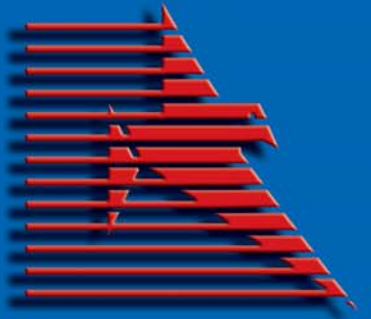


# FALCONIAN



SPRING 2005



Prospective female cadets visit F.A.A. for a day.

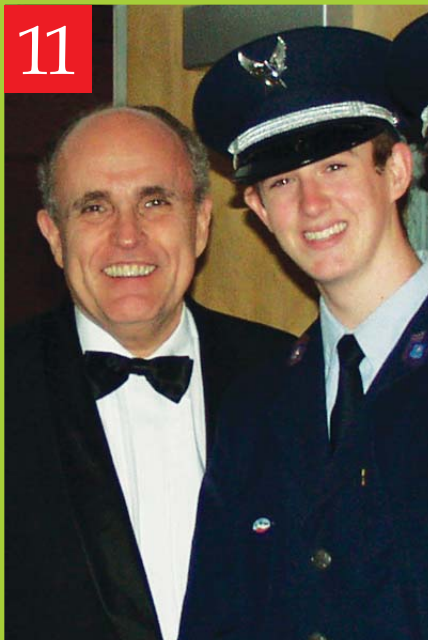
Going  
Co-Ed:  
F.A.A Gets  
Ready!  
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**Drum and Bugle Corps  
Perform at Universal Studios**

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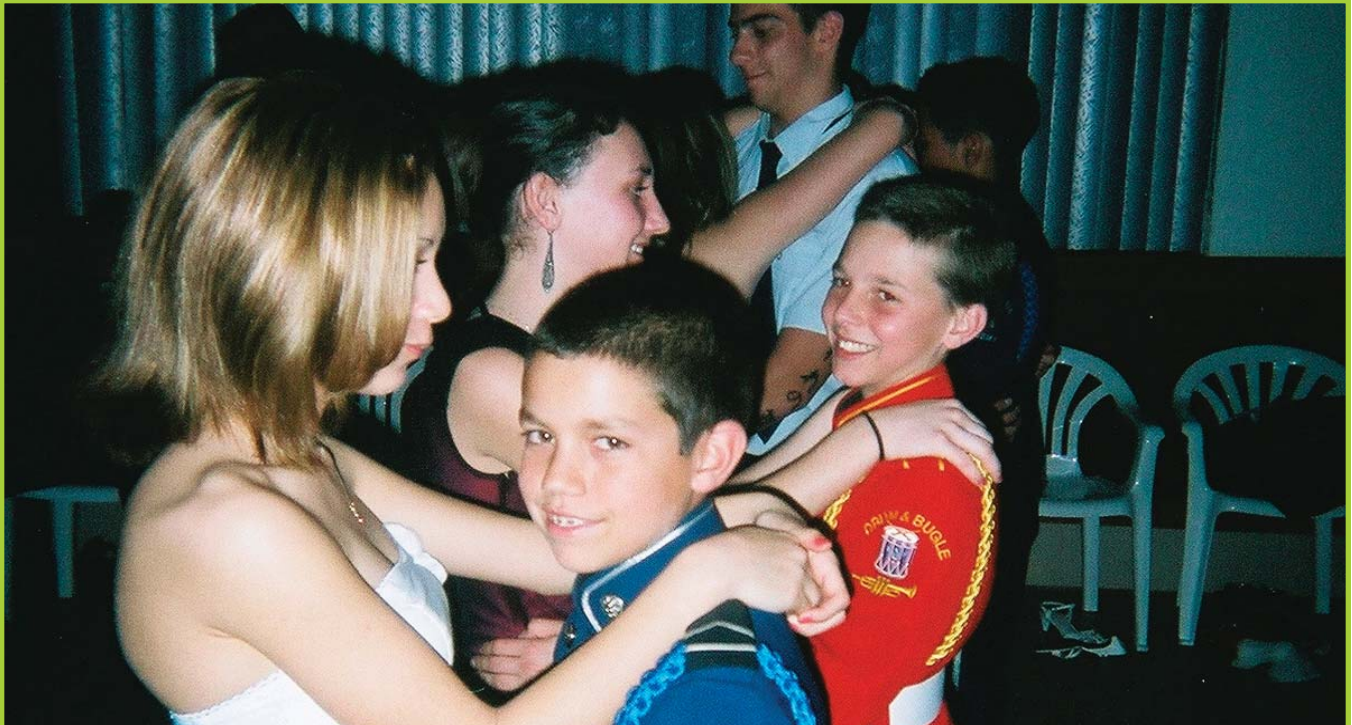
# ‘Shadowing Day’

— AT FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY



On Monday January 17, the F.A.A. community got a taste of what it will be like to have girls on campus when 22 young ladies visited the campus for the day. The young ladies ‘shadowed’ male cadets by visiting their classes with them, experiencing first-hand what F.A.A. is like. Coming from as far away as New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the girls thoroughly enjoyed their day, which included lunch in the F.A.A. dining hall. The girls were especially impressed by the quality of the teachers, and the manners of the male cadets! As the day ended, many of the young ladies were heard to exclaim that they wished they could start at F.A.A. right away and not have to wait until fall! ■

# F.A.A. Highlights



**Winter 2004**

Cadets enjoy themselves at the Winter Dance.



Accompanied by his helper, Miss Geneva Kilfoy, Santa arrived on schedule at the annual Holiday Cookie Party. Thanks to all the parents who baked hundreds of home-made cookies for the cadets and staff to enjoy!



# TIME FOR CHILDREN'S CLINIC

Last month Art Teacher Wendy Mack and a group of FAA cadets volunteered many hours to paint a beautiful mural to brighten the Nemours Children's Clinic in Orlando.

Clinic Coordinator Tom Toman complimented the cadets on their "perfect manners, respect and courtesy" while they were there. Congratulations to cadets Tadas Bulotas, Andre de Sousa, Corby Fox, Sean Koppernaes, Juan Melendez, Tom Morgan and John Romero!



Cadet Kyle McDaniel is spearheading efforts at F.A.A for Tsunami Relief.

# F.A.A. HELPS TSUNAMI VICTIMS

— BY CADET KYLE MCDANIEL

In the aftermath of the deadly tidal wave that struck south Asia on December 26, 2004, various clubs and organizations have come together and planned a series of fundraisers to assist with the rebuilding of much of south Asia. These organizations include the National Junior Honor Society, and leading the fundraising efforts, the Politically (In)Correct Club. We are trying to reach our goal of \$7,000. Among these fundraisers were raffles, a movie night, selling roses at the school dance, and many other events. With the help of the entire school we are rebuilding lives on the other side of the world one penny at a time.

# Going Co-Ed: FAA Gets Ready

"Shadowing" female cadets get some tips from Drum and Bugle Corps Director Frank Catalano.



Preparations are well underway for the historic moment in the fall of 2005 when Florida Air Academy admits its first female cadets. We have received over 100 inquiries from parents of girls interested in coming to F.A.A., and over 20

have actually enrolled, even though (as "The Falconian" goes to press) it's only mid-February! We would encourage our returning cadets to get their re-enrollment contracts in as soon as possible, as we anticipate waiting lists due to the influx of female cadets.

Many things are being done at

the Academy to "get ready." Last month all of the teachers participated in a "Going Co-Ed" workshop to discuss their ideas on the kinds of challenges we will be facing. Next month all of the cadets will be doing a series on "Going Co-Ed" in their advisor groups. This will give the boys a

chance to share their feelings on the topic, as well as share ideas on what challenges they foresee. Last week Mr. Skarden Bliss, head of the Florida Council of Independent Schools, met with administrators and teachers to offer his help and insights. Mr. Bliss has previously been a head of schools that have made this transition themselves. And many discussions are being held to plan for changes in the physical plant to best accommodate the young women.

We are fortunate to have on staff Col. William Orris, our new head of the Admissions Department, who has previously been a school head at a co-ed military school. His insights and suggestions are proving invaluable as we work through this process.

Change is exciting, and it can also be challenging. Ms. Deborah Dwight, Vice President of F.A.A., says this: “We are very enthusiastic about the improvements to our program that we believe going co-educational will bring. In this day and age, “life” is co-educational. There are very few all male colleges left, all the service academies are co-ed, and of course the work world is too. Our school mission is to prepare our students for college and the world beyond, so going co-ed makes a great deal of sense. But we want all of our parents and cadets to know that we are doing everything we can to make this transition as smooth and productive as possible. And we encourage feedback during this process!” ■



Col. Vick presents Miles Price with an award for exemplary effort.

## AFJROTC Staff on Campus January 18

The Staff Assistance Visit from Col. Roger Vick on Tues. Jan. 18 was a tremendous success. Less formal and comprehensive than an official AFJROTC inspection, the full-day of activities was nevertheless much anticipated and well-prepared for. Classroom visits and presentations were followed by a military parade on Falcon Field, with Col. Vick as the reviewing officer. Col. Vick was very impressed with our Cadet Corps, and remarked that “Working together as a team is the key to any successful Staff Assistance Visit.” Three cadets were singled out for exemplary effort during the day: Alex von Lignau, Kyle McDaniel, and Miles Price. But it was the efforts of all the cadets and staff that made the day the huge success that it was! ■



# Drum and Bugle Corps Perform at Universal Studios



— BY MR. FRANK CATALANO

In early January our Drum and Bugle Corps were invited to perform in the Universal Studios Macy's type Christmas parade. As the cadets marched throughout the park's parade route you could hear many positive comments from the crowd. Hundreds of park goers

lined the streets and cheered as our D&B Corps helped lead the procession. There is no doubt that our smartly drilled and dressed cadets wowed the crowd.

At the conclusion of the parade, Mr. Moses, the parade organizer, came over to our cadets and told them that they were

sensational. He stated that the park had never had such a fine and unique organization in their parade before. He was so impressed that he also mentioned that our cadets could look forward to an invitation for next year's Christmas parade.

And....to fill the day with that special something, our cadets had a



fun day at the park prior to the parade. Just ask your cadet about the day and you probably will see the smile on his face as he relives the day's events.

Also that weekend, the D&B Corps performed at the FAA flag retreat ceremony during the Admissions Open House. The ceremony concluded with the D&B Corps performing patriotic selections as well as this year's special concert selection "Shenandoah." This was the first time "Shenandoah" was performed and it was well received by the audience. In the middle of the selection, a Baritone Horn Solo was heard, performed by cadet Ryan Abbey. The D&B Corps will perform this selection prior to the Wing's "Pass and Review" at International Festival Weekend. Our Drum Major John Nussbaum conducts the selection, which includes many tempo changes as well as dynamic sections. This is a performance not to be missed! ■

# Admissions Office Update

**W**e are busy on a number of fronts this spring. The International Festival is fast approaching on March 5<sup>th</sup> and we are planning an Admissions Open House on that morning so that prospective families and their students can take part in the festivities. Please invite anyone that you know who may have boys or girls interested in attending Florida Air Academy. The entire Admission Staff will be on hand in the Hall of Flags to register guests, conduct tours and encourage participation in the Festival. In addition, information on both our Summer Session and Fall Semester enrollment will be available. The Admissions Open House would also give our returning cadets an opportunity to benefit from our Refer a Pal Program (RAP) and thereby receive a gift certificate from Best Buy of \$250 for each enrolled new cadet referred.

Young women and their parents are calling our office daily. As of this date, we have had over a hundred inquiries and twenty-five enrollments! And it is still just February!

International recruiting has been very active. We just welcomed Tomas Zapata to our staff. Tomas is a retired Coast Guard Commander and he is busy now traveling to a number of countries. Bill Orris, Carlos Alvarez and Deb Hill have trips planned to the Far East, Trinidad, Dominican Republic, Bahamas and Bermuda. The cultural diversity and unique points of view that these international students add to our school is one of the best things about FAA!

We have begun the reenrollment process this month. Many letters have gone out to our returning cadets and we have already received a number of enrollment contracts for the 2005-2006 school year. The Admissions Staff will be calling returning families soon with reminders to reserve your cadet's spot for next year. With the addition of the female cadets, we expect spots to fill up quickly and to have waiting lists, so don't delay. ■

# FLIGHT UPDATE



The flight program would like to spotlight the school's most recent private pilot, 11<sup>th</sup> grader Scott Vance. Scott reached this achievement during the Thanksgiving break, when most cadets were eating turkey and relaxing. Scott had his work cut out for him that week: he had to fly the 'long cross country', 250 miles long with landings in three different airports, then take his written test. If those two things went well, then he had to have his instructor go over everything he would need to know for his oral test as well as practice all the maneuvers for the practical, or flight, test. Not only did the weather have to cooperate, Scott had to spend long hours in the books as well as with his flight instructor.

No matter how well one is prepared, nothing can keep the nervousness out of your system on the day you meet the examiner. Your future as a pilot seems to be in his or her hands, but of course, just like in school, the examiner never 'fails' you, you fail yourself. Scott went out and showed his examiner what he knew, and after some nerve-wracking hours, walked out with his private pilot's license! That is not the end for Scott: he will continue his flight training this summer.

Cadet Vance is typical of the type of cadet who 'invests' in Florida Air Academy: he played varsity football, is active in Boy Scouts, is on color guard and Kitty Hawk Air Society in JROTC...the more he attempts, the more he excels! If someone applies himself to a goal and does not give up even when it gets frustrating (as it always will!), you can reach your dreams. Scott did, and can now wear his pilot's wings on his uniform with pride. ■

Pictured from left: F.A.A. AFJROTC instructors John Fitzgerald and Steve Hudacek; Cadet Sebastian Wright; Mayor Guiliani; Cadets Miles Price and Joey Smith; AFJROTC Director Ralph Gracia.



# Former N.Y.C. Mayor

— RUDY GUILIANI VISITS MELBOURNE



Wuesthoff Hospital brought in former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani to speak at a gala fundraiser on January 29, 2005, and invited the F.A.A. Color Guard to post the colors for the evening. What a thrill it was for these young men to perform this honor for such a famous and highly respected public figure!

Florida Air Academy president James Dwight serves on the Wuesthoff Health Systems Board of Directors. ■



# 2004 Ring Ceremony

— A SPECIAL EVENT FOR SENIORS



The cake was cut with a sword by Wing Commander Juan Melendez.

On Thursday, December 9, the Senior Ring Ceremony was held in the F.A.A. dining hall. This traditional event, in which the seniors receive their custom-designed Florida Air Academy rings, is full of emotion, and is really the first time that Graduation in May becomes a reality for the seniors to anticipate.

A delicious banquet was served to the seniors and their faculty guests, and then came the cutting of the cake by Wing Commander Juan Melendez, with a sword!

Director of Admissions William Orris gave the evening's address, in which he reminisced about his days at West Point when he received his school ring. A standing ovation followed this stirring speech, and then the high point of the evening began: the distribution of the rings.

F.A.A. Vice President Deborah Dwight remarked that in 13 years she had never seen a group of seniors so excited to receive their rings! ■

# Meet Our New Web Master

Mrs. Louise Orris recently joined Florida Air Academy as the Web Master for the school. OZ Design Studios redesigned Florida Air Academy's site last fall, and now Mrs. Orris is tasked with optimizing the site so that visitors can use it most effectively.

"My main objective is to enhance the site to the extent that when you think 'military school,' you think 'Florida Air Academy,'" says Mrs. Orris. "Since I arrived here, I have been very impressed with the quality of education and the offering of great electives that this school has. Not many military schools offer classes in such areas as art, digital photography, computer programming, and advanced placement calculus, just to name a few. The Florida location makes it an ideal school."

Mrs. Orris went on to explain that a great site, such as [www.flair.com](http://www.flair.com), might not always get the results expected.

"Our website offers a lot of information about the school and shares many visuals with the visitor. However, the site needs to be more visible and that is



Web Master Mrs. Louise Orris

my responsibility. I have researched many methods to get visibility for the site and will implement some of these plans in the next couple of weeks. Also, I want the site to give parents and alumni current information about the school.

What is happening today and what happened yesterday? Our web site should be the source of information for all visitors. Updating it is a never ending job, as you can imagine."

Mrs. Orris works closely with Oz Design to add to and improve the site.

"I feel strongly that this needs to be the forum for student work. There is no better way to demonstrate how strong your school is than by displaying what your students are capable of because of the educational experience they have received." If you haven't looked at the site lately, you'll now see such examples of student art and graphics!

Mrs. Orris is a native of North Carolina and has over fifteen years experience in the educational field. She has attended many seminars in the use of Adobe software such

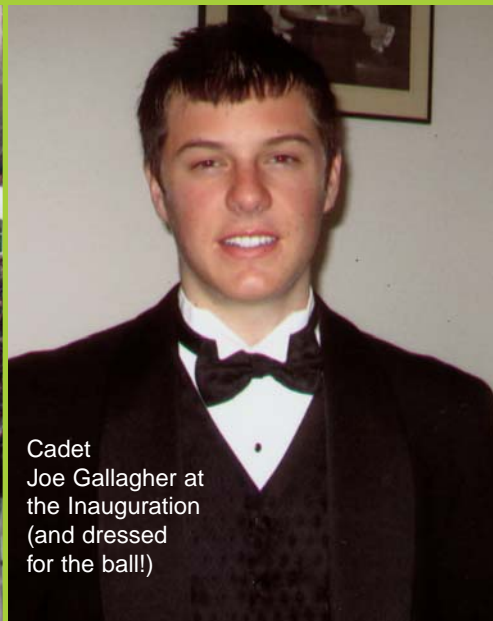
as Photoshop, Illustrator, and PageMaker and is proficient in desktop publishing.

"I like the computer format as opposed to working with hard copy," she states. "I like seeing the immediate results."

Mrs. Orris is a graduate of East Carolina University. She is married to Col. Bill Orris of the Admissions Department, and has two children and one grandchild. She is interested in your feedback on the website, so email her your feedback and suggestions at [lorris@flair.com](mailto:lorris@flair.com)! ■

# Attending The Inauguration

By  
Cadet  
Joe Gallagher



Cadet  
Joe Gallagher at  
the Inauguration  
(and dressed  
for the ball!!)

Every four years, our country comes together to elect a new president, or to reelect the incumbent president. This process is a testament to the democratic state of our country, and everyone's voice is heard with the push of a button or the stamp of a card. January 20<sup>th</sup> marked the second Inauguration of our 43<sup>rd</sup> president, George W. Bush. I had the opportunity of being in Washington D.C. for many of the Inaugural festivities and was able to clearly see democracy in action.

The President's Inaugural Address was just over twenty minutes. In it he highlighted not just some of the goals of his next four years in office, but goals of the American people for the future. The major idea was the concept of ending world tyranny, and helping democracy take a foothold in countries all throughout the world. The President's speech was eloquently spoken and received well by the crowd of thousands who had gathered to honor the historic event.

The Inaugural parade is one of the most anticipated events of the week. It gives everyone a chance to see the President and First Lady. The weather was cold, but that didn't stop them from getting out and making the traditional walk down the last leg of the route to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the trip was the Stars and Stripes Inaugural Ball that I attended. Here, everyone had a chance to celebrate the occasion with dancing and entertainment. The President and Vice President, as well as their lovely wives, made appearances, and graced the crowds with their dancing moves. It was a spectacular evening, and a great way to end a week of celebration.

I am so grateful for the opportunity of visiting our nation's capitol and seeing the historic events that unfolded. So many people throughout the world marvel at our democracy, and we as Americans are so fortunate to be blessed to live in this country. ■

**BASKETBALL TEAM SOARS TO TOP RANKING**



The Florida Air Academy varsity basketball team completed another regular season in sparkling fashion this February. They recorded their third undefeated regular season in five years and again were ranked #1 in class 3A. Coach Goporo's group was able to accomplish this feat again with a smothering defense and a big dose of Walter Hodge (Senior)! Walter finished the regular season as the second leading scorer in Brevard, averaging almost 27 points per game.

The Falcons led the county in team offense and defense and finished the regular season as the state of Florida's only undefeated basketball team. Jerome Burgos (Sophomore) was third in the county in assists averaging 6.9 a game. Hodge led the county in steals averaging 5.4 a game. Walter also made 67 three-point baskets, good for third in the county while teammate Evka Baniulis (Junior) was second with 71. Greg Washington (Senior) finished second in the county with 84 blocks.

As we go to press, the team heads into the state tournament with hopes of winning the school's fourth basketball state championship. Julio Barcia, Dominykas Kvedys, Christian Rivera, and Dane Wright join Hodge and Washington as seniors finishing up their careers at Florida Air Academy this year. Good luck Falcons!! ■

**Advanced to State Tournament for 3rd Consecutive Year!**

The 2005 edition of the soccer team found themselves in a familiar spot, battling MCC for the district title. This year the Falcons pushed MCC to the limit, holding the former state champs to a score of 0-0 well into the second half before eventually losing the championship to the second ranked team in the state. The Falcons advanced to the state tournament and faced Bishop Moore in the regional quarterfinals. Bishop Moore, one of the top teams in the Orlando area, handed the Falcons a hard-fought 1-0 loss.

Florida Air Academy finished their season with a 12-9-1 record, including a 7-3 record in the district. Temiko Wilson was second in the county in scoring and was named second team all-state. Corby Fox also finished among the top scorers in the county. Several seniors finished longtime careers here this year. Corby Fox, Nick Jones, A.J. Mack, Aldo Venturoli, Albert and Anthony Zingariello all will graduate this spring after spending at least four years with our soccer program. We wish them all luck and look forward to another exciting season next year. ■

## FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY

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### CLASS OF '67 LOOKS BACK

Last year when a group of cadets and staff from Florida Air Academy traveled to Germany, they were welcomed and entertained by Mario Schmidt, class of 1967. Mario had some interesting thoughts as he reminisced about his years during the early years of FAA:

“I was at FAA from 1965 til I graduated in May of '67. It was a small-town, laid-back, family atmosphere. My family lived in NYC, and in fact many FAA cadets were from the NY/NJ area. I remember that the local high school girls really seemed to take a liking to the guys from up North, which of course led to some tensions with the local boys from Mel High!

“I was taking flight lessons, so I'd fly on weekends and after school. Back then you could still fly along the coastline, and we flew so low sometimes that we'd scare the surfers off their boards! I learned to drive at FAA, and I remember the car...a heavy, un-agile, slow '58 Chevy!

“After learning German and French and getting a degree in architecture, I got married and settled down in Munich. We have two children, 13 and 20. Now I work for the Merck subsidiary in Munich as the Facility and General Administration Manager.

“Thinking back, I can only say I had a great and valuable time at FAA. We had fun but also did some serious work!” ■

