealing he and his squad mates' position along the side of a road 400 meters from a remote highway checkpoint outside Baghdad. Peering through the night vision sight on his weapon, he watched as the passengers began rolling down their windows. He also spotted the assault rifles that each of them had in their hands...

The outcome of that tense encounter was just one experience that Firstie Matthew Coulthard (pronounced Coal-third), now a 26-year-old firstie member of the Army football team, brought with him to the banks of the Hudson River upon his arrival four years ago following a yearlong deployment in Iraq.

Poised to graduate this spring, he is looking forward to reassuming the duties associated with his former position as an armed reconnaissance specialist, this time armed with a degree from West Point.

Following in the footsteps of several relatives, including both grandfathers who served in the armed forces, Coulthard enlisted in the Army immediately after graduation from high school in his small hometown of Tripoli, Iowa.

"I initially signed up in the summer of 2001 in a time of peace. A couple months later everything changed with the attacks on the World Trade Center. It made me even more ready for what I was going to do. It made me want to go even more than before," recalled Coulthard, the second of four children, including an older sister who also enlisted in the Army.

After spending a quick four months of basic and advanced training at Fort Knox, Ky., he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

"Shortly after I got there, they said we were going to Iraq. We didn't know when, but we knew we were going," he said.

Only months after receiving his high

school diploma, Coulthard was stepping off a plane into a furnace of whirling sand and sweltering heat that would become a constant for the next 12 months during his time in Iraq.

"The nerves were definitely pumping when we first landed. I remember that heat wave and the smell of the desert hitting me for the first time and my first instinct was to turn around and get back on the plane," Coulthard grinned.

With the tensions mounting that dark night in Iraq, it looked like Coulthard and the other men in his unit were going to have to make a decision. Unidentified men toting guns on a dark roadside couldn't be trusted. The fact that they stopped directly in the path of eight highly-trained and heavily-armed Army Soldiers could either have been planned or just a terribly unlucky coincidence.

On only the second night he was there, he and his platoon were involved in a firefight, which would prove to be the first of many in the coming months.

"Everybody reacted the way that they needed to. Nobody froze up. From then on, I felt better about it because I knew that I was with guys who were capable of doing everything and anything. I knew I was going to get through it. There were plenty of times where I was scared, but like we always said, if you aren't scared, you are crazy," he said. "I learned a lot about myself internally and what I could handle and take. I really saw what type of person I was."

Coulthard returned home in April 2004. Soon after being promoted to sergeant, he began thinking about possibly returning to school.

With the help of his platoon leader, JJ Simonsen, a 2001 West Point graduate, and Simonsen's father, Jerry, a 1973 graduate, he began putting his packet together to come to the world's premier leadership institution.

"Both of them, collectively, really helped me and supported me," Coulthard, who entered through the academy's Soldier Admission Program, said.

After spending a year at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School starting in 2005, he became one of the oldest members of the Class of 2010.



Firstie Matt Coulthard (right), then a private first class with the 4th Infantry Division, sits atop a vehicle with his platoon leader, 1st Lt. JJ Simonsen, in Iraq during his yearlong deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Coulthard said Simonsen, a 2001 West Point grad, played an important role in getting him to West Point. Coulthard will suit up for his first Army-Navy football game Saturday in Philadelphia. PHOTOS PROVIDED

"Going from being a noncommissioned officer to being a cadet was kind of a kick in the head," Coulthard remembered. "They (the Cadet Basic Training cadre) treated me with respect, as much as they could because I was still a new cadet, but it (his prior service) made the transition a little easier."

While not many can say that being at West Point is easy, having already been battle-tested did have its advantages in the Corps of Cadets.

"Compared to my classmates who mostly came directly from high school, they had more of an adjustment, militarily, than I did," he said. "Since I already had that, I could concentrate more on the academic side and the other aspects of being here."

Coulthard's West Point experience also included walking onto the football team as a tight end.

While his role with the squad has never been a starting one, he has taken nothing but pride in playing on the practice team and prepping the first-team defense each week.

"I have enjoyed being on the team like nothing else. I was just a walk-on from the prep school and feel very fortunate that there has been a spot for me the last four years. I don't get playing time on Saturdays, but I do get to play a big role in helping the defense get ready on the scout team."

As Coulthard prepares for the 110th playing of the Army-Navy football game Saturday in Philadelphia, a game in all likelihood he will not play in, he says he has no regrets about his football career.

"I would do it all over again," he said recently before practice, getting ready for the nationally-televised game on CBS. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. It is a love for the game and for who I play with that makes it all worthwhile. I thought my last game as

a senior in high school would be it, so that's why every day putting the pads back on and coming out here has been a blessing."

First-year head coach Rich Ellerson said Coulthard's enlisted service and his presence in the program has not been overlooked by the coaching staff or the other players.

"He understands team," Ellerson said. "He has been a great spokesman for the program to outsiders, and a tremendous resource for his teammates who look to him as a model and a source of information."

Ellerson said Coulthard prepares each day as if he is a starter.

"He has been absolutely professional in his ability to stay in the moment and prepare himself and make sure if, and when, his number is called he is ready," Ellerson, who, with a win against Navy, can lead Army into the EagleBank Bowl game Dec. 30, said. "I would expect great things from him in the Army."

Without a word, the men in the vehicle started throwing their weapons out the window.

"They thought they could get rid of their weapons before they went through the checkpoint," Coulthard said. "As they went to pull away, we just flipped on our high beams. They had that 'deer in the headlights' look and were pretty freaked out. They had no idea we were there."

And following Saturday's game, Coulthard's name most likely won't show up on a stat sheet, but that does not mean he wasn't there. Coach Ellerson said Coulthard's presence, and that of the team's senior class, has "changed the internal culture of Army football, helping Army football rediscover what it has always been and what it always should be. This will show up on the scoreboard for years to come."



Firstie Matt Coulthard, then a private first class with the 4th Infantry Division, gets ready for a mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Army head coach Rich Ellerson said Coulthard's enlisted service and presence in the program is not overlooked by the coaching staff or the other players.

Beating Navy is without question top priority

By Tommy Gilligan
Assistant Editor

As 2009 comes to a close, the stage has been set for the 110th annual Army-Navy Game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

The game will be the only Division I football game to be played the entire day, which will surely have graduate, servicemembers and average football fans throughout the world tuning in to see some of the future leaders of the military put it all on-the-line for three hours on national television for themselves and, more importantly, service pride.

“As I look at the season and scheduling, it is appropriate that this game should have its own place,” head football coach Rich Ellerson said. “It is unique enough and special enough to have it (on its own day) and deserves it.

“However, being on its own stage creates an added distraction to an already eventful game. We (entire team) all will be very excited once the game starts,” Ellerson added. “We have been adding extra distractions during practice for the preparation for the game. If we could have a photo shoot on the side lines today we would.”



Cow running back Patrick Mealy looks to add to his career-high season totals of 625 yards rushing and three touchdowns Saturday.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

The extra time since the North Texas game Nov. 21 allowed the team to get more physical in practice while also allowing the team to get away from the daily grind of Division I

athletics for the Thanksgiving holiday.

With the extra time, the coaching staff has had to keep the excitement and intensity level in check. Ellerson said that you want to be

at the pinnacle of excitement, but you don't want to jump off.

Ellerson continued by saying the team has not needed to be motivated and they understand whose shoes they are standing in and whom they are representing.

As the firstie class prepares for their last clash between the their arch rivals, the culture of the program has taken a giant step in the right direction because of the dedication of these 22 firsties.

“They have embraced the vision of Army football and it has always been there,” Ellerson said. “They (firsties) have just had enough success, we have not had great success, but just enough to set the cement—this obviously is the right path for Army football to be heading.

“That senior class will be able to point to that and say I was there when that change happened and they had their fingerprints all over when it changed,” he added.

Even though the team is headed in the right direction, when Ellerson was asked what would be more important to him and his program—beating Navy or advancing to a bowl game? Ellerson said with wide eyes and a commanding voice, “Beating Navy, without question.”

Army off to 6-2 start, best start by new coach in 45 years

By Brian Gunning
Athletic Communications

Army scored the first 14 points and led by double digits for the remainder of the game, earning a 61-40 road win at Fairleigh Dickinson in Hackensack, N.J., Monday. The Black Knights improved to 6-2 on the season, while the Knights fell to 1-8.

Army head coach Zach Spiker became the first Black Knights' mentor to start his Army career with six wins in eight games since Bates Locke started 6-1 in 1963-64.

Yearling guard Julian Simmons followed up his career-high 30-point effort at Buffalo with a game-high 17 points, including five three-pointers, in only 19 minutes. Firstie forward Cleveland Richard was the only other Army player in double figures with 12 points. Richard also contributed five rebounds and five assists.

Cow forward Jeremy Hence pulled down a game-high six rebounds, while Firstie guard Josh Miller tallied four points, five rebounds, eight assists and three steals.

Firstie guard Marcus Nelson also aided the defensive effort with two steals and two blocked shots. Cow gaurd Nathan Hedgecock scored nine points, hitting all three of his

three-point attempts.

The Army defense did not allow an FDU player to reach double figures. Louis Larizza and Kamil Svrulik led the Knights with eight points each. Nelson, Hence and Plebe forward Ella Ellis were among the Army defenders who held FDU's leading scorer, Sean Baptiste, to only six points in 38 minutes. Baptiste had averaged 22.3 points in the previous four games.

Army shot 51.2 percent for the game, including a season-high 9 for 18 from three-point range. Fairleigh Dickinson shot just 29.8 percent overall and 25.0 percent from behind the arc.

The Black Knights committed 21 turnovers, but turned the Knights over 18 times that led to 21 points.

FDU's 40 points marked the fewest the Black Knights have allowed versus a Division I team since a 53-39 win at Holy Cross Jan. 16, 2008. Army has held its opponents to less than 60 points in all six of its victories this season.

Army wraps up its three-game road trip at Dartmouth. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. Army is 3-0 this season against the Ivy League and swept a home-and-home series with the Big Green last season.



Firstie guard Marcus Nelson provided a stout defensive effort with two steals and two blocked shots in Army's 61-40 win Monday.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

Intramural Basketball

As of Tuesday's results

NORTH DIVISION

| TEAMS | W - L |
|------------|-------|
| 1. SYSTEMS | 7 - 2 |
| 2. MATH I | 6 - 3 |
| 3. DMI | 6 - 4 |
| 4. ODIA | 4 - 5 |

SOUTH DIVISION

| TEAMS | W - L |
|------------|-------|
| 1. HISTORY | 4 - 4 |
| 2. BS&L | 3 - 4 |
| 3. DLAW | 4 - 7 |
| 4. BTD | 2 - 7 |

EAST DIVISION

| TEAMS | W - L |
|-------------|-------|
| 1. MP's | 7 - 2 |
| 2. BAND | 6 - 2 |
| 3. DPE I | 4 - 6 |
| 4. GARRISON | 1 - 6 |

WEST DIVISION

| TEAMS | W - L |
|-------------|-------|
| 1. DPE II | 6 - 3 |
| 2. MATH II | 6 - 4 |
| 3. ENGLISH | 3 - 5 |
| 4. GENE/DFL | 2 - 7 |

Sports calendar

Dec. 10-30

Corps

TODAY—WRESTLING VS. RIDER, 7:30 P.M. AT GILLIS FIELD HOUSE.

TODAY—WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. OKLAHOMA, 8:30 P.M. AT CHRISTL ARENA.

SATURDAY—FOOTBALL VS. **NAVY** AT PHILADELPHIA (LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD), 2:30 P.M. (TELEVISION: CBS.)

DEC. 19—MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MOUNT ST. VINCENT, 4 P.M. AT CHRISTL ARENA.

DEC. 22—MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2 P.M. AT CHRISTL ARENA.

DEC. 30—WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. RAMAPO, 5 P.M. AT CHRISTL ARENA.

Club

NOTHING SCHEDULED.