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Leevan Sands
Wins the
Bronze Medal in Beijing!

SUMMER/FALL 2008

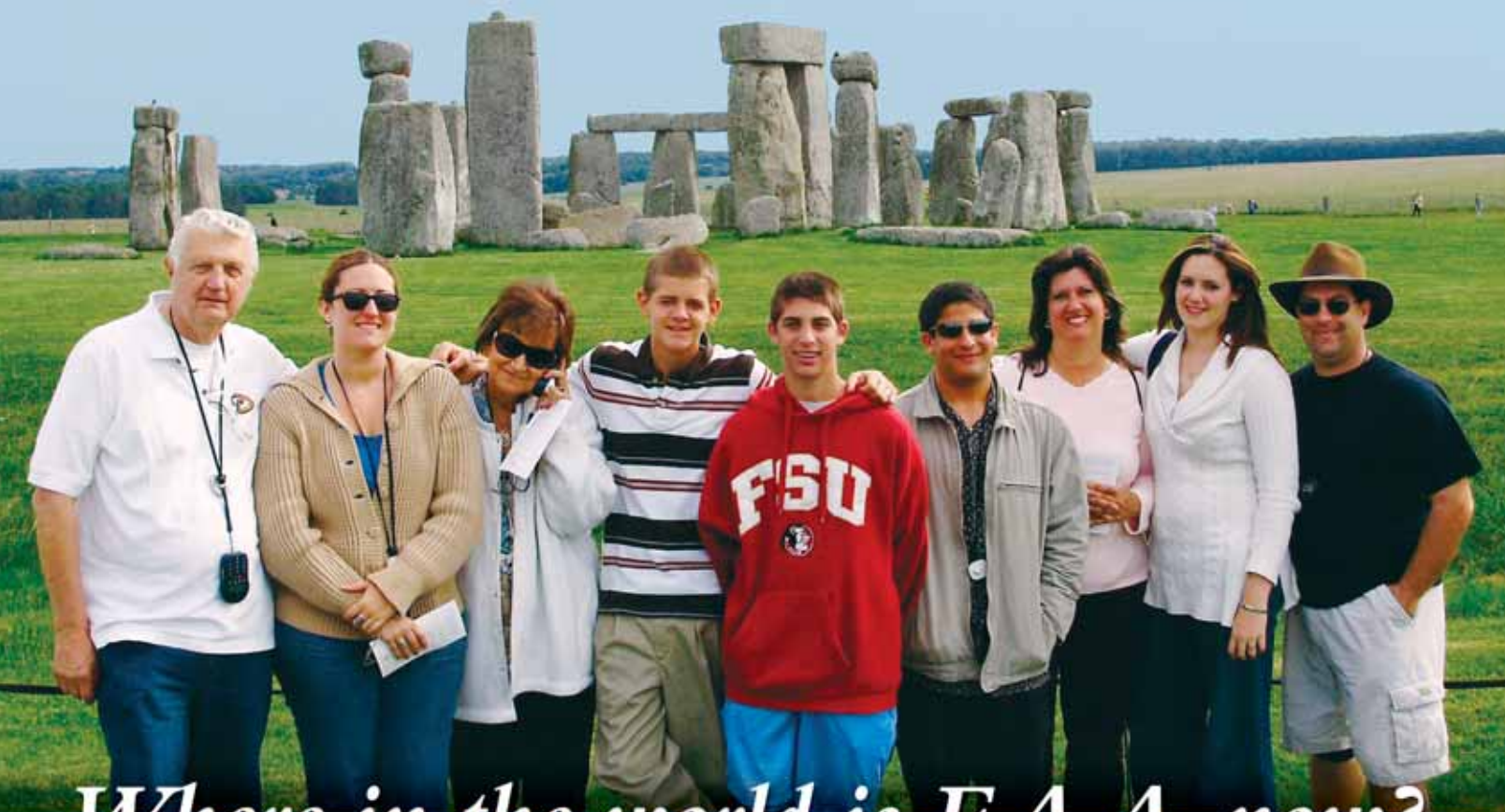
FALCONIAN

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In Memory of Mrs. Jackie Lepper...Page 11



Where in the world is F.A.A. now?

At Florida Air Academy, the chance to travel and experience different cultures and scenery is a valuable complement to our academic program. In the past few years, groups have traveled to Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, Utah, Great Britain, Washington D.C. and the Florida Keys. Next year, Germany, and for the first time, Italy are on the itinerary! A trip to Japan is planned for 2010!

FALCONIAN

SUMMER/FALL 2008

ON THE COVER

Where in the World is F.A.A. now? Ireland and England were this year's destination. Read about the trip and see more photos.

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Editor: Denise Zingariello

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Changes on Campus for 2008-09



There are many exciting changes to the campus and to the academic program for this school year.

Cadet Adrian Dominguez is being trained on "Alice", an object-oriented system of programming, which makes it easy and fun to learn programming a computer. The objects in "Alice" exist in a three-dimensional virtual world, much like a modern video game.

Some of these are highlighted below:

- ✓ Many new course electives, including drama, dance, guitar, and racquet sports. In technology, additions include computer game design, multimedia production, programming for gaming and web management. New social studies electives are philosophy and geography, and geography will become a required course for the class of 2012.
- ✓ Campus improvements include the beginning of on-going squadron renovations such as new windows, improvements to room furnishings, and a brighter color scheme (chosen by students!). New landscaping has been added to the campus, as well.
- ✓ A Tactical Officer for the Day Student Girls – welcome Mrs. Michelle Puchala!
- ✓ A new 45 minute mid-morning period Monday through Thursday for assemblies, activity groups, parade practice and informative speakers.
- ✓ The Academy pool will be filled in and that space used for a student recreation area. Note: the pool was original to the campus and has served students for almost 50 years. A new pool in another area on campus is planned for the future.
- ✓ The FAA Parents' Association has made a gift to the school of a new, state-of-the-art digital sign in front of the school on Rt. 192.
- ✓ And last but not least, our new Preschool program has expanded into Pre-K and Kindergarten this fall!



Where would a group of students travel to kiss the Blarney Stone? Ireland, of course!

All in attendance would agree: this year's cultural excursion to Ireland and the United Kingdom was a great success! We spent two weeks taking in the sights, sounds, and culture of the islands and highlands. We toured Bunratty, Blarney, Beaumaris, and Edinburgh castles. In addition, we also toured the Rock of Cashel, St. Patrick's, St. Paul's, Glastonbury, and Wells



Cathedrals. Not only did we spend two nights in George Bernard Shaw's former home (Harcourt Hotel), but we also spent the final night in the classic seaside resort of Folkstone looking over the English Channel. We viewed the Book of Kells, took a ghost tour of Edinburgh, saw

drank the waters of Bath, and gazed upon the ancient monoliths of Stonehenge. Along the way, we met many interesting people and heard many interesting stories from the locals. With all the fun we had on this trip, I'm excited about the tour of Japan planned for summer of 2010!



Lord of the Rings performed live in the theater,

Washington D.C.

by Cadet Kyle VanderVen



The D.C. trip was fun and enjoyable, and best of all we got to see all the sights we've been learning about in history class!

Eighth grade class luncheon with lobbyist, Omar Franco, at the Capitol Hill Club

The annual 8th grade Washington D.C. trip was a spectacular experience for everyone who went. We toured the White House and the Capitol, and we also toured the many monuments which honor our past presidents and learned how they shaped our nation. One of the highlights was touring the "Ancient Documents" that have formed the backbone and principles of our nation. We saw the Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and the Articles of Confederation. After relaxing under the cherry blossoms which surround the waters of the Jefferson Memorial, we visited Arlington National Cemetery.

If this wasn't enough, we experienced excursions we would not have normally enjoyed. Thanks to Mr. Ramos, parent of 8th grader Giovanni, we had a luncheon for the entire group at the famous Capitol Hill Club. In addition, Mr. and

Mrs. Lehrman, parents of 8th grader Bryan, secured a visit to House of Representatives Congresswoman

Ross-Lietven in her actual office. Mrs. Ross-Lietven held a Q & A session in her office after the luncheon.

Sea Camp Memories

"Are We There Yet?" *By Cadets Julio Pedraza and Timmy Pham*



Seventh graders couldn't wait to get to Sea Camp, an exciting place where you and sea creatures meet face-to-face! Where else do you get to touch a sea animal with your bare hands? From February 15 through February 18, twenty-five 7th graders, along with Ms. Lund, Mrs. Rosengren, and Mr. Zingariello, enjoyed Sea Camp, which is located in the Florida Keys. This is the place to learn about animals, sea plant life, and how they live in a place called the deep blue sea. During our stay we saw many exotic creatures and plants, including, but not limited to, mangroves, crabs, lobsters, horseshoe crabs, and shrimp. Sea Camp is a trip we'll never forget.

FAA's New Dance Team



Some of the F.A.A. Dance Team gather before performing with Coach Amie Perschnick

Florida Air Academy's Dance Team is comprised of talented young ladies, all sharing the love of dance. While the group focuses on hip-hop, other styles of dance, such as lyrical and jazz, are also studied. Dancers train two to three times a week, learning several dances to a diverse selection of music.

Coached by Amie Perschnick, middle school language arts instructor, FAA's Dance Team performs at many events on campus throughout the school year. During the 2007-2008 school year, the team showcased their talents at the annual PTA Talent Show and Dinner.

When basketball season is upon us, the ladies shine during halftime as they perform routines to entertain the crowd. FAA's Dance Team is a chance for participants to display their talents, gain confidence, work as a team, and have a fantastic, fun experience!

Kindergarten Comes to F.A.A.

Like a garden begins with rich soil, proper nutrients, sufficient water and sunlight, an education at Florida Air Academy begins with a strong foundation which is the root for future growth and success. The elements that form the basis of a lifetime of learning and achievement begin in early childhood. Therefore, FAA is pleased to announce the opening of our first PreK-4 and kindergarten classes for the 2008 – 2009 school year!

The Lower School at FAA provides a positive and accepting learning environment. By developing the whole child through core academics and stimulating growth through a wide variety of enrichment classes and opportunities, we challenge our students to learn how to think. Our goal is to strengthen critical thinking and research skills by cementing language arts, mathematics, and science proficiency. The arts, physical education, foreign language, social science, and technology classes complement our core subjects.

FAA recognizes that each student is unique. The FAA Lower School takes great measures to differentiate the curriculum to meet individual needs.

Small classes ensure that each student receives individual attention and instruction.

Since the opening of our Academy Preschool in 2007 has been such a success, we have set our sights on the future of our youngest students.

Our early childhood program begins in infancy and evolves into our elementary program in kindergarten.

Excitement is running high on the Florida Air campus. If you have any small children at home, or know of someone who does, we encourage you to take a look at the Florida Air preschool and kindergarten. Stop by for a visit or call to schedule a tour.



F.A.A. Parents Recognize Student Success

Faculty and staff at Florida Air Academy are known for their devotion to student success. Teachers recognize communication with parents is very important. Below is a sampling of letters teachers have received from parents thanking them for their efforts.

Hi Mrs. Mayer,

Thank you so much for your kind words about Nick. I am so glad to hear he is doing so well in your class. Nick has some great imagination and loves your class. I am a single mom with both of my boys at FAA, and I think your class has really helped Nick build his character. I am so big on respect, responsibility, and integrity, and FAA has only helped instill this more in my boys. I appreciate all your hard work to help make my son a better student and also to help shape him into a respectful young man. He has grown up so much since he has been at FAA. I understand your husband is Lt. Colonel Mayer. He has also been a big influence in Brandon's life!

Have a great weekend,

Regina

"I am so big on respect, responsibility, and integrity, and FAA has only helped instill this more in my boys."

And...

To the Florida Air Academy Administration:

Florida Air has surpassed my expectations. I have tried several different private schools in Brevard County, but they were lacking in areas very important to me.

FAA has been such a refreshing change. The first week of school my son woke up an hour and a half early to get ready. Everyone said that his excitement would wane before the month was up. But the whole year he woke up excited and ready to start his day at FAA. Mr. Perez (bus driver) returned Silas' smile each morning as he boarded the bus. Mrs. White is a great teacher - my son is blessed to be in her class. The other staff members I have had the pleasure of meeting also seem to genuinely care about the students.

This was the first year I have seen any of my children demonstrate such school spirit. As a 6th grader, I know my son did not have a lot of contact with the high school cadets, but he could not have been more proud at senior graduation than if the cadets had been his own family. I tell all of the parents I meet about our wonderful experience at FAA.

Thank you for making your school feel like home to the children in your charge.

Missy Wilson

Mother of Cadet Silas Tetens

"Florida Air has surpassed my expectations. I have tried several different private schools in Brevard County, but they were lacking in areas very important to me."

And...

For us (this is our first year at FAA) I was surprised/excited to actually get four E-mails from four different teachers saying "positive" things about my son...sad to say, but even though he is a good student and always has been and has attended another private school previously from Pre-K - 6...the only time we ever heard from the teachers was when it was something negative...so it is great to hear positive things...big surprise...this actually makes the child want to do better...thank you.

Lynne Narmore.

"I was surprised/excited to actually get four E-mails from four different teachers saying "positive" things about my son."

And...

Sending Jonathan to FAA was the best decision I could have ever made. Actually, it was Jonathan who discovered FAA and requested to attend after coming to an Open House. I tell people all the time that it has been the best investment I could have ever made. People don't hesitate to invest in cars, houses, boats, etc. but with FAA you are investing in your child and his future, which is the most important investment!

Jonathan has done exceptionally well here. He has become a great young man and has learned how to set goals and reach them. He has been molded into being a leader and given responsibility while being held accountable for all his actions. The teachers at FAA truly care about the students. Jonathan is involved in team sports and has a great number of friends. At home, most of his friends ask him about FAA. His comments: "The school is great; we have a lot of fun, and all you have to do is follow a few rules!"

Denise Wallace

In addition, former FAA parent, Mr. Dave Ellis, recently sent the following letter to Col Reggie Bird, Director of Guidance, updating the Academy about his son, 2007 salutatorian, Scott Ellis.

Hello Colonel Bird,

I wanted to take a minute and update you on your 2007 FAA graduate, Scott Ellis. I will always appreciate the education and training Scott received at FAA. It was excellent preparation for his current endeavors.

Best wishes to you and all the great people at Florida Air Academy.

Dave Ellis -- Scott's Dad

"It was excellent preparation for his current endeavors."

FAA's Own Accepted to Coast Guard Academy

FAA is proud to announce Cadet Julianna Harvin's acceptance to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Yearly, the Coast Guard receives 3,500 applicants and 400 are accepted. Forty-nine states and ten foreign countries represent the Class of 2011.

Congratulations, Julianna!



Color Guard Sparkles at the Gala

Our Color Guard was appreciated at the Wuesthoff Sixth Annual Fundraising Gala on February 23, at Florida Institute of Technology. This was our third year performing at the event and our first all-female Color Guard. Keynote speaker, actress and author, Ms. Fran Drescher, asked to pose with our girls for a photograph. *Special thanks to Charlene Gracia, Chelsea Lewis, Rynicia Santiago, and sisters, Jordan and Erin Davis!*

Flying Solo

Congratulations to yet another solo flight at FAA! Cadet Cody Horn, 11th grade, flew solo for the first time on Thursday, February 14, 2008 while his father witnessed the event.

*Congratulations
on this exciting milestone!*



LEGO MANIA

by Bonnie Miller

The challenge was to research airplanes and select one, study the architecture, and create a scale model. A series of mathematical studies were made on the completed project.



Steven Tankersley and Will Sullins created the J10 Chinese military fighter

Bricks, blocks, tiles, bioncles and angle plates are all words commonly heard in the office of FAA's registrar. For it is here that The Builder's Club has their headquarters, and as any member of the club can tell you, these are types of LEGOS. During the school year, the Builders meet once a week during Activities Group activities and let their imaginations soar. Their biggest project (which will span two years)

is the creation of a 6 foot pyramid.

Will Sullins and Steven Tankersley used their extensive knowledge of the architecture of building with LEGOS to tackle a project given them by their summer school geometry teacher, Ms. Paula Abraham.

Will and Steven selected the J10 Chinese military fighter as their project because "it looked really cool" and "was able to be created with LEGOS," according to Will. Will added, "The most difficult part to figure out was how to angle the wings." It took the two over four hours to create the aircraft. Both cadets agree it was a great assignment that they loved creating.

FAA Going Green

One simple idea can change people's attitudes and save our planet. With a little help from Dr. Julie Sereno, Integrated Science and Oceanography instructor, and Ms. Bonnie Miller, Registrar, FAA is going green!



Dr. Sereno has been working to establish recycling on campus, and it has finally caught on. Staff and students alike are now seeing recycle bins in classrooms and work rooms. Faculty and staff have been logging phone books to campus for proper disposal.

As we continue to grow toward a cleaner planet, FAA is now developing a program to recycle batteries, too. We, as a campus, are excited to see where our "green" adventure will lead us next!

2007 Yearbook Honored

Congratulations to the 2007 yearbook class for receiving an award of excellence honoring its accomplishments in yearbook design and coverage. Taylor Publishing recognizes only the top five percent of yearbook staffs for outstanding yearbook achievement. In addition to this prestigious award, the yearbook will also be featured in the 2008 edition of *Yearbook Yearbook*.

Congratulations Mrs. Vicky Harvin and staff!

FALCON NOTES

1960's

Goldstein, Bernie, '65 of Palm Beach shores, FL is married to Gail and has one son, David, age 37. Bernie is an insurance broker.

1970's

Zinn, Carter, '75 of The Villages, FL is married to Barbara and has 5 children: Thomas, 31; Michael, 30; Christie-Dorothy, 4 and Grace, 2. Carter is retired. **Horanyl, Laszlo Jon '78** of Kingwood, TX is married to Frances and has 2 children – Laszlo Andrew, 14 and Skylar, 11. Laszlo is an Airline Captain/Check Airman & Instructor, Boeing 777 and 787 for Continental Airlines. **Quan, Juan, '78** has 4 children: Grace Marie, 22; Juan Carlos, 21; Luis Eduardo, 18 and Alejandro, 16. Juan is a proud grandfather of Orlando, 1 year. Juan is Regional Director for Latin America, Fusion Telecommunications. **Burke, Wayne, '79** of Ontario, Canada is married to Donna and has 2 children – Caitlin Deserie, 2 and Teagan Sarah, 10 months. Wayne is a manager, software development. **Evans, E. Duane, '79** of Cedar Hill, TX is married to Yvonne and has 3 children – Shavonne, 21, a senior attending the University of Texas at Arlington; Bilal, an 8th grader and Danya, PK-4. Duane works in education. **Dunman, Bill, '79** of Newburgh Heights, OH is married and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren: Tracy, 30; Jason, 28; Ryan, 24; Richy, 21; RC, 17;

grandchild Ben, 1 and Hailey, 1 month. Bill is a customer service specialist for AT&T.

1980's

Parasu, Tara, '81 of Jakarta, Indonesia is married to Brenda and has 2 children – Max, 7 and Sisi, 5. Tara owns his own company. **Fidel Salomon Ulloa Delgado, '82** of Panama City, Panama is married to Miriam and has 2 daughters – Melissa, 17 and Diana, 14. Fidel is a financial and investment advisor. **Cornell, Craig, '83** of New Milford, CT is married to Amanda. Craig is senior manager, Supply Chain Transformation at IBM. **Stern, Jordan, '83** of Madison, NJ is married to Kelly and has 3 children: Sophia, 6; Conor, 3 and Phoebe, 1. Jordan is a lawyer.

1990's

Zarkani, Omar, '94 of Cairo, Egypt is married to Johana and has 1 daughter, Nejma 5 and a son due in December. Omar's occupation is at MDZ-Aviation Services (ZAS). **Kohshi, Kajiyama, '95** of Berlin, Germany is studying business administration at Frei University in Berlin. Kohshi writes that Boris van der Harst, also from FAA class of '95, visited him last year and comments that he has not changed at all! **Nossiter, Devlin, '95** of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa is currently a network administrator. **Burt, David, '95** of Hamilton, Bermuda is IT Consultant/Chairman of the

Progressive Labour Party. **Salinas, Carlos, '98** of Panama City, Panama is in private equity. **CASE, ROB, '99** of Superior, MT is engaged to Leslie and has 3 children – Lexi, 7; Logan, 11 and Lane, 12. Rob's current occupation is in sales. **Johnston, Craig, '99** is married to Ivana and manages global security teams and transportation providers for a global risk management firm.

2000's

Francoeur, Michael, '04 of Altamonte Springs, FL Marine Corps enlisted. **Hall, Sheldon, '04** is a student and ITS intern at Hewitt Associates in Orlando. **Walker, Douglas, '04** of Brownstone, MI is a builder in a family owned company. **Kramer, Kris, '05** of Pt. Charlotte, FL commented about FAA: "FAA changed my life in a lot of ways and really changed me from the kid I was when I showed up to the man I became when I left in 2002. I learned how to live on my own, take responsibility for my actions, and received a great education in the process. I didn't fully appreciate any of those things at the time but have now grown up enough to understand and appreciate them. Thanks a lot, FAA."

Spring Alumni Reunion

Everyone likes to reminisce, especially at a high school reunion. FAA alumni, as early as 1964 and as recent as 1998, met on campus this past spring with faculty and staff to catch up and share two nights of fun, food, and fellowship.

The weekend opened with a welcoming ceremony Friday evening, in the library. Many past classmates shared FAA stories, updated each other about jobs and family, and enjoyed touring the campus. FAA hosted a Dining-In Saturday evening, with the grog bowl as its highlight. Our alumni not only demonstrated the technique but made quite a few trips to the abhorrent bowl. Some of our current teachers, principal, and even vice-president, Ms. Deborah Dwight, had a walk to the bowl, amid laughs and cheers.

FAA wants to do it again...save the date

Join us during Fall Family Weekend to celebrate Homecoming and attend the second annual Alumni Dining In

✓ Mark the date – weekend of October 10, 2008!



Saturday Night Alumni Dining In

Alumni Update: Chris Smith Remembers Surfing

Former FAA student, Chris Smith, upon receiving the Winter 2008 issue of Falconian, contacted us about surfing in the '60's...

"I just received the recent issue of the Falconian and was particularly interested in the surfing page by Cadet Nick Gavin. I was on the surf team my two years at FAA: '67 – '69. I ran across an old photo that Cadet Gavin might enjoy. I am in the center with the "short" board. It was an 8' 2" Surfboards Hawaii V-bottom that I ordered from Hawaii. I think it set me back \$120.00, including shipping. To my right is Craig Thomas, and his brother, Stan is at the far right. It was taken at Indialantic Beach in 1968. Back then the only thing at the beach was the A & W Root Beer stand on 192 just before A1A.

...I hope to stop by FAA...It has been five years since I last visited the campus, and I am looking forward to walking the halls and all the fond memories."

Best regards,
Christopher C. Smith
Class of '69



When Cadet Gavin saw the photo, he smiled, "Wow, it looks so different. You can't even buy the materials for that little and make it yourself!" It's a great feeling to know surfing could connect these two very different generations, and Cadet Gavin couldn't have said it any better: "Ma'am, could I have his E-mail address? I'd like to write to Mr. Smith."



Spring F

During the school year, FAA's faculty, staff, and students host a variety of events which are held both on and off campus. Some of our spring festivities include the homecoming dance, the annual Military Ball, which celebrates the senior class and the moms, and everyone's favorite event, International Festival. We also host a variety of delectable dishes from all over the world. *Everyone on campus would agree springtime*

Mother's Day Dinner



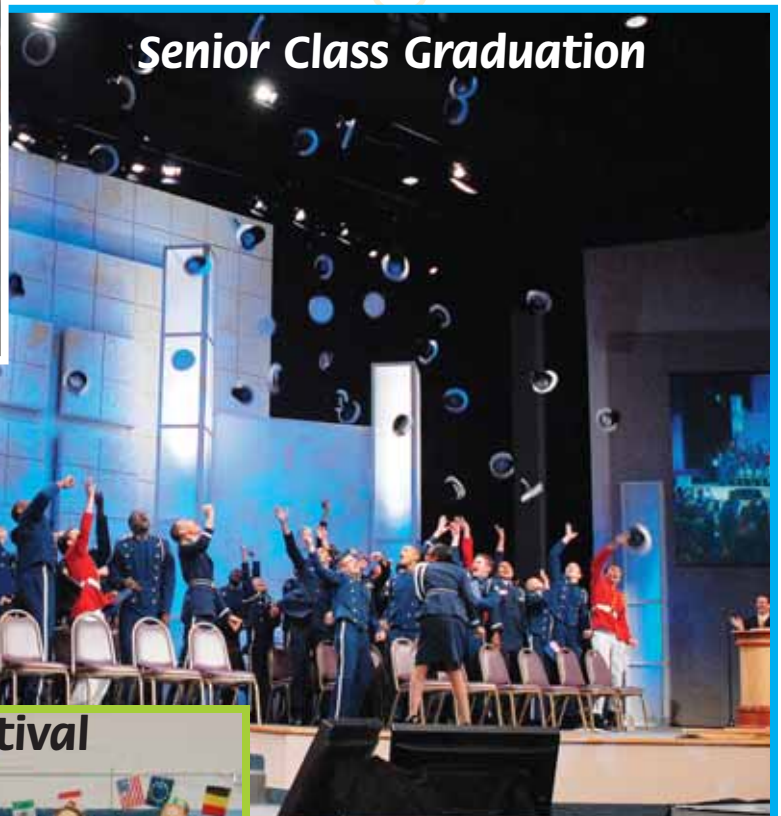
Festivities

Students are busy planning numerous social events, activities included a Middle School dance, High School Valentine's Day graduation, the annual Mother's Day dinner, which always pleases our on-campus food fest where parents, friends, and teachers world – complete with entertainment and silent auctions.

at FAA is full of fun, food, and entertainment!



Middle School Dance



Senior Class Graduation



International Festival



International Festival Parade



Dwight Award

Hot Air Balloon Soars at FAA

Eleven faculty members took a tethered flight



The Beemster Cheese 2008 USA Hot Air Balloon School Tour landed on Falcon Field on April 22, 2008.

Rebecca Elkins, a certified teacher and renowned Hall of Fame balloon pilot, unloaded Betty Bovine, the 105,000 cubic foot balloon, in the early morning hours and took 11 faculty members in a tethered flight in front of the entire student body, faculty, and staff. Ms. Elkins provided an inspirational PowerPoint presentation to the 6th and 7th grade students about the history and science of hot air balloon flight and what it takes to be a pilot. The purpose of the two-month tour is to educate students of all ages and backgrounds about the value of eating healthy and focusing in school in order to achieve success in life.

A Special Visitor

By Cadet Seth Grabowski

The Holocaust. We have all heard the words. The ninth graders learned about it in Mrs. Zingariello's English class when we read the autobiography, *Night*. However, it is very rare that someone has heard first-hand from one of its survivors. Florida Air Academy was blessed with one such person.

Mrs. Lisl Bogart, an immigrant from Austria and survivor of the concentration camp, Terezin, spoke to freshmen students about her experiences during the Holocaust. Mrs. Bogart lived three years at Terezin, and during her talk, she told us about life before the Nazi invasion, in the camps, and finally her new life in America. The message she spoke of was not one of hate or revenge. Her message was of peace and understanding. Her message was of appreciating and respecting one another's



Mrs. Bogart with cadets Josh Laredo, Kyle Vandruff, and Mrs. Zingariello

cultures, lifestyles, and beliefs. At the end of her presentation, many students asked questions, and Mrs. Bogart answered honestly. At the end of her speech, Mrs. Bogart emphasized one key point, which will stick with me forever: "You will hear that the

Holocaust is a hoax; I am here to tell you it is not." The ninth grade class will never forget these words spoken by a true heroine – they will stay with us forever.

In Memory Of Beloved Teacher

Mrs. Jackie Lepper



By Deborah Dwight

The FAA community has recently lost beloved teacher, Mrs. Jackie Lepper, to a long illness. Mrs. Lepper, chairperson of the History Department, taught at FAA for 26 years, before retiring in 2001. To say that she touched the lives of her students would be an understatement - Mrs. Lepper was the kind of teacher who *changed* the lives of her students. Her unyielding standards, coupled with her caring heart and enormous patience, taught her students the meaning of excellence, not only in the classroom, but in life.

Though Mrs. Lepper never raised her voice in the classroom, she never had "classroom management issues." She

demanding respect from her students, and she always received it. Her classroom was always featured on tours for prospective FAA students, because it was full of creative classroom projects. One of her students' favorite projects was a family coat of arms, which encouraged them to research their family history and heritage. She was famous for her "quote of the day," which always gave her students something to ponder while they prepared for class. Spirited debates in her government and economics classes were the order of the day, for Mrs. Lepper was keenly invested in teaching her students not only how to learn, but how to think.

After she retired, Mrs. Lepper visited campus and shared her famous Irish soda bread with the faculty. She was loved by all who knew her, and I will especially miss her keen wit and calm dignity. Though she is physically gone, her spirit will linger in the Academy halls, and in the hearts and minds of her hundreds of students, or "her boys," as she used to refer to them. It was an honor to have known Jackie Lepper and an immense privilege to have had her as part of the FAA faculty for so many years.

Our sympathies are extended to her family and especially her husband, Jim, who was also an FAA teacher.

FAA Places First in Horse Show

Congratulations to two of our riders, who traveled to a local competition in June. Kayla Nelson won 1st place against six other riders, and Kelsey Prator won both of her classes, as well!



NBA Draft – Close to Home

by Coach Jim O'Malley

The Seattle Sonics drafted Sasha Kaun, FAA class of 2004, in the second round of the 2008 NBA draft. They traded his rights to the Cleveland Indians, but Sasha decided to play professionally in his home country of Russia. He was also invited to join the Russian basketball team for the 2008 Summer Olympics. Not a bad time to be a Falcon!

Sasha is in good company – former Falcons with outstanding achievements:

Prince Fielder: 2007 National League Homerun Champion

Walter Hodge: 2006 and 2007 NCAA Division 1 Basketball National Champion

Leevan Sands: 2002 NCAA Division 1 Triple Jump National Champion, represented the Bahamas in the Athens Olympic games and won the bronze medal in the triple jump in the Beijing Olympic games.

Andy Gonzalez: Called up in 2007 from AAA baseball and played a majority of the Season with the Chicago White Sox; started the 2008 season in AAA with the Cleveland Indians and recently called to the majors

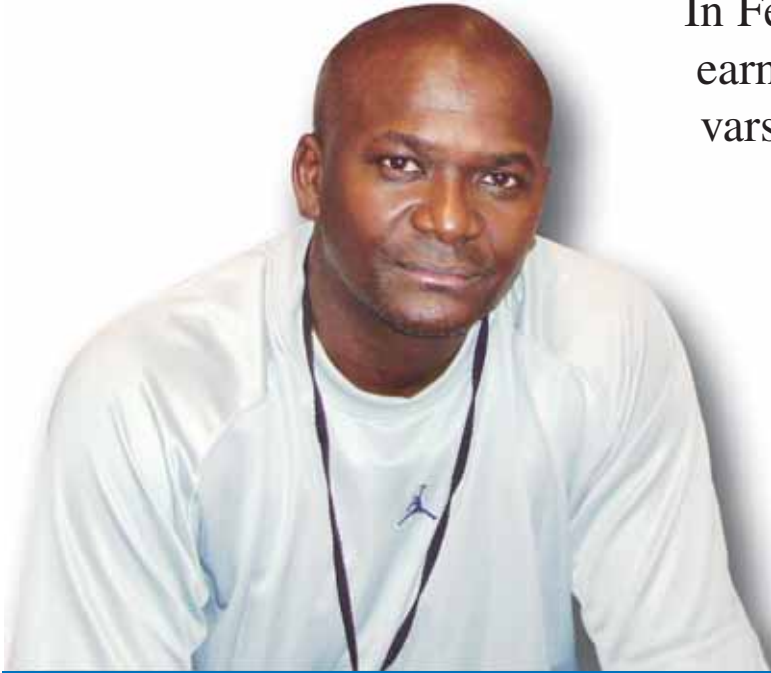
Marius Prekevicius: earned a position on the Lithuanian basketball team at the Beijing Olympics.

Sasha Kaun: NBA draft 2008; NCAA Division 1 Basketball National Champion



President George W. Bush congratulates alumni Sasha Kaun's NCAA win

A Sparkling Achievement



In February, Coach Aubin Goporo earned his 200th win as FAA'S varsity basketball coach.

His overall record now stands at 203 wins – 26 losses!

**Congratulations
Coach Goporo!**

Falcons Fight to Preserve Tradition

by Coach Aubin Goporo

Our young Falcons experienced a learning curve this past season. Despite our inexperience, the Falcons fought throughout the season to preserve our rich winning tradition. The fight was won - the Falcons finished the season falling one game short of competing in the Final Four State Championship and ended the year with a 21-7 overall record. Not bad for such an undeveloped team! At the end of the year, it was obvious that our players grew both individually and as a squad. Falcons know one can always improve, no matter how much is accomplished. We use this motto to motivate and push ourselves to improve during the off-season and to pursue and set new goals for the coming year.



Alexi Potapov grabbing a rebound

Special thanks to FAA faculty and staff for supporting the Falcons all season!

Girls' Basketball Firsts

This past winter the FAA girls finished our 2007-2008 high school basketball season on a very positive note.

Having a first-year coach and many first-year players on the team, we finished strong with an 18-6 record.

by Cadet Jamie Kaplan



This terrific group of female athletes really gave their best. Freshman LaKendra Jones led the team in rebounds, and Jamie Kaplan led the team in points scored. This was the first year we made it to the district championship, taking second, to qualify us to move on to Regional. With almost every player returning next year, we should have a tight group of players who are ready to have an even stronger season in the coming 2008-2009 year. Go Falcons!

FAA Athletic Stars Shine

Over its 47 year history, FAA has developed many great athletes, and the 2007 – 2008 school year is continuing that trend.

Congratulations to the following athletes who have shown exceptional performances: Jamie Kaplan for being the first female basketball athlete at FAA to be named to the All-Space Coast Team by Florida Today; Ben Eblen, Jamie Kaplan, and LaKendra Jones who each received honorable mention for the Class 2A Basketball All-State team; Umar Merrit, who won the 100 meter district championship in track and advanced to State; Tony Walding and David Blonder, who made it to the weightlifting State Championship. Tony earned 5th place and David placed 12th.

In addition, FAA congratulates 2004 graduate, Sasha Kaun, who won the NCAA Division 1 National Basketball Championship. He helped the Kansas Jayhawks beat the Memphis Tigers. With his win, FAA has had a graduate play for the last three basketball championships: Kansas University/08 and the University of Florida 06/07 with 2005 graduate, Walter Hodge. In addition, Sasha was named senior scholar athlete of the year for his academic performance while earning his computer engineering degree.

Congratulations to all of our Falcons!

JV Basketball Surpasses Challenges

This season was a challenging one, with only three returning players.

by Coach Winston Johnson

Shawn Scileppi Gonzalez drives in for the layup

Cadet Zach Gray provided leadership and outstanding point guard play all season. He led the team in assists and steals and earned Most Valuable Player status. Mark Martin led the team in scoring throughout the season, followed by Jeffery Keels, who established himself as our best offensive player of the year. Patrick Nguyen provided excellent defense and offense, at the shooting guard position. Devante Pegues established himself as our best rebounder and defensive player of the year. Shawn Scileppi-Gonzalez was the most improved and consistent performer all season long. Bryce Goulding has proven to be a competent scorer coming off the bench, and is the Falcon Player of the Year. Mitch Howard showed hard work and discipline does pay off, which earned him Coaches Player of the Year. Robert Santiago, Steven Castro, and Darius Kortney played with their hearts at every game. Luciani Lubin provided excellent defense and point guard play all season. Manager Ken Yang did an outstanding job, and I am proud of all players for their hard work and contribution to the team.

Middle School Basketball Team

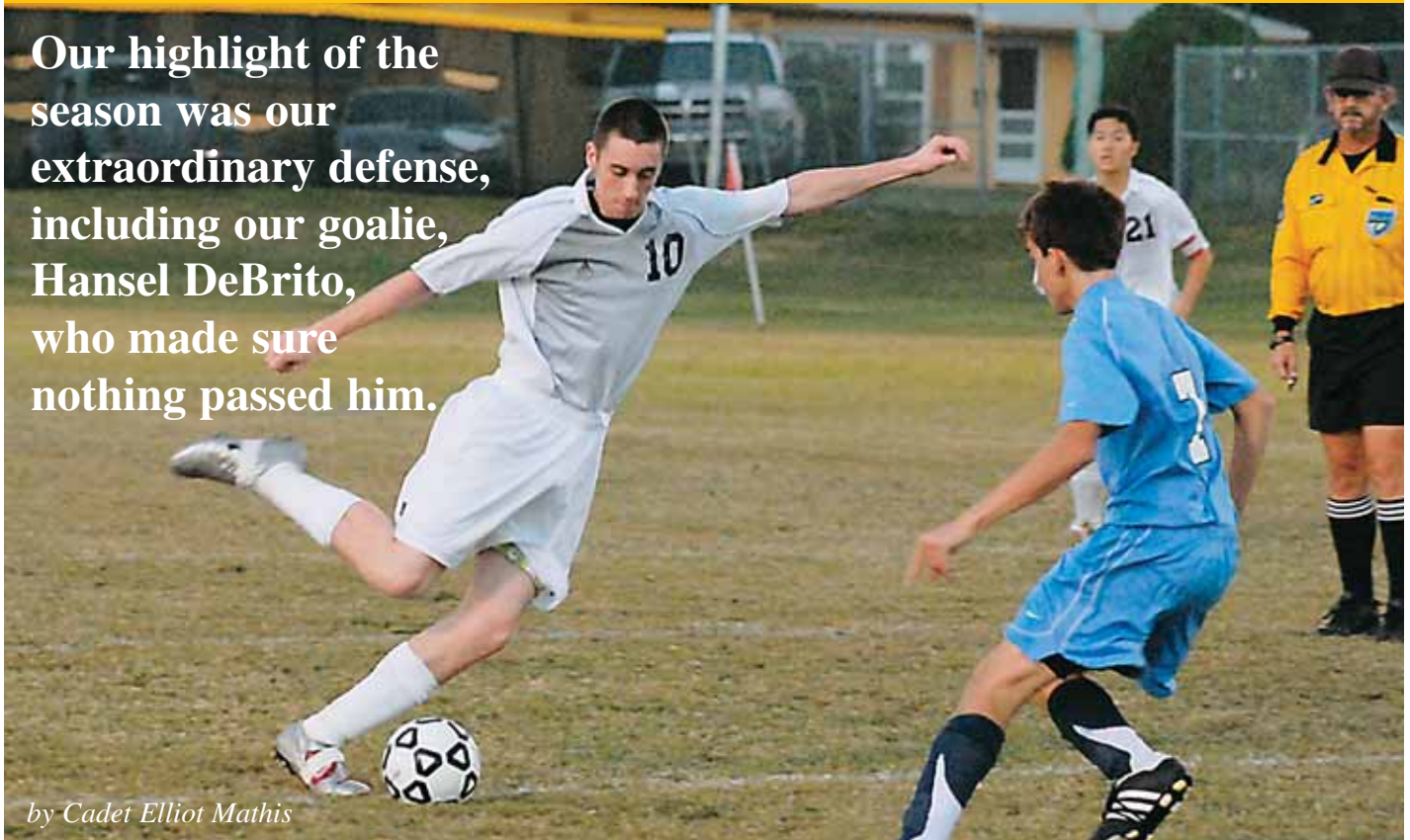
By Cadet Ralph Gracia

This was a fantastic year for the 2008 Middle School basketball team. Coach John Green made learning the game fun and easy, and we truly understood the meaning of teamwork. In addition, we respected ourselves, both off and on the court, which reflected at our games against other teams. It was exciting to see and hear the wonderful crowd that always came out to support and cheer us on. Thanks to our fans, who made a big difference.



Varsity Soccer

Our highlight of the season was our extraordinary defense, including our goalie, Hansel DeBrito, who made sure nothing passed him.



by Cadet Elliot Mathis

Jonathan Weiss taking a shot

Soccer has been my favorite sport since I was a child. However, this soccer season was my favorite! At the beginning of the season, the team was missing a few key players due to injuries and football season running so late into the year. Regardless, our Falcon soccer team played with heart and fought on to win games. A special thanks to Timothy Michaels who led our team in goal scoring and assists. Even though our loss at Districts was disappointing, we learned our lesson and expect to go all the way next year with our new coach, Mr. Jason Zingariello.

Weightlifting 2008

By Coach Sherman Howze

The Falcons made weightlifting history this year by having one of our own place at State.

Tony Walding earned a fifth place medal and David Blonder placed 12th. This dedicated group of Falcon weightlifters is often seen early in the morning and after class working on weightlifting techniques to prepare for their meets, which include bench press and clean and jerk matches.

Congratulations to Tony and David and to the rest of the team for their hard work and dedication.



Girls' Varsity Soccer



*Jessica Watson handles the ball well against her opponent
by Coach Tonya Lawson*

The 2008 Lady Falcon soccer team obtained much individual success by further developing character, increased persistence, and learning how to overcome adversity. All members committed themselves to hard work and perseverance. As we enter Season 4, these ladies will certainly continue to climb the traditional ladder of success and bring home the goal! Congratulations to Ava Zimmerman, Pasean Loncke, Jessica Watson, Erin Davis, Jordan Davis, Shelby Richardson, Cynthia Barbosa, Samantha Walsh, Jonnie Herndon, Jessica Jones, Herriot Parker, Chelsea Storm, and Madison Gaylor.

JV Soccer Season



*Cadet Xiong breaking through the defense
by Coach Jason Zingariello*

The JV soccer team had an outstanding 2008 season. The Falcons were led by two goalkeepers - Steven Nurhan and Daniel Plowden. Steven received the Falcon Award; the highlight of his season was blocking a penalty kick to preserve a 1-1 tie against arch-rival Holy Trinity. Daniel received the Most Valuable Player award for his performance in goal and at forward. Returning player, Thomas Brock, was once again solid at defense and won the Coach's Award for the first time. Future star and 6th grader, Philip McKegg, won Best Forward Award, his first year on JV. With the majority of the team returning next year, the Falcons look to build on their 2008 season.

Tennis Team Makes Strides in 2008

by Coach Joe Burley

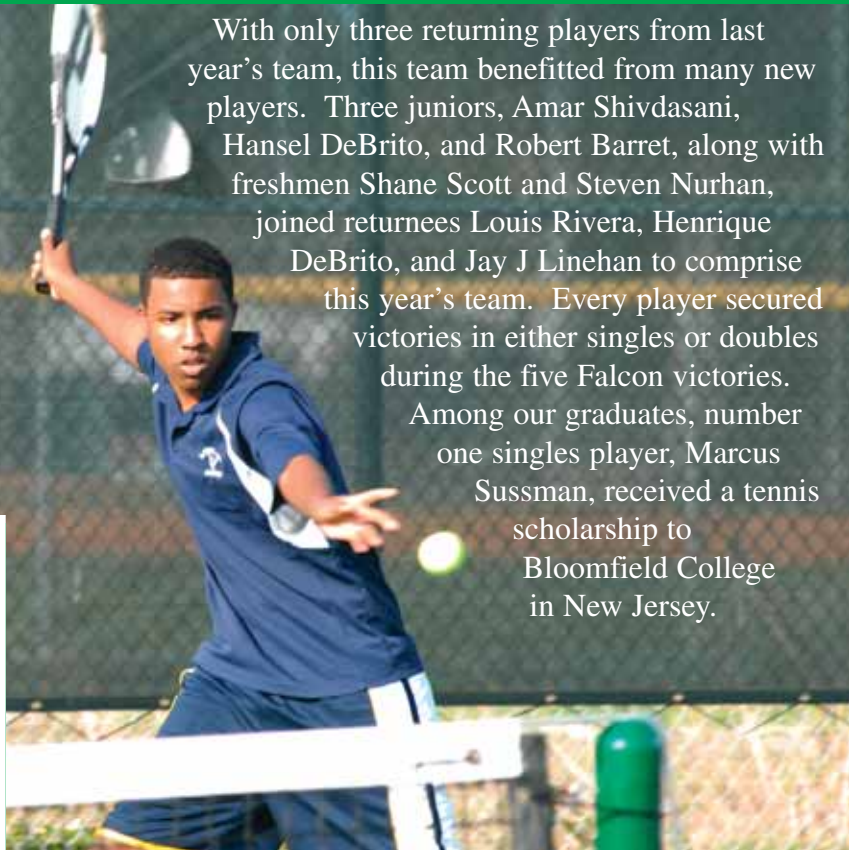
The FAA boys' varsity tennis team made significant strides in our 2008 season.

After going winless in the district last year, the team improved to 5-4 in district matches.



With only three returning players from last year's team, this team benefitted from many new players. Three juniors, Amar Shivdasani, Hansel DeBrito, and Robert Barret, along with freshmen Shane Scott and Steven Nurhan, joined returnees Louis Rivera, Henrique DeBrito, and Jay J Linehan to comprise this year's team. Every player secured victories in either singles or doubles during the five Falcon victories.

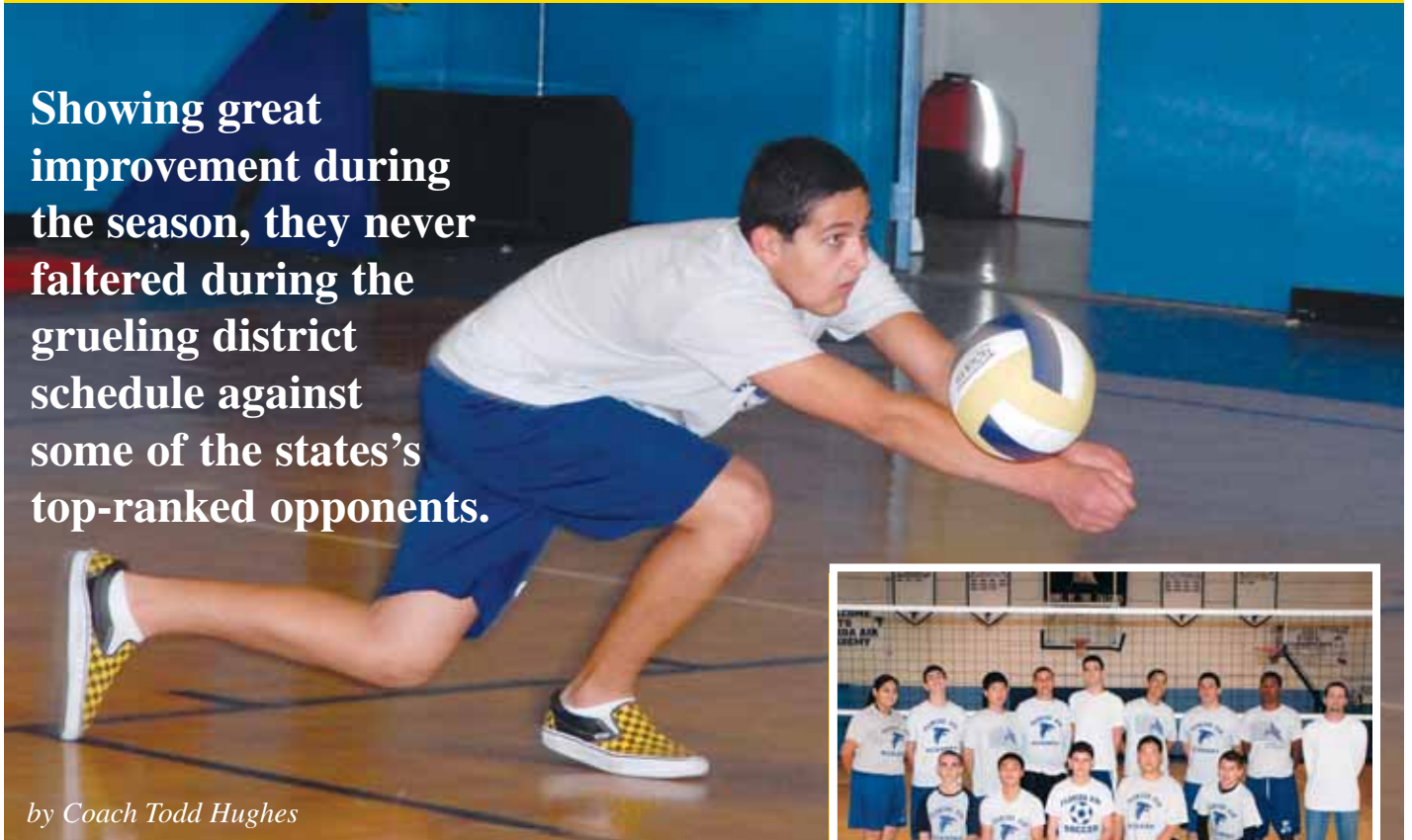
Among our graduates, number one singles player, Marcus Sussman, received a tennis scholarship to Bloomfield College in New Jersey.



Hansel DeBrito shows stamina at a recent tennis match

Boys' Volleyball

Showing great improvement during the season, they never faltered during the grueling district schedule against some of the states' top-ranked opponents.



by Coach Todd Hughes

Luis Jose Perez digging to volley the ball back

It was a rebuilding year for the boys' volleyball program as we had to replace most of last year's team with new faces. The team concentrated on fundamentals and gained knowledge of the sport and its rules throughout the season. Special thanks to team leader and senior, Ariel Navarez, who is attending Rutgers University to play volleyball.



Track 2008

By Coach Chris Kulac

The season started slowly but once the cadets trained, it was back to the State track once again. Thanks to outstanding coaches, Josh Horst and Johnny Robinson, who provided guidance and inspiration to our athletes.

All runners showed solid improvement by the end of the season, and it appears that returning to the State meet in the coming years will become a tradition here at Florida Air Academy!



Umar Merritt was a true leader of the team. Umar earned his trip to State – he finished in 8th place in the 100-meter dash and looks forward to returning next year to win it all. Thanks to all the cadets who made

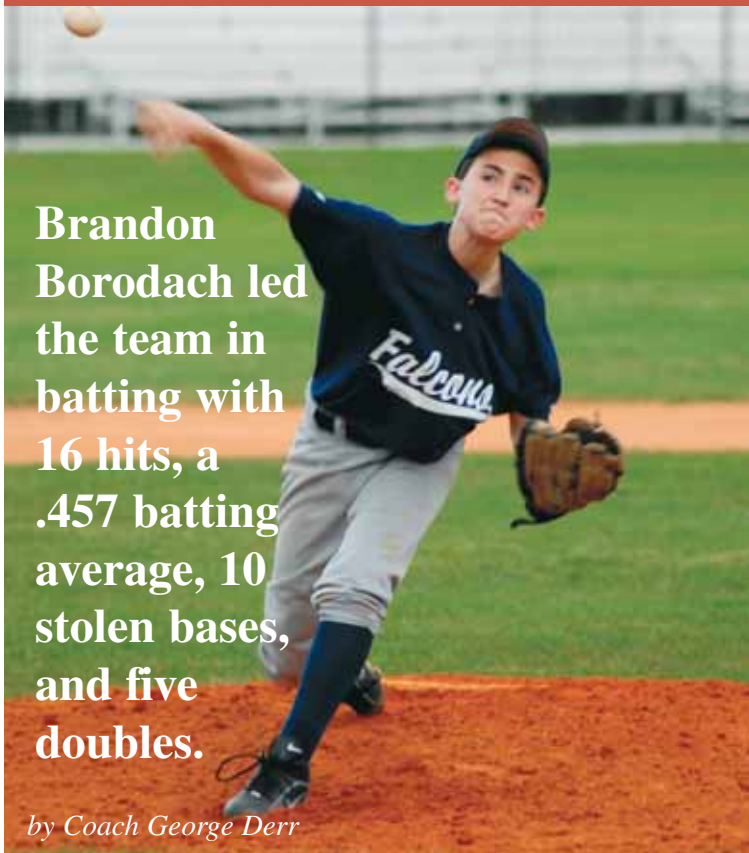
Boys' Varsity Baseball

By Coach Mike Morgan

The varsity baseball team accomplished exactly what it wanted to do at the beginning of the year: to finish with a better record than last year. With a promising start to the season, this seemed like an easy task; as the season progressed, the wins became more difficult. Through all the setbacks, the Falcons responded with tenacity and fortitude.

With top-notch performances from Montgomery Bell, Jorge Lopez, Brandon Wilson, Michael Stine, and James Hubbard, the Falcons were able to accomplish this task. With key returnees, Bryce Goulding, Michael Stine, Montgomery Bell, Jorge Lopez, James Hubbard and Brandon Wilson, the team has high expectations for next year.

Middle School Baseball



Brandon Borodach led the team in batting with 16 hits, a .457 batting average, 10 stolen bases, and five doubles.

by Coach George Derr

The Falcons finished the season 3-10, with two of the victories on dramatic last-inning come-backs. The team defeated Community Christian 6-5, scoring all six runs in the last inning. Even more impressive, the Jr. Falcons spotted St. Edwards seven runs before scoring nine in the bottom of the last inning for the victory. Collectively, the team batted .293 and had a pitching ERA of 4.22, both outstanding marks. Ryan Riemer was the team's top pitcher with an ERA of 1.69, 20.67 innings pitched, and 32 strikeouts. Dakota Best led the team in defensive put-outs with 50. I would like to thank all the players for their hard work and dedication to the sport!



Falcon Softball

By Cadet Jessica Maddox

What can we say about our very first year of FAA girls' softball? A lot! Our coaches, Courtney and Tara, were guiding us at every practice and always welcoming newcomers to this truly exciting sport. Our coaches' love of the game truly reflected in the players as we stepped enthusiastically on to the field every game. This young team has many great seasons to look forward to, thanks to our younger players. Great defense was highlighted by 6th grader, Amanda Thompson, at second base; 7th grader, Caroline Kingsbury, at short-stop and ninth graders, Katie Ivers and Jessica Maddox, shined at offense. As the season progressed, we learned how to be a team and how to have fun. We are all looking forward to next year !

Alumni: Keep in touch-mail the following form to:
Florida Air Academy
1950 S. Academy Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901
(or go to www.flair.com and access "Alumni")

Name _____ Class Year _____

Current Address _____

Street Address

Apt. #

City

State

Zip Code

Current E-mail Address _____

Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name _____

Do you have children? _____ What are their names/ages? _____

Current Occupation: _____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING AN ALUMNI REUNION IN THE FUTURE?

YES/NO _____

(comments)

FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY

1950 S. Academy Drive

Melbourne, FL 32901

(321) 723-3211 www.flair.com