



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOL XX, JUNE 2013

The Alumni Newsletter is an unofficial news bulletin published in the interest of the Baylor AFROTC Alumni Association. Contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps or Baylor University.

## Det 810 Cadre

**Lt Col Carl D. Wooten**  
Commander  
AS 400

**Maj David J. Lamkin**  
Operations Officer  
AS 100/200/300

**Maj Judy A. Garza**  
Recruiting Flight Commander  
AS 100/200/300

**TSgt Keisha N. Sallee**  
NCOIC, Personnel

**SSgt Nicole L. Powers**  
NCOIC, Knowledge Ops Mgmt

**Mrs. Erica C. Johnson**  
Alumni Relations/Admin Asst.

**Mr. Jonas Powers**  
Uniform Custodian

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## HAILS, FAREWELLS & HAPPENINGS

Greetings, Baylor Nation! Can you believe summer is upon us already? We have much to report this year, but I'd like to start with a remarkable story about three heroes in our midst. On the evening of April 17, 2013 three of our nursing students, **Cadet 1st Lts Quianna A. Samuels, Alison R. Nordlander, and Ashlyn J. McNeely**, had just finished their Air Force ROTC Leadership Laboratory requirements on the Baylor campus and were on their way back to the nursing school in Dallas. While stopped for dinner in West, Texas, a deafening blast shook the air and a mushroom cloud climbed into the evening sky; the result of a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant one mile away. The three immediately rushed to the site on foot and began pulling survivors from the rubble of destroyed buildings, triaging patients, rendering aid, gathering medical supplies and directing evacuation. They spent three hours on scene, putting their training to work and saving lives, while their own health and safety remained threatened by continuing fires and toxic smoke. For their selfless actions all three received the AFROTC Gold Valor Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an AFROTC cadet. Quianna and Alison received their awards from the AFROTC SWR/CC, Col Mark Mattison, during their commissioning ceremony in May, and Ashlyn will receive hers when she returns to the wing in the fall. We anticipate all three will be featured by the USAF Portraits in Courage program this fall. Congratulations, ladies. We are all extremely proud of you!



## Cadre Change



◆ The cadet wing will return to a few new faces in August, as three cadre members depart three new members join us. First, our Operations Officer, **Maj Dave Lamkin**,

leaves this July to be the DO of the 747th Comms Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam, Hawaii. The Cadet Wing will miss his leadership, and we all sympathize with his upcoming “hardship tour.” Mahalo, Dave. A hui hou kakou. In August we’ll welcome Maj Lamkin’s replacement, **Maj Tony Schmidt**. Tony will join us from AFROTC HQ at Maxwell AFB, AL.



◆ Next, **Capt Leonard Sobieski**, our Education Flight Commander, re-joined the Reserve Component this spring, was promoted to Major, and is now the director of

the 47th Flight Support Sq at Laughlin AFB, TX. Best of luck to you in an extremely challenging assignment, Len, and thanks for your dedication to the wing. **Capt Nicholas Head (Baylor '09)** will replace Maj Sobieski in July. Nick joins us from the AF ISR Agency at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Welcome to the team, Nick!

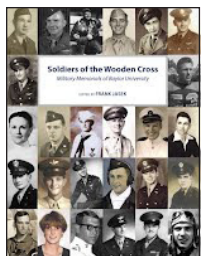


◆ Finally, I must pass command and say goodbye myself, as we travel to Peterson AFB, CO. The detachment is in the very capable hands of **Lt Col James “Jim”**

**Parsons**. Jim is a career weather officer and joins us from a recent tour at the Pentagon. He’s an O-6 select and should pin on his eagles this fall. Welcome to Baylor, Jim; home of the Bear Force!

*Hails, Farewells & Happenings continued on page 2.*

## Mission Complete



◆ Last July we reported on the painting and publishing efforts of **Deacon Frank Jasek ('73)**, a Preservation Specialist at Baylor University, who commemorated approximately 150 Baylor alumni who perished during military service to our nation. We're thrilled to report that, after 10+ years of dedication, Frank's labor of love is complete! A copy of his self-published work now graces our detachment. You can review & purchase a copy of Frank's thoroughly-researched tribute at <http://www.soldierswoodencross.info/home>. The mini-bios are insightful, and it is humbling to read about these Baylor heroes.

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

◆ The Maj Gen Marsh Scholarship Endowment awarded \$1,000 scholarships to five deserving cadets. They are: **Brenna Cole** (Math), **Katherine Cribb** (International Studies), **Caleb Scheller** (Health Science Studies), **Daniel Sessions** (Aviation Sciences), and **Ken Skelton** (Political Science). Many thanks to **Chap Maj Gen Marsh ('51)**, **William DeLoach** and **Rex Kathcart Jr. ('57)**, **Earle Guthrie** and **Ernest Kircus ('59)**, **James Gooch** and **Doug Wendt ('62)**, **Charles Holland ('65)**, **Gary Baker** and **John Gibbs ('68)**, **Gary Praesel** and **Mike Tawney ('73)**, **Jeff Bowles ('83)**, **David Aparicio ('03)**, **Marc Bradle** and **Patrick McSpadden ('04)** for managing the selection process.

◆ Four cadets received Military Officer Association of America scholarships for their outstanding performances during Field Training. **Kathryn Richardson** received \$500, **Paul Schlaudraff** and **Elisse day** each received \$300, and **Irais Ibarra** received \$150. Well done to all, and thanks to



MOAA HOT Chapter for your continued support!

◆ Two cadets earned this year's Capt Larry G. Pitts Scholarships. **Daniel Sessions** (Aviation Science), and **Catherine Weeden** (Chemistry) each received \$2000.

◆ This year's Raynor L. Hebert Scholarship winners were **Andie Bernhardt** and **Anna Yu** (Nursing). Each will receive \$500 for their continued excellent performance. Thanks to all whose contributions made these scholarships possible.

◆ Finally, I'm happy to report another successful AF-ROTC In-College Scholarship Program. This fall and spring nine of our cadets were selected by a national board for scholarships! In total, AFROTC scholarships contributed \$1.2M to Baylor University this year. Congrats to all our winners!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST OFFICERS!

This FY we commissioned 18 new 2d Lts into our Air Force. Best of luck to the following officers as they head to ten different states and four different countries for their first assignments:



**Lucas G. Borg:** Dental School, University of Iowa School of Dentistry

**David D. Brenna:** Cyberspace Operations, Keesler AFB, MS

**William T. DeBerry:** Electronic Warfare Operations, Eglin AFB, FL

**Brendan J. Djernes:** Pilot Training, Vance AFB, OK

**Ashley Hwang:** Space Operations, Cavalier AFS, ND

**Todd B. Johnston:** Combat Systems Training, NAS Whiting Field, FL

**John M. Karim:** Nuclear and Missile Operations Training, Vandenberg AFB, CA

**Cody A. Lee:** Air Liaison Officer, Fort Campbell, KY

**Shane G. Lockridge:** Civil Engineering, Misawa AB, Japan

**Kendra C. McArthur:** Space Operations, Thule AB, Greenland

**Christopher L. Merian:** Nuclear & Missile Ops Training, Vandenberg AFB, CA

**Alison R. Nordlander:** Obstetrics Nursing, Eglin AFB, FL

**Quianna A. Samuels:** Obstetrics Nursing, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA

**LaTraia S. Scott:** Medical School, USUHS, Bethesda, MD

**Jared N. Strickland:** Aircraft Maintenance, Ramstein AB, Germany

**Jaclynne J. Torres:** Personnel, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA

**Serena S. Walker:** Personnel, Ramstein AB, Germany

**Lauren P. Westbrook:** Logistics Readiness, Barksdale AFB, LA

# HOMECOMING AND CAREER DAY

Once again, coupling Career Day and Homecoming proved to be a big success. A huge ‘thank you’ to the **39** active duty and retired officers from twenty different career fields who spent nearly 3 hours talking with the wing about their respective jobs. Without proper funding for base visits, Career Day remains one of the most valuable and informative events this program offers, so I thank you again for your past support and wholeheartedly encourage your future participation. You are all making a difference! If you are planning to be in Waco for Homecoming this November, please consider speaking at our Career Day LLAB. We’d love to hear your experiences. All career fields are welcome, regardless of duty status. We also invite you to be part of the Chaplain Maj Gen Marsh Scholarship selection board, also to be held in conjunction with Homecoming. Tentative AFROTC schedule for Homecoming weekend:

- **18 Oct (1400) – Marsh Scholarship Board (Speight Plaza Bldg – Suite 100)**
- **18 Oct (1630) - Career Day (Russell Auditorium)**
- **19 Oct (0900) – Det 810 Open House (Speight Plaza Bldg – Suite 100)**

This year’s homecoming game is against Iowa State. Kickoff time has not yet been announced, but you should have plenty of time to stop by the detachment before the game. We’d love to see you!

## CADET ACTIVITIES

♦ **Civil Air Patrol Award:** C/AC Joshua Pravel received the General Carl A. Spatz Award, the highest award in the CAP cadet program. Lt Gen Douglas Owens, AETC/CV, presented the award during a well-attended ceremony.

♦ **Field Training:** Sixteen of our sophomore cadets (84% in all) were selected for Field Training this summer. The competition for Field Training enrollment allocations was even greater than last year, resulting in a national selection rate of just 75%. The wing led a very strong FTP program this past year, so we’re expecting some amazing performances from our soon-to-be POC cadets.

♦ **President’s Cup, Texas Field Day, & Other Athletic Endeavors:** Early in the year the wing set goals of improving overall fitness and avenging their losses in our annual inter-service and inter-school competitions. They restructured PT around these goals and worked diligently towards success.



As is often the case, a well-laid and well-executed plan led directly to success. In November, the wing fielded a team for the **Great Brazos Relay**. Team “Bear Force” finished the 120-mile race from Independence to Waco in 17hrs 25 min 20 sec, good enough for 2nd place out of 12 teams.



In March, Air Force regained the **President’s Cup**, narrowly defeating Army ROTC in a very spirited competition. Following this victory, 22 cadets and cadre tackled the **Bearathon**. Twelve were running in their first half-marathon. Of the 22 starters, 100% finished the race! Well done, Air Force!



In April we headed to UTSA, where ACW 810 bested every other AFROTC cadet wing in the state to win the Texas Field Day Competition for the 3rd time in the past 4 years.

### ♦ Distinguished Visitors:

In November, **Lt Gen (ret) Derald Lary (Baylor ’54)** joined us for LLAB and spoke with the cadets about his extensive AF career, including his time as the AF IG. Baylor President Ken Starr even joined us for lunch!



**Brig Gen (ret) Art Cameron** was guest speaker for our Dining Out. A career Aircraft Maintenance Officer, now serving as Director of F-35 Sustainment Strategies, Gen Cameron thoroughly entertained the wing with stories of his career, and of his own days as a cadet at Northern Michigan.

**CMSgt John Snow**, Defense Media Activity SEA, stopped by Baylor to visit his son, but then joined us for LLAB. The Chief discussed the senior enlisted perspective, officer/enlisted relations, and changes to the AF over the past 30 years. It was extremely relevant information for budding officers.



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Please let us know if you will join us for Homecoming activities this October 18th and 19th. We'd love to see you all, learn from your experiences and show off our detachment and Cadet Wing!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Marsh Scholarship board member?  Yes  No  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Participating in Career Day?  Yes  No  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ AFSC/MOS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your continued support of our program, and our future Air Force leaders.!

Chaplain Maj Gen Gerald E. Marsh Scholarship Endowment:  \$10  \$15  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Betterment of the Corps Fund:  \$10  \$15  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can give electronically via <https://www.baylor.edu/give/index.php?id=49837&a=2&c=814>

**Become a Warrior Bear** – The newest Bear Foundation membership level is now available to Baylor Air Force or Army ROTC graduates, or members of the military. Explore the membership benefits at: <http://www.baylor.edu/bearfoundation/index.php?id=96016>



## A FINAL THANK YOU

Another highly successful year has passed, thanks in large part to the support we continue to receive from our wonderful alumni. In addition to generous contributions to the Chap Maj Gen Marsh Scholarship and the Betterment of the Corps Fund, we received a sizeable donation to the cadet wing at large. With the help and permission of the donor we decided to turn the AFROTC Corps Fund into the Betterment of the Corps Endowment. Once fully endowed (\$50,000) it will provide the wing with annual operating funds with which to expand and improve our program. You have been, and continue to be, instrumental to our success. Thank you for all that you do!