

Falconian

Q U A R T E R L Y

Melbourne, Florida

Florida Air Academy

Spring 2001

THE PERFECT SEASON



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*The 2001, 3A State Champion FAA Falcons
are Brevard County's first high school
basketball team ever to go*

UNDEFEATED!

IT WILL NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT HER

When Florida Air Academy begins its fortieth year this fall, it will do so without Mrs. Jackie Lepper, who is retiring at the end of the 2000-2001 school year. Twenty-six senior classes have had to meet Mrs. Lepper's demanding academic and personal standards, an experience which helped shape the lives of hundreds of boys, many of whom now have families of their own. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the former Jackie McGinnis moved with her family to Melbourne as a young girl, graduating from Melbourne High School. She and her husband Jim, a former FAA faculty member himself, have two daughters and three grandchildren. In a recent "Falconian" interview, Mrs. Lepper reminisced about her stellar career, and talked about the future.

Although students may not believe it, teachers learn a lot from their students. What have you learned? What have I learned? I've learned so many things from my students. My class is like a mini "United Nations," with so many nationalities represented. They bring different perspectives to the classroom, different insights and experiences. I remember during the 1970's when I had three Iranian students in class, and they spoke of the difficult conditions in Iran, and told me that there would be a revolution before the year's end, and sure enough, later that year, the Shah was deposed.

In addition to learning a great deal about their countries, I have learned much about their cultures as well. I was standing at my podium one day when a young student from Pakistan bent over and lightly touched the tip of my shoes with his fingers. When I questioned him, he explained that the custom in his country was for children to ask their mother's blessing in that fashion whenever they had a problem; as his mother was not here, he asked my blessing. There are so many unique situations like that.

Do you recall any specific students as being special?

All of my students have been *special* in some way. Many of my former students remain in contact, and I have special memories of them. Many have done well and have found success in careers in government, economics and law. I am proud of them and their success. But the finest memories (and the greatest rewards as a teacher) have been to see those who have struggled with language and learning difficulties steadily improve and finally walk across that stage as graduates, proud in their own achievement.

Tell us about your first teaching experiences.

I interned at Southwest Junior High School, which is now Palm Bay High



School. The school had just recently integrated, bringing many adjustment problems for students and teachers alike. This experience with students from many ethnic and cultural backgrounds and abilities made for an easier transition into an international school like FAA. I was hired here in the middle of the school year, replacing a teacher who had to leave in January. At the time, I had no plans to stay on, but by the end of the term, I decided to return, and here I am!

Have boys changed much over the years?

In some ways, yes. Students, in general, are more impatient today. This generation seeks immediate gratification and seems less willing to work for the long-term benefits of education. They are always looking for short cuts and the easier route. I think it is part of the culture now and the technological revolution. In many ways, however, the lads have similar goals, dreams, and conflicts as those who came before them.

You're known as being a pretty demanding teacher.

There are probably quite a few boys who didn't like what they had to endure in my classes! But Jefferson said that "In matters of style, flow like the tide; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." I think most of my students would say that I was tough, but fair. I demanded much from them as seniors, but gave many opportunities for them to find success. I think most would also say that they acquired many skills and character traits that helped them in college, their careers and their lives. A great deal of time and effort was spent each year in teaching good study skills, organization of time and materials, and responsibility for actions and decisions. Extra credit was always available, but it had to be taken throughout the grading period (like an insurance policy). Trying to get insurance after the accident (the end of

the grading period) doesn't fit with real life. To many students this structure and discipline came easy and early. Others took sometime. A few resisted to the end. But I think most benefited from this approach in the long run. PAD, as the course was known for many years, had a certain aura about it. Seniors talked about it as if it was boot camp, and they loved to pass on the tales of horror to the underclassmen. But there was also certain camaraderie in the class, reflected by a comment on one former student's notebook: "*Shared suffering brings camaraderie.*"

The real test comes several years after graduation when we begin to hear from the former students. As I have said, you cannot evaluate a Lamaze course on the final night of class—the baby hasn't been born yet! We have to give them *time* to evaluate what they have *learned* and how they have been *taught*.

What memorable experiences will you treasure from your career?

It's special anytime I hear from a former student who tells me that he took something positive from my class. I will remember times I was visited by an alumnus with his children. Anytime boys stop by to see me or write to tell me that I affected them in a positive way, it is a treasured moment. I have also had the experience of teaching side by side with several former students, like Jim O'Malley, and that has been great. What I was waiting for, as a signal to retire, was a second-generation cadet (a son of one of my former students), but alas, time runs out.

Have your teaching methods changed much over the years?

I have every lesson plan book from every year since I began teaching. I don't use the same material every year, but I like to go back to see what worked in one year or another. I also reject things that don't work. So my methods change each year.

How would you like to be remembered?

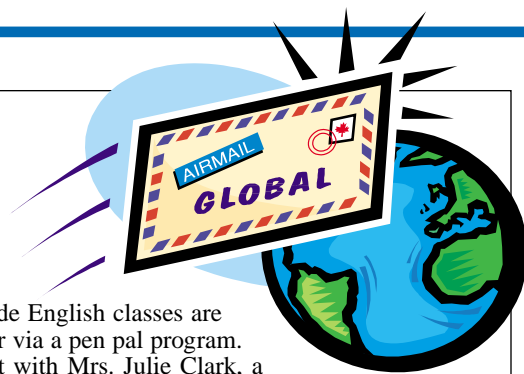
Memorials and commemoratives make me uncomfortable. My legacy at FAA is the students I have taught or influenced, hopefully in a positive way. I am looking forward to retirement. I am sure I will miss the lads, the faculty and staff, and even the halls that I have walked for parts of six decades, but...I have a garden to tend...grandchildren to spoil...hobbies to renew...good books to read...and a husband of forty years to enjoy. How would I like to be remembered? By the words of St. Paul that I write on the chalkboard at the end of every year:

I have fought a good fight...

I have finished my course...

I have kept the faith. ■

FAA's 7th Grade Pen Pals



Florida Air Academy's seventh grade English classes are getting a taste of the Midwest this year via a pen pal program. "Through the Internet, I made contact with Mrs. Julie Clark, a sixth grade teacher at Medicine Valley Elementary School in Curtis, Nebraska. We agreed that our students needed more practice with writing, and that one good way to accomplish this was through the exchange of letters between students. Both groups were first taught how to write friendly letters and envelopes correctly," said Ms. Melissa Grant, the Academy's junior high English teacher. Then the fun began. Mrs. Clarke's students wrote "Dear Pen pal" letters to FAA's seventh grade classes. Each cadet received a letter and wrote back. The exchange has grown to include pictures, brochures of local attractions, and other items of interest.

Curtis, Nebraska is a town with a population of around seven hundred people, and Medicine Valley Elementary School has 285 students. FAA's seventh grade cadets have been fascinated by the differences between their lives and the lives of their pen pals. "They go ice skating and I go scuba diving. They throw snow balls and I throw sand balls!" says **Cadet Doug Ford**. This fascination was reciprocated by the students in Nebraska. "They found it really interesting to learn the differences between Nebraska and Florida and the differences between a public and private school," says Mrs. Clark. Of course, among the differences, the students found many things in common, and they exchanged opinions on everything from music to movies to weekend fun. "It was fun to see what kids our age from other parts of the US enjoy doing for fun and the music they like," remarks one Nebraska student.

Making new friends and improving student writing has made this pen pal program a real success! It is Ms. Grant's hope that more seventh grade cadets, and perhaps cadets in other grades, will have the opportunity in future years to meet new friends through letter writing. ■

SACS ACCREDITATION VISIT, FEB. 25-28

Speaking the glowing report of the accrediting team from the Florida Council of Independent Schools that visited two months earlier, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) team praised the programs, staff, and students of Florida Air Academy. LTC DeRegnaucourt expressed pride in "the teamwork and effort expended by the faculty and staff during the writing of the self-study."

As always, the corps of cadets played an integral role in this process. In the preliminary survey, they answered questions thoughtfully, insightfully, and constructively, which earned accolades from the visitors. The committee commended the self-study, as well as the "degree to which administrators and teachers alike emphasized to the students the meaning and importance of answering seriously the questions on the opinion surveys." The evaluators were also impressed by the Academy's inclusion of all members of the school community in the development of the Mission and Beliefs Statement. Especially noteworthy, according to the committee report, were "the numerous opportunities for students to improve their academic situation through the after school help program, mandatory study halls, and the use of an Academic Tactical Officer." The committee also commended the optional tutoring program offered at FAA.

Among the committee's recommendations were that the Academy continue to support its emphasis on "mutual respect and personal responsibility" by surveying members of the Melbourne community about the school. The group also recommended annual reviews of the Mission and Beliefs Statement, "so that it remains a guiding principle to the faculty and the student body."

The accreditation process requires a visit every five years by a committee comprised of faculty and administrators from other schools. The committee spends several days on campus, and uses the school's "self-study" as a guide in making commendations and recommendations as part of a formal report. Accreditation from both the FCIS and SACS assures families that their sons are enrolled in a school of the highest quality. In order to be an accredited school, FAA must meet and maintain high standards of instruction, facilities, and safety. ■

FAA FLIGHT PROGRAM

The flight program is progressing into the final months of the school year, and all those enrolled are working hard to complete the phase they are currently in before the end of May.

The cadets presently in the short courses, Junior Wings, Flight Proficiency, and Phase One, will receive certificates at the end of the year awards ceremony. Many cadets are setting their sights for completion of Phase Two and Three during the summer session.

Cadet Robert Tobin recalls the feeling of accomplishment in his recent phase completion. "The real challenge in flight training is facing the realization that your life is in your own hands. There is an instructor sitting beside you, but you still feel a huge responsibility as a pilot in training." **Cadet Eric Cichosz** agrees. "The instructor gradually gives you more and more control, until you are finally ready to solo." Cadet Cichosz describes his first solo flight as, "peaceful and calm, though there was a little wind that day. The instructor constantly tells you to turn into the down wind. I have an indelible, mental picture of the exact moment I turned into the down wind during my first solo flight."

The two cadets in Junior Wings, **Dane Wright** and **Brian Smith**, have only a few flights left to finish up. Flight Proficiency Cross Country, **Adam Girling**, **Andrew Sukhu**, **Nikita Tumma**, and **David Ferguson** are about half way through the course and will be flying every week in order to complete the program before the end of the year. **David Gratvol** and **Jeffrey Kralovec** are in Flight Proficiency Take Off and Landings, both at the tail end of the course.

Phase One currently consists of **Stephan Bacardi**, **Lonnie Bascome**, **Justin Shaak**, **Brandon Weiss**, and **Marcus Williams**. These cadets are all over half way through Phase One.

Phase Two is the longest phase, and the cross country portion is where weather becomes critical. The ten cadets in this phase (**Michael Feria**, **Ryan Rennie**, **Elliott Segall**, **Gary Hugh**, **Andrew Semeyko**, **Alexander Henley**, **Bryan Harris**, **Eric Cichosz**, **Carlos Venturini**, and **Rodney Baum**) have a lot of flying to accomplish in a short time.

Our only Phase Three student, **Joe Williams**, will be joining **Leron Burrows** and **Byron Ferguson** by completing Phase Three in the very near future.

The flight banquet, scheduled for May 3, honors all the cadets who participated in the flight program this year. ■

FHSAA CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

FALCONS CAP PERFECT YEAR

31-0 FAA captures state title

By Barbara Caywood
FLORIDA TODAY

LAKELAND — Ah, perfection!

Florida Air Academy completed a perfect season Friday, defeating Fort Lauderdale Westminster Academy, 56-51, to win the Class 3A boys' basketball state championship game at The Lakeland Center.

More, 4D-5D

■ FAA is the first Brevard boys' basketball team to finish a season undefeated.

■ Notebook, box score.

ball team ever to go undefeated and only the third in state boys' basketball history.

"I knew from the start we would win some games, but I didn't expect this," Florida Air's first-year coach Aubin Goporo said. "I never thought about going undefeated."

But senior Alvin Cruz did.

"I told Israel (shooting guard Pizzaro) last summer my goal was not to win a state championship, but to go undefeated," said Cruz, who led the Falcons with 21 points. "He said it was impossible, but I told him, 'If you believe it, it will happen.'"

The loss ended a 23-game on-court win streak for Westminster, who had to forfeit 27 victories for using an ineligible player. Their official record finished at 8-28.

"This was a classic game between two teams who were champions," Westminster coach Buddy Pressley said. "Both teams played their hearts out. Somebody had to lose and we came up a little short."

It was the Falcons' second state title in four years. The first was in 1998.

The 31-0 Falcons, who were ranked No. 1 in the state from start to finish, are the first Brevard County high school basket-



Florida Air led the entire first half, going to the locker room at intermission with a 27-21 lead. But, Westminster, showing the heart Pressley spoke about early in the third quarter, pulling even at 29-29 with 5 minutes, 31 seconds to go.

That's when Cruz took over. He scored 10 points in the final 5:06 and that, coupled with a 3-pointer by Pizzaro, gave Florida Air a 42-32 lead after three quarters.

"I started penetrating because my jump shots weren't going in,"

Cruz said. "I went inside to get points."

Westminster wouldn't go away. After Cruz drew his fourth personal foul with 6:11 to go in the final quarter, the Lions outscored FAA 13-4 and took their first lead of the game, 49-48, with 1:49 remaining.

"I never considered taking Alvin out," Goporo said. "He's our only true point guard. I told him, 'You have four fouls, but you're staying in. Don't touch anybody.' He played the entire game and he got

at little tired at one point. That's when they came back, but I couldn't take him out."

After Westminster took the lead, Florida Air forced several turnovers but failed to convert, missing five shots in a row.

Enter Andy Gonzalez. The 6-3 guard who was battling a cold and was saddled with three fouls, had only two points, both on free throws.

Gonzalez made back-to-back layups — both after Westminster

turnovers — to back in front by t he stole the ball a with 30 seconds r

With the thro poro put the ball s sure-handed Cru twice and made 3 to boost the lea seconds to go.

In the wani minster's Helgi bank shot from t bounced away an

FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY WINS STATE TITLE

AR



Gonzalez kept team focused

Baseball star didn't want loss

By Barbara Caywood
FLORIDA TODAY

LAKELAND — Andy Gonzalez knew about losing a state championship.

He wanted to make sure his Florida Air Academy teammates didn't experience it, too.

Gonzalez was a sophomore on the FAA baseball team that went to the Class 3A state championship game in 1999.

Thursday night, at the team hotel here in Lakeland, Gonzalez called each of his teammates in their rooms.

"I told them, 'If you want to know what it feels like to lose a championship, ask me. Everybody told us we were going to win that baseball championship so we started celebrating too early. Don't waste this opportunity. Go to bed by 10, get your rest and think about the game.'"

Teammates heeded Andy's advice and the result was the first perfect high school basketball season in Brevard County history and only the third in boys' state tournament history. The others were Kissimmee Osceola (1983) and Bradenton Southeast (1995).

"That was just great leadership that came from Andy," Florida Air coach Aubin Goporo said.

Gonzalez also knew how to win a championship. Last summer he won a ring in a *Baseball America* National Tournament.

He gave Goporo the ring to wear during the basketball season. The words on the ring grew more prophetic as the Falcons headed to their 31-0 record.

Inscribed on the ring is the name of the baseball tournament Gonzalez and his team won: The Perfect Game Tournament.

Maybe the Falcons' basketball championship rings will say "The Perfect Season."



put the Falcons three points. Then, and called time out remaining.

ee-point lead, Go in the hands of the z. He was fouled 3 of 4 from the line to 55-49 with 17

g seconds, West-Magnusson tried a the baseline, but it d 6-10 Sergei Kra-

savtsev snatched the rebound for Florida Air.

With the final seconds ticking away, the Falcon players started a wild on-court celebration, but an official called a foul on the Lions with one second to go.

After the floor was cleared, Pizzaro made 1 of 2 free throws for FAA and the Falcons were assessed a technical foul for coming on the floor before the game was over.

Jan Fikiel made the two meaningless technical free throws. Fi-

nally, the celebration began in earnest.

"This is one of the best feelings in the world," Pizzaro said. "Nobody is more happy than me. We are history right now."

And perfect.

Florida Air Academy would like to thank Barbara Caywood for her great coverage of the 3A boys' basketball state championship game.

FLORIDA AIR (56): Alvin Cruz 9 3-4 21, Israel Pizzaro 2 3-5 9, Sergei Krasavtsev 2-2 2, Andy Gonzalez 2 2-2 6, Max Shanin 2-2 2, Evguenii Sokolov 5 0-1 12, Juan Mendez 2 0-0 4. Totals 20 12-16 56.

WESTMINSTER (51): Nick Lambert 3 1-2 7, Helgi Magnusson 4 4-7 12, Mike Von Bronkhorst 2 2-2 6, Jakob Sigurdarson 4 1-2 10, Jan Fikiel 4 6-6 15, Nate Hughes 0 1-2 1. Totals 17 15-21 51.

Florida Air	13	14	15	14	—	56
Westminster	10	11	11	19	—	51

3-point goals: Florida Air 4 (Pizzaro 2, Sokolov 3), Westminster 2 (Fikiel, Sigurdarson). **Rebounds:** Florida Air (Krasavtsev 5), Westminster 21 (Magnasson 6). **Fouls:** Florida Air 19, Westminster 16. **Fouled out:** Mendez (FA). **Technical fouls:** Florida Air team. **Records:** Florida Air 31-0, Westminster 8-28.

COACH TYSON 100TH VICTORY

Captain Chaplain Norris Burkes

Featured Speaker at the March 13 Assembly

The Corps of Cadets welcomed Captain Chaplain Norris Burkes, USAF, as the featured guest speaker on March 13. FAA Color Guard began with the unveiling of the colors. Color Guard member, **Cadet Joe Tello** smiled as he said, "These assemblies are good practice for us. Performing on our campus keeps us sharp because our home audience knows exactly what we are supposed to do and will recognize even a slight error – not that we'd ever make an error." Drum & Bugle Corps members **Cadets Peter Sckipp and Brian Greer** "like to perform at home on the FAA campus. "We do a lot of community events where we are well received," said Sckipp, "but our fellow cadets are still our best supporters." "And the faculty," interjected Greer. Both cadets agree that their number one fans are, of course, their parents.

Captain Chaplain Norris Burkes' topic related to character education, which has been a focus of the Academy's JROTC Department this year. Beginning with reminiscences of his youth in JROTC, Chaplain Burkes asked the boys in attendance about their behavior, and how it changes in the presence of others. "What do you do when no one is looking?" he inquired. Rhetorical questions throughout his talk most surely will provoke introspection among the cadets. Removed from parents and peers, who are you? Do you say you are one thing, and then act differently? Do you try to be someone you are not? After the assembly, several cadets thanked Chaplain Burkes for his speech.

Cadet Joseph Rodriguez (class of 2001) stated that the assembly, "made me review my past and look to the future. Where do I want to go? What will I do to get there?" Cadet Rodriguez, "enjoyed the personal stories Chaplain Burkes shared," and would like to express appreciation on behalf of the Cadet Corps to LTC Clark and SGT Simmons for organizing an inspiring afternoon! ■

Falcon Baseball Coach Wayne Tyson achieved a milestone recently, with his 100th victory at FAA in only his fifth year. A man of faith who prays before meals and whose values are apparent to all who know him, Coach Tyson declares his priorities to be "God, family, and Falcon baseball" in that order. He shared his thoughts about baseball, family, and life with the "Falconian" in a recent interview.

Falconian: Reaching win #100 versus Melbourne High School in a comeback win must have made the achievement even more special.

Coach Tyson: It sure did. The character the kids showed in coming back like they did was great. They proved they had a lot of heart. You always like to win like that.

F: Looking back at your first 100 wins at FAA, do any games stand out in your mind?

T: The regional win against Clearwater Central Catholic in 1998. It was another one of those gut-wrenching, come-from-behind wins in extra innings, and was very memorable. I'll also remember the state final victory that same year, when we won on a wild pitch in the final inning, in yet another comeback.

F: You must have coached some great talent over the years. What about the over-achievers?

T: You always love those guys, those over-achievers. No one believes they can play the game, and they work hard and they do. Ricky Gomez, my first year, is a good example of what I mean—he was just tremendous. He went to Wallace State Community College (AL), and then on to Birmingham Southern.

F: Your coaching experience must have produced an unusual or funny moment in a game or practice. Anything you can share?

T: This is tough, because something like that happens just about every day in baseball. But we were stretching before practice one year, the week of the state playoffs, and there was this cadet who was in the outfield flying his remote-controlled plane. Anyway, he started "buzzing" the team, you know, flying the plane real low over the players. I headed over toward him to tell him to knock it off, and right then that plane did a long, vertical nosedive right into our field, and shattered into a million pieces! I've never heard a baseball team laugh as loudly as our guys did that day.

An unusual thing I won't ever forget happened in the fifth inning of the state title game in 1998. I had made a pitching change, and on the way back to the dugout, I noticed



a penny on the ground, near the baseline. I'm not a superstitious man, but for some reason I picked it up and gave it to Coach Mayer, and told him "Gallo Salgado is going to win it for us." Of course, we did win the game and the title, and a poem was born:

Whether legend or myth,
Their doubts were many,
But were gone in the fifth
When I found this penny.

F: Who are your role models?

T: My dad taught me to give it my best all the time, and to do well in the basics. Ernie Rosseau, my boss at Brevard Community College, was a mentor for me. Steve Mayer's leadership qualities have been a positive influence. Of course, my mother keeps me out of trouble, and keeps score for the team!

F: How has your faith in God affected your career?

T: The morning of the State Junior College Championship game, when I coached at BCC, I went to mass. I started to pray for victory, and then decided that wasn't right. Instead, I prayed for the wisdom and strength to accept the outcome, no matter what. My faith enables me to find answers, to persevere when things get tough, whether on or off the field.

F: So what lies ahead for Coach Tyson?

T: I hope that ten years from now, baseball will still be a part of my life. I hope that my family will continue to be healthy and happy. I wouldn't be here without the support, love, and sacrifice of my wife Kathryn and my daughters Sarah and Hannah. Baseball is a part of my life, but not the most important thing in my life. It is my way of relating to people and a way to deal with life. ■

THANK YOU!

James Dwight, President and Ms. Deborah Dwight, Vice President would like to extend a heart-felt "Thank you!" to all the friends and family of Florida Air Academy for your contributions and efforts that made this year's International Festival a booming success. ■

A Special Thank You To:

Susanne Hoss, FAA Activities Director
Phyllis Parsons
Beverly Dunkley
Audrey Forte
Jennifer Kawass
Beverly Coley
Marcia King
Carroll Warren Bouchier
Willamae Cunningham
Hazel Wells
Mr. Green

The Reitman Swiss Family
The Fishman Family
The Calabro Family
The Wojcik Family
The Gentles Family
Carolyn Torres

The Edelweiss (German Restaurant)
Miyako (Japanese Restaurant)
Middle Eastern Aromas (Lebanese Restaurant)
Nikki's Rainbow Restaurant (Greek)
Q-Tee the Clown
JonesWho?

Ms. Tami "Kaliko" Lewis (Hawaiian Revue)
Frank Lutz (Steel Drum Dancer)
Clogging Rhythm Unlimited
Linda Shapley and the Chartwell Staff
Staff and Faculty
Miguel Gonzalez, John Llado, Phillip Parsons, Chris Wheatley, David Clementina



From Russia with . . . Memories

The diversity of backgrounds among the students at Florida Air Academy is one of our great strengths. Different languages, cultures, customs, and even physical appearance all contribute to the mosaic known as the corps of cadets. Three predominate figures on the Florida Air Academy campus during the past three years are known to their fellow cadets and the FAA staff as simply Sergei, Yevgeny, and Max. Arriving in Melbourne from Russia in Fall 1998, these gentlemen have not only been a physical presence at our school, but they have been contributing members of the Florida Air Family, as well. Now, as they approach graduation and going their separate ways, Cadets Sergei Krassavtsev, Yevgeny Sokolov, and Maxim Shanin took the time recently to reflect on their lives in Russia, their friendship, and their past three years in the United States, as well as a glimpse of what they believe the future holds for them.

All three gentlemen hail from the Moscow area: Sergei is from the city of Moscow, Max's home is on the outskirts of that city, and Yevgeny lives a few hours away in the city of Ivanovo, the capital of his region of Russia. Sergei is an only child, Yevgeny's brother Vasia is a twenty-one year old student at the Medical University of Ivanovo, and Max has a ten-year-old sister named Anastasia. All three gentlemen have embraced their new friends here in Melbourne, but only going home once a year heightens missing their families in Russia. They also agree that life here is somewhat different from that in their native land. As opposed to the single-family dwellings so common in the United States, Russian families, including those of Sergei, Yevgeny and Max, are more likely to follow the European practice of living in apartments. They say that approximately 60% of Russian families own a car, but the need for a family car is less in their country than in the United States because the mass transit system of busses, subways, and trains is widespread throughout the country. Shopping in Moscow and the outlying areas is done much as it is in the U.S. While there are individual stores for meat, bread, vegetables, and milk, there are also large supermarkets similar to ones found in the States, so there is a similar choice in both countries when one makes a trip to buy groceries. Yevgeny astutely pointed out that the choice of what to prepare is usually a question of who is doing the cooking. In his family, that person is his father, who enjoys preparing a wide variety of dishes from all over the world. Max's mother is the chef in his family, and she prepares dinners in a more



FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY

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FAA Cadets Win Recognition at Art Exhibit

The Eleventh Annual Student Art Exhibition was held May 11, 2001, at the Brevard Art Museum. Students from both private and public schools throughout Brevard County were invited to compete. A selection process was held before students were accepted into the show. The number of entries was based on each school's enrollment. Florida Air Academy entered six pieces of artwork, of which five were accepted. Three of these entries were winners!

Florida Air swept the three-dimensional division. Senior, Jonathan Rosman, received an Honorable Mention for his life-size sculpture, "The Answers to the Universe are on the Ceiling". Jonathan, also received a third place award for his wire sculpture, "Imagination Bound". Tenth grader, Calix Smith, placed first for his paper and metal relief sculpture, "Fathers of Africa". Both students received gift certificates in addition to their ribbons and recognition.

Wendy Mack, Senior High art teacher at Florida Air, received the Curator's Award for Excellence in Art Education, as well. ■

FAA SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Florida Air Academy is committed to excellence in education, and one of the most important things we can do, both as educators and parents, is to encourage our young people to read. Reading helps improve spelling, vocabulary, writing skills, reading comprehension skills, and gives students a chance to experience new people, places, and ideas.

For these reasons, the English Department requires each cadet to read the assigned book or books listed for his assigned grade. Each cadet will be required to answer questions on a test and/or write an essay about their book(s) during the first weeks of school, so it is critical that each student read the book(s) before they arrive at Florida Air. If your son is enrolling in an Advanced Placement English class, it will be especially important that he read the assignments carefully.

If you have any questions about the reading assignments, please feel free to contact the school by phone 723-3211.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE READING LIST BY GRADE:

- **7TH GRADE**
Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs
- **8TH GRADE**
Slam! By Walter Dean Myers
- **9TH GRADE**
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keys
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque
- **10TH GRADE**
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- **11TH GRADE**
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Mockingbird by Walter Tevis
- **11TH GRADE *Advanced Placement***
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Mockingbird by Walter Tevis
Future Shock by Alvin Toffler
- **12TH GRADE**
Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
- **12TH GRADE *Advanced Placement***
Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

traditional, course-oriented fashion of soup, followed by a main dish, usually of meat and potatoes. Sergei says that he prepares some of his own meals mid-day, but that his mother is the one who prepares the evening meal, with the overall style of eating in his family more like that with which we are familiar here in the United States. All three gentlemen agree that getting used to a weekend “brunch” was a challenge. They arrived here more accustomed to a small European-style breakfast of rolls and coffee, followed by larger mid-day and evening meals, so the idea of rolling two meals into one took some getting used to! Overall, though, they say that the adjustment to the lifestyle here in the U.S. was not difficult.

The force that brought Krassavtsev, Sokolov, and Shanin to Florida Air Academy was one which they say they could not have invented in the farthest reaches of their imaginations. There are no high school teams *per se* in Russia. Rather, athletes play for local clubs, and Max’s father was the coach of his local club. Then, the best players in each of the clubs come together on a common team to represent their region in the national tournament. Because it was a weeklong playoff, the three gentlemen had a chance to get to know each other briefly in the hotel and on the court. Max and Yevgeny still take great pride in the fact that their team won that tournament, taking home the Russian National Championship for their regional team. That same year, during a summer camp that essentially showcased the best players in Russia, Europe, and Africa - much as our all-star games do here in the United States - Sergei, Yevgeny, and Max met again briefly, never dreaming that just a few months later they would find themselves playing for the same team. . . . in a foreign country that was thousands of miles from their homes and families.

Like other students who come to our school from distant lands, Sergei, Yevgeny, and Max had to learn a new language and culture . . . and they were expected to learn it quickly enough to be able to function in English, both in the classroom and on the basketball court, almost immediately. All three of these gentlemen from Russia credit their teachers, coaches, and friends for making their own transition to this country easier, and they have tried to give back some of what

they say that they have received. The contributions made by these three men is known to all in the Florida Air Academy community. Obviously, their membership on, and participation in, the Varsity Basketball Team, will be remembered by cadets and staff long after they and their teammates have graduated. In addition, they have mentored other young men from their homeland, assisting them in the adjustment which they themselves experienced. All three say that they leave FAA with positive memories of teachers, friends, and the 2001 State Basketball Championship.

Their plans for the future closely mirror one another’s. They all hope to attend a four-year university in the United States and, if possible, play professional basketball in either the U.S. or Europe. Yevgeny has already been accepted to Arkansas State University on a full scholarship, and he will major in art, his first love after basketball. Max and Sergei are undecided as to where they will attend college, but Max is certain that he wants to major in International Business and possibly do graduate work at the London School of Business Administration.

When given an opportunity to “tell our teachers and fellow cadets something that they might not previously have known,” the responses were diverse. Sergei paused, then preferred to remain private. Yevgeny thought for a moment and responded, “What you see is who I am. . . . My life is good, so I focus on that instead of any negatives. I may have ‘down’ times, but I choose not to show them.” Max philosophically left us with this view of life: “The three years here have been like riding a bicycle. Your life is the path you take with the bicycle, and the knowledge you gain along the way are the stones and other things that you are able to reach down and pick up from the path as you are riding. Whatever you can reach and grab is an experience you can use in your life. What you cannot reach is a missed opportunity.”

Sergei, Yevgeny, and Max, like each student who crosses the threshold at Florida Air Academy, leave their own unique marks on our school. To all of our students we say “Thanks for what you have brought to us.” To the three gentlemen from Russia, we say Thank you and good luck. ■

Spanish Students Taste Authentic Spanish Cuisine

by Cadet T. Lucas

On Friday, March 16th, Senior Pareja took six outstanding Spanish students to the Fiesta Azteca Restaurant. Though it could not compare to Senior Pareja’s famed barbecued chicken and homemade salsa, the food was both delicious and filling. From combination platters to a la carte choices, the selections and rich taste of the food was surpassed only by the company and conversation at the table. The Spanish atmosphere and cuisine reminded cadets that learning a foreign language is about learning how to function and be comfortable in another environment. With the success of this trip, Major Pareja is working on future trips and hopes to enable more students to participate in this kind of experience. ■