



**POINTER
VIEW Extra**
Online Exclusive

West Point Class of 2011 Graduation





From R-Day through Cadet Basic Training, the Class of 2011 begins their 47-month West Point experience in June of 2007.



Class of 2011: The Journey Begins

**POINTER
VIEW** Extra
Online Exclusive



CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATION FEATURE

Q&A with Carissa Hauck

**POINTER
VIEW Extra**
Online Exclusive

Carissa Hauck, Class of 2011, will be commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduating from West Point May 21. The Leadership major served as captain of the Women's Track and Field Team and branched Military Police. Carissa was also active with the Black and Gold Leadership Forum and Black and Gold Crossfit. Following graduation, she will assist with Cadet Summer Training here until she attends the basic officer leadership course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., then on to Fort Bragg, N.C. The following is an excerpt of an interview conducted prior to graduation.

Q: When you see this photo from Reception Day in 2007 (see photo on right), what memories does it invoke? If you could issue yourself a warning order from the future, what would you go back and tell yourself that day?

A: When I saw that first picture... I laughed because I remember when the photographer took it. I remember being annoyed. I think I was annoyed because I felt vulnerable, he was free to move about and take pictures without asking but if I looked at anything other than the book I was going to be yelled at. If I could go back and talk to myself that day I would just tell myself to enjoy it. My dad gave me the best advice when he told me it was all going to just be a big game and they will try to find weakness. He said take everything with a grain of salt but to just be me and I would be fine. I remember being so excited (and nervous) as we walked out the doors of Ike Hall that my legs were literally shaking. I was so excited to start this journey.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment academically? Proudest athletic accomplishment?

A: My proudest accomplishment academically? I would have to say completing Maj. (Aram) Donigian's negotiation class...not that I wanted it to be over or that it was really hard but his class changed me. It changed the way I approach conflict and I believe it really made me a better leader. His class, along with my Leadership in Combat class, were the first two classes where I hardly ever looked at the grades I got back because I knew I was growing and learning and for once I did not really care what the grade was. Oddly enough I received an A in both of those classes. My proudest accomplishment athletically was being chosen as the Army Women's Track and Field team captain. To me that is the best gift because my teammates picked me. It was not a coach or an officer, it was my teammates and they made this the best year I have had at the academy.

Q: What was the toughest leadership challenge you faced at West Point and what did you learn from it?

A: Beast II platoon leader. I learned patience and the importance of delegating work.

Q: What are your thoughts about graduating from West Point?

A: I am not rushing Graduation but I am not holding on either. I am ready. I am very thankful to my teachers and mentors who have helped me as much as they can. I am ready to start the next chapter and to start learning the lessons that cannot be taught in a classroom.

Q: What will you remember most about West Point?

A: When I have to leave West Point the relationships will be what I remember the most. My two worlds are about to collide as my family comes from South Dakota to meet my Army family. I am thankful for all the great mentors



During Reception Day in the summer of 2007, Carissa tries to study from her New Cadet Handbook, while feeling annoyed by the roving photographers capturing the new Class of 2011.

WEST POINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTOS

who have been like family to me over the past four years and I look forward to running into them again soon. I will also remember running track and the relationships I made with my teammates. I know I can count on them to help me through just about anything. They have seen me at my best and worst and are still there for me.



Carissa shows off her spirit during the Army-Notre Dame football game at Yankee Stadium in 2010.



Carissa engages in negotiations at Constitution Island during the final graded exercise in the Negotiation for Leaders course. She cited the completion of Maj. Aram Donigian's course as her proudest academic accomplishment.

CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATION FEATURE

Q&A with Judson Noel

**POINTER
VIEW Extra**
Online Exclusive

Judson Noel, Class of 2011, will be commissioned as an Infantry second lieutenant after graduating from West Point May 21. He served this year as the brigade athletics officer and teamed with fellow classmate Caitlin Finnegan to introduce the Corps of Cadets to a daily dose of cadets sports programming through "GameTime." His intent was to provide a show that covered corps squad, club and company athletes equally. The following is an excerpt of an interview conducted prior to graduation.

A: What was it like to write, produce, edit and host "GameTime"?

Q: GameTime was a very memorable experience for me because I was able to see an idea turn into a successful product over the course of the year. GameTime was just an idea I had when the year began, but with the help of DPTMS and others, my idea became reality. The show changed dramatically during this past semester. Off of the feedback I received about the show, I realized that cadets were not as interested in the studio portion of the show as they were in the highlights. So over the semester each show was about 2-3 minutes of sports highlights from all three levels of sport, but mainly company athletics. It is my hope that this show continues after I leave. I'm going to make sure the next Brigade Athletics Officer has all of the resources and ideas necessary to keep this program going! When I came into my position this year, there was nothing for me to build from and there was no guidance given. I had to start building from the foundation which took a lot of work and time. My goal is to leave a continuity book for the next BAO so that all of the work and resources that I used for this year can be improved upon and made even better for the next year. If the next Brigade Athletics Officer does not continue the show, I will understand because there is a lot of work involved, but I truly hope and believe this show will continue and that it will be even better than it was this year.

Q: What will you remember most about your time here?

A: When I think back to my time at West Point, I think I will mostly reflect on the growth that took place in my life. God brought me through many trials and many victories during my time here. It is only by His grace and power that I will walk across that



Judson reviews his notes before filming an episode of GameTime with cohost Caitlin Finnegan.

WEST POINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTOS

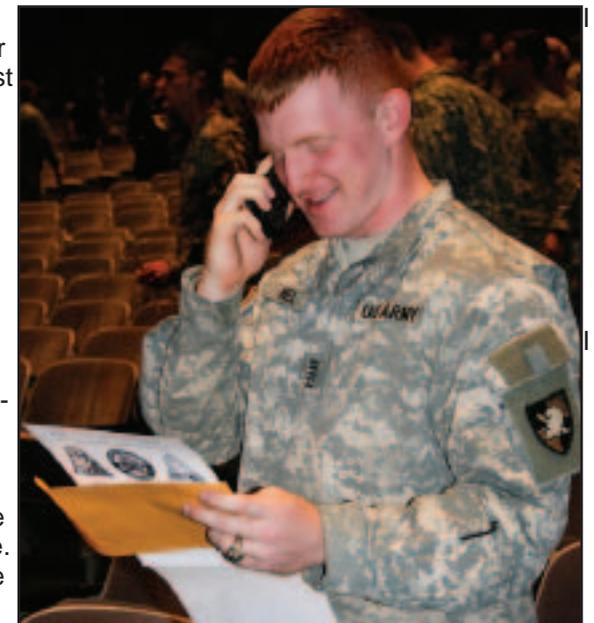
stage on May 21. I am amazed to see how much I have grown physically, spiritually and mentally over the course of four years. These have been the most challenging and rewarding years of my life, and I am so thankful for every experience.

Q: Do you feel you've made the most of your time here?

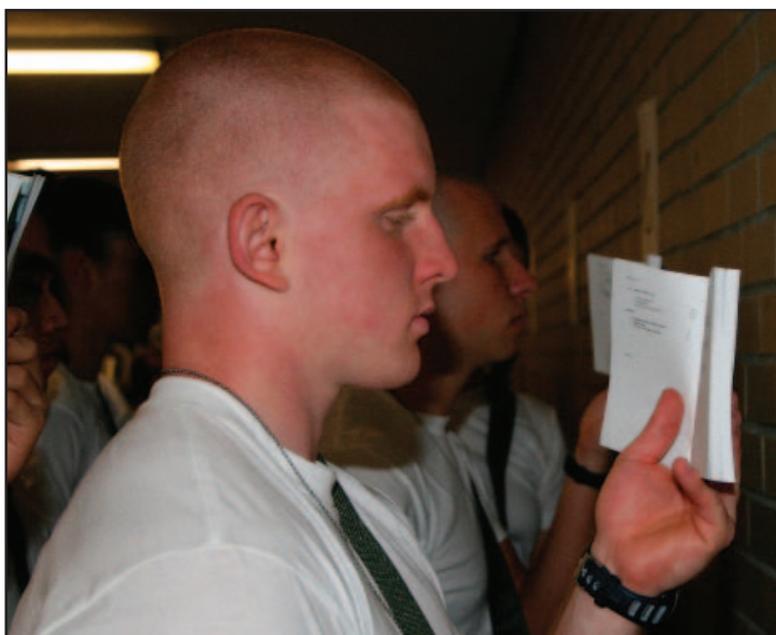
A: It is easy to go back through each year here and see where more could have been done or things I wish I tried to do. But to be frank and honest, I poured my heart into every responsibility I was given here. As a plebe, a team leader, a BEAST II Squad Leader, a Platoon Sergeant, Company Spirit Sergeant and as the Brigade Athletics officer, I gave everything I had. In every position I was put in I sought to make the most of the responsibility that was given to me and to exceed the standard and expectations that were set before me. One of the pieces of advice that I always try to give to lower classmen is to do whatever job you are given to the best of your ability. No matter what the position is, if you pour your heart into it and you are passionate and hardworking, you will excel and you will make a difference in people's lives. That was my goal and, looking back, I have no regrets and I look forward to the future assignments and adventures which are before me.

Q: What's next for you after graduation?

A: After I graduate I will be working at CLDT as a second lieutenant until June 12. I will then begin my 60 days of leave. On July 23, 2011, I will be marrying my fiancée, Mary Alice Pass. She graduated from West Point in 2008 and is currently in her third year of medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. I will report to Fort Benning (in August), and my training begins for BOLC in November. Between August and November I hope to attend the Army Combatives Level 4 Instructor course and hopefully Airborne School. After my initial officer training I will probably be assigned to the Ranger School Class that begins on April 22, 2012. After I graduate Ranger School, I am assigned to work at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. for a year, after which I will most likely be assigned with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning.



In November of 2010, Judson calls home with the news that he branched infantry, his first choice, during Branch Night.



Back in the summer of 2007, Judson was a plebe with a mission of learning all he needed to know about West Point.

CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATION FEATURE

Q&A with Megan Snook

**POINTER
VIEW** *Extra*
Online Exclusive



Megan Snook, a member of the West Point Women's Lacrosse Team, also played soccer her first two years at the academy. (Below) Megan addresses the Corps of Cadets at Washington Hall during the 35th annual Henry O. Flipper Dinner in February.

WEST POINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTOS



Megan Snook, Class of 2011, will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps after graduating from West Point May 21. The Concord, Mass., native is assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade, Schweinfurt, Germany. A psychology major, Megan felt an education in the motivations, behaviors and mental processes of humans would be most applicable as a leader in a career field that focuses on people and building strong relationships. The following is an excerpt of an interview conducted prior to graduation.

Q: On the right is a photo from Reception Day in 2007. What memories does this invoke? If you could issue a warning order to yourself from the future what would you go back and tell yourself that day?

A: Looking at this photo, I initially was curious which of the five attempts this was! But really, I remember being so nervous about being unprepared for what I was about to encounter. Now I realize that none of us were truly prepared. The great thing about the curriculum at West Point is that it really guides cadets step by step to be successful. I truly believe anyone, if they maintain effort and determination, could be successful here.

Q: What was your proudest accomplishment academically? Proudest athletic accomplishment?

A: Academically, I think my proudest accomplishment was winning the Math Teacher's Award plebe year. Although Math was certainly not my strongest area and I was nowhere near the top of my class, the award honored my effort. I think it was at this moment that I realized there was value and incentive to pure work ethic. My proudest athletic accomplishment was getting higher than a 350 on the APFT. After failing my CBT APFT, I was mortified. So going from an F to an A+ in a matter of a year again really proved to me the satisfaction of hard work and determination.

Q: Other than lacrosse, what other clubs, activities have you been involved in?

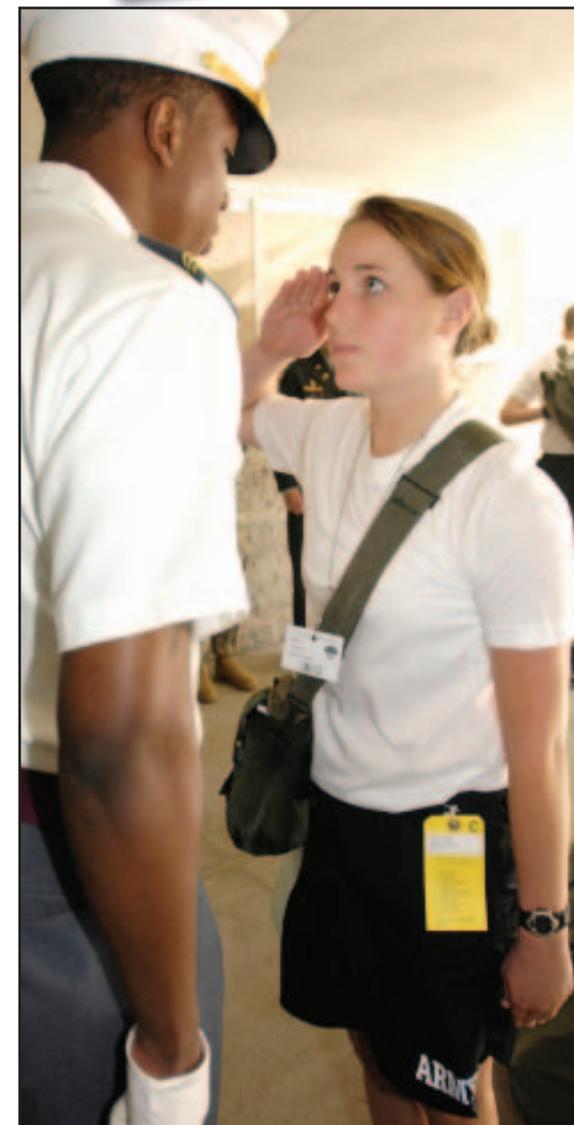
I played for the Army women's soccer team my plebe and yuk year and had a wonderful experience. I truly respect the corps squad athletes for the time and commitment it takes to balance academic, military, physical and team responsibilities. I was also involved in the Black and Gold Leadership Forum, an excellent club that sharpened my leadership and critical thinking skills.

Q: What would you say was the toughest leadership challenge you faced at West Point, and what did you learn from it?

A: Every year you have more people you are in charge of and every year more of those people are your peers. There isn't one single challenge I can pinpoint as the most difficult, but more the continuation of learning every year. You think you've got your leadership philosophy down and ingrained until you face another "gray answer" challenge. I believe even as firsties, we still have a lot of room to learn and grow in developing our leadership styles.

Q: What are your thoughts about graduating from West Point and entering the Army?

A: I am excited to finally put to test all of the things I have learned in school and training over the past four years. I also must accept that I am brand new to an Army of individuals who have been serving since the time I was born. Therefore it's important that I maintain humility as well as passion and enthusiasm.



Megan Snook's West Point story began in the summer of 2007 when she arrived at the academy for Reception Day. A graduate of Carlisle Regional High School in Concord, Mass., Megan joined more than 1,300 other new cadets to enter the Class of 2011.

Q: What will you remember most about West Point?

A: The relationships with the extraordinary people I have met. Over the past four years I have had the pleasure of getting to know people from all backgrounds with unbelievable life stories, brilliant scholars, elite Division I athletes, two-time deployed prior service members, and valuable instructors and mentors who set me up for success. The briefings, the exams and the SAMIs may be memorable character-building measures, but I will never forget the people that I shared them with.

CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATION FEATURE

Q&A with Stephen Semmelroth

**POINTER
VIEW** *Extra*
Online Exclusive

Stephen Semmelroth, Class of 2011, will be commissioned as an Infantry second lieutenant after graduating from West Point May 21. The electrical engineering major served on the brigade staff this year as the S-6, Information Systems Officer, and joined a team of cadets to continue the efforts in the West Point Bionic Foot Project. His team won Best Presentation and Best Computer Science Project at Projects Day. He has been a Sandhurst competitor and helped his team win the brigade championships in biathlon his first year. During Graduation Week, Stephen received the Superintendent's Award for Excellence and the Brig. Gen. Amos A. Jordan Excellence in Leadership award for commanding the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs this year. The following is an excerpt of an interview conducted prior to graduation.

Q: What will you remember most about your West Point experience?

A: Probably just the day-to-day routine of always being busy. It was constant with all the things I've done: president of the Public Affairs Club, SCUSA, Sandhurst, Biathlon, winter ski instructor...sometimes I'd literally have a line of people in my room. This was a growing experience every day. Fortunately I've had two amazing sponsors, Col. (Scot) Ransbottom and Col. (Grant) Jacoby. Col. Jacoby was actually my first snowboarding student when I was in the club, and Col. Ransbottom was my Ice Cream Social sponsor from Beast. They've been my sponsors all the way through; they've mentored me, coached me, they've been there when I needed them."

Q: How do you feel now that you're about to graduate West Point?

A: When I turned in my last academic assignment for the year and then found out I was officially graduating...it was a huge burden off my shoulders and certainly a proud moment."

Q: What does it mean to become a member of the Long Gray Line?

A: I was actually thinking about this today. We'll be received by the Class of '61 Saturday afternoon. They've all come back because they believe in this place. They know what it has done for them, and what it's going to do for us. To be a part of that, to see that, to have them come back...what it means to me is that I have a reputation to uphold, I have to set the standard, to be able to look someone in the eye and tell them when they're wrong.



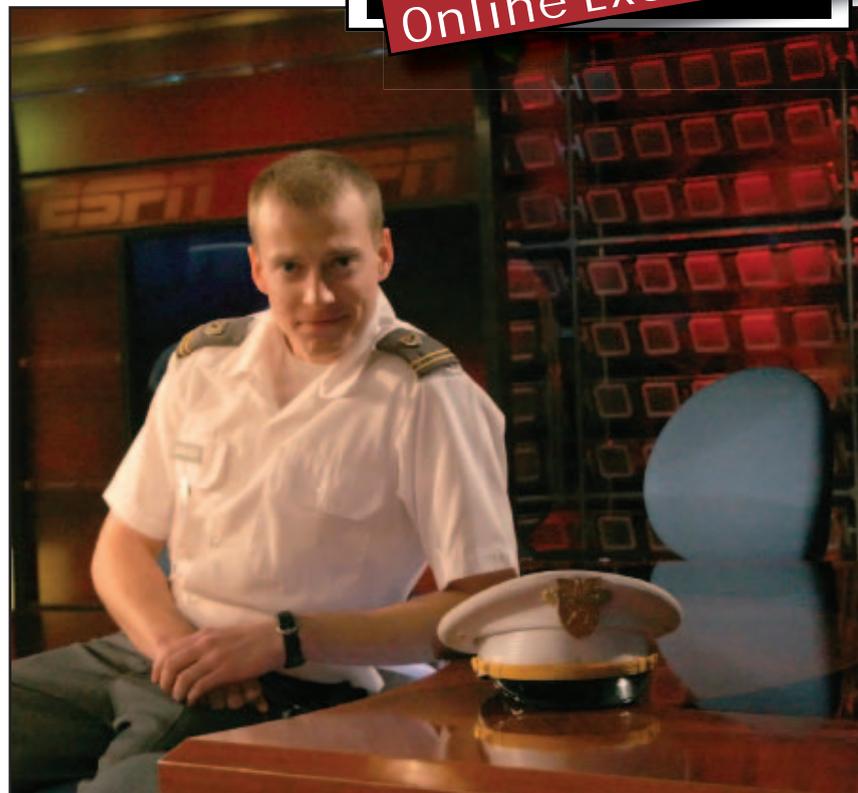
During Reception Day for the new cadets of the Class of 2014, Stephen ensured the timeline was met during inprocessing.

Q: What's next after graduation?

A: After the basic course at Fort Benning and Ranger School, I'll inprocess to Fort Lewis and immediately head to Afghanistan to join my unit with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Q: What do you think that'll be like as a new lieutenant joining your troops on deployment?

A: Everybody says they've thought or rehearsed about what they're going to say to their unit. Some of my sponsors' advice has been not to think about that, but think ahead to Day 2, Day 3 and Day 4; think about building relationships and establishing a culture of trust in your unit. I'm so excited. I think I'm pretty lucky to get a unit that's gone through a huge



In March 2010, Stephen joined a group of cadets on a tour of ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., and had the opportunity to sit in on staff meetings for programs such as "Baseball Tonight" and "Sports Center." Reflecting back on that day, Stephen remembered pulling an all-nighter for an assignment the day before, so the bus trip to ESPN was all about catching up on sleep.

WEST POINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTOS

amount of train-up; they're already acclimatized, they know what's going on and are ready to go.

Q: Any place on West Point you'd like to revisit one last time before leaving?

A: Redoubt 4 (a Revolutionary War era observation point). There's never anyone there. The best part about it for me is the solitude. (One time) I got up early for a run because I was feeling the stress, and it was foggy and raining when I ran up the mountain. And as I got to Redoubt 4, I broke through the clouds and could see all the mountain tops all around me. It's like everything I was going through no longer mattered. It was just perfect solitude.

Q: Can you explain your nickname, "Scuba"?

A: I'm a scuba instructor. I spent a lot of time in Ecuador and a little time diving there and got my dive master certification; then I went to Honduras and got my instructor certification. And then in the Florida Keys after that, and got my master scuba diver trainer certification. My name is 'Stephen' (with an 'f' sound, not a 'v') but everyone pronounces it "Steven." So when they found out I'm a scuba instructor, it became Scuba Steve. This past weekend, I just put 15 people through the basic course at Delafield.

Q: As your class leaves West Point, the rest of the Corps of Cadets will be ready to welcome in a new class this summer. Any advice to them?

A: Gen. (Martin) Dempsey just spoke to us during graduation rehearsal and he summed it up perfectly: trust, discipline and physical fitness. If you have those three things while your here, you can do anything after that.