

Front and Center



Newsletter Published For the Parents and Friends of the Cadets of Fork Union Military Academy

Color Guard Presents Colors at Annual Gala

Friend of FUMA and Vice Chairman of the Family Foundation of Virginia, David Barrett didn't have to think very long when contemplating who would bring in the colors to mark the beginning of the foundation's annual gala. Fork Union Military Academy.



"We appreciate this, boys. You look good," said Barrett addressing the boys prior to the event. And they did. Arriving at 4:00 for an event starting at 7:00, the boys practiced one way then the other, cleaned up, practiced again, and then combed their hair...again. Having to adjust their march

because of the narrow passages between tables, the cadets worked on it until they could do it just right. "We can do this, noted Marshall Wiley. "No problem."

The start of the event was heralded by the call of "Attention" by Alfonso Dominguez when their presence was announced by the master of ceremonies. The boys marched to the center of the room and presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance and the sing-

ing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Family of Foundation of Virginia's annual gala kicked off the organization's yearly challenge to influence lawmakers and promote candidates and legislation supportive of their Christian values.

The keynote speaker at this year's event was Mike Huckabee, former Governor of Arkansas.



Jared Wines and Merric Mercer enjoy a good meal during the Foundation's annual gala.

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From front right to rear are color guard members Marshall Wiley, Joseph Beckley, Alfonso Dominguez, Merric Mercer, and Jared Wines.

FUMA Celebrates Annual Civics Responsibility Day

Each year FUMA invites local and state government officials, party representatives, candidates and political organizations to participate in its Civics Participation Day to encourage discussion, debate, and participation in our nation's political process.



Rebecca Pick (left) and Michele Sterne pause to pose for a picture.

useful. The questions and the interchanges force us to examine just what it is we believe."

Commonwealth Attorney (Louisiana County), Tom Garrett and State Senator (15th District), Frank Ruff Rep-



Above and left, cadets enjoy discussion, political information, and baked goods from supporters of each party.

The event first began as a voter registration drive at the suggestion of the mother of a former cadet, Rebecca Pick. Pick, the

tives presenting their political beliefs followed by debate. Throughout the day, cadets enjoy discussion, handshaking, and baked goods from supporters of each party. Information about candidates in upcoming elections, stickers, and voter registration are also provided.



James Hemenway (left) and Max Anderson enjoy the debate between party representatives.

Representing the Democrats this year were Fluvanna Co-Chairs Dick Koepsell and Dave Sagarin. "I've enjoyed

resented the Republicans. Garrett noted, "I have been coming since this event first began, and it's getting better each year. I'm thrilled to be a part of the academic growth of these young men. I really love what this place is doing."

11th District Representative for the New Providence Republican Women (NPRW), continues the group's participation six years later.

this event more and more each year," said Koepsell. "I detect a more critical view of the world by this year's cadets than any previously. We look forward to next year." Sagarin added, "I hope you know how much fun this is for us, as well as very

Senator Ruff admitted, "This is what the process is all about, the passionate and thoughtful discussion of the issues important to all of us."

Currently, the event consists of Party representa-



Margaret Brigdin of the NPRW provides stickers and smiles to Cadet Joseph Edwards.

AP Government Students Comment on FUMA's Annual Civic Responsibility Day

This October students were invited to participate in FUMA's annual Civics Responsibility Day. The following are excerpts from responses to the event from several AP Government students.

John Delekt

We all noticed something different walking into the library that morning, to include hanging patriotic flags, two podiums, and political parties standing outside attempting to win our support with food (the quickest way to a cadet's heart).



Fluvanna Democratic Co-Chair Dave Sagarin (left) and Commonwealth Attorney Tom Garrett debate the issues.

When we first began, we were split into two groups to hear from party representatives. After the break, we stuffed ourselves with "propaganda" (aka, brownies) and then switched groups.

After lunch, the debate between the two parties began. The first topic discussed was national health



Fluvanna County Democratic Co-Chairs Richard Koepsell (left) and Dave Sagarin present the views of the Democratic Party.

care. Going first, the Democrats stated that a public option was needed in order to decrease the national debt, while the Republicans argued the

opposite was true. They claimed the only way to decrease that national debt was to stop "reckless spending."

Although each party came out swinging, they ended with friendly handshakes. This was the first time I had ever experienced a political debate, finding it not only informative but also interesting. This ex-

perience was definitely worthwhile.

Tony Romanini

Tom Garrett and Frank Ruff touched on the basic foundations of the Republican Party: free enterprise, fiscal responsibility, faith in God, and a strong national defense. These beliefs were well represented in the discussion and in the debate. It was apparent that these core values were never far from thought when answering questions.

The Democrats, represented by Bob Sagarin and Dick Koepsell, continually stated that the government is us (the people). They discussed how the country should be individuals working for the greater good of the entire nation. This party believes in meritocracy, or the idea that a person is selected to a position based on his specialization or experiences.

Finally, during the debate, we were able to see how a political event works. At times it seemed to get a little heated, which is exactly what I think we were looking for.

Though they disagreed with one another, they did so respectfully and with dignity.



Louisa County Commonwealth Attorney Tom Garrett (left) and State Senator (15th) Frank Ruff Discuss the Republican Party's views of the issues.

Justin Nicholas

Civics Day was an experience that really opened my eyes to American Politics. We were privileged to observe the local Democrats and Republicans debate certain selected topics.

The event made me want to watch a debate between even more powerful people, such as our U.S. Congressmen. Before this, I had taken little interest in politics. Now I find myself shuffling through newspapers or changing TV channels trying to find something related to politics.

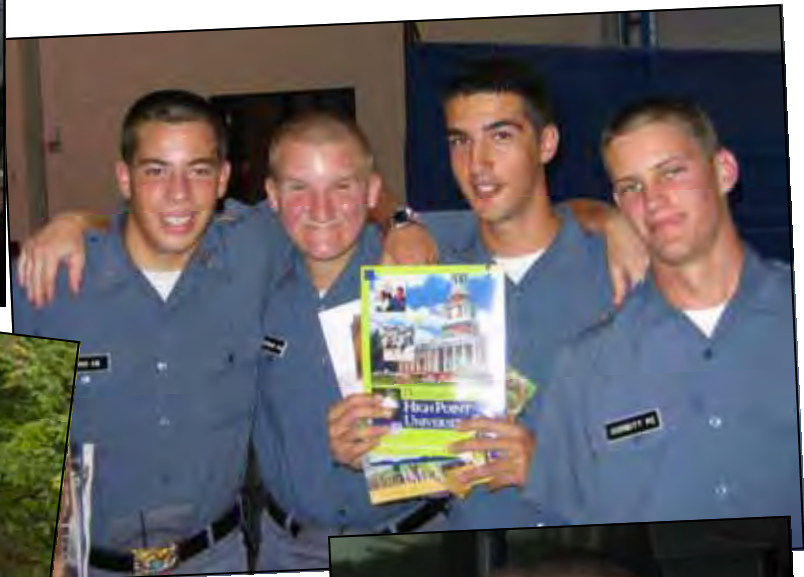


News and *Stuff...* from around Campus



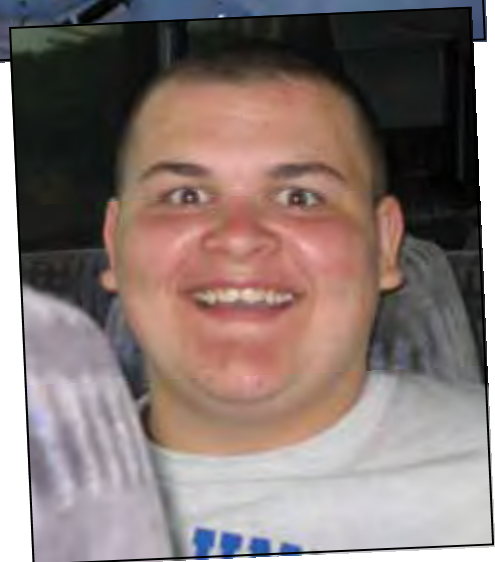
Left: Three FUMA cadets traveled to the University of Virginia's Center for Christian Studies to hear a lecture on poverty. They learned to look at poverty from a Biblical worldview as well as strategic ways to help in the struggle. Cadet Tom Wilder (left) poses with father and Director for the Center for Christian Studies, Bill Wilder.

Below: Cadets pause for a picture during College Fair in September. From left to right are Christopher Long, Harold Coleman, Sia Maleki, and Parker Corbitt.



left: Anthony Leger takes a break during an orienteering meet at Prince William Forest, VA in October.

Right: Heath Shore puts on his game face prior to a JV football game. This may explain the team's 7-win-1-loss season.



Left: TAC officer (Echo Company), CPT Mike Pavlansky, reminds us, "The Marines are looking for ... a waste is a terrible mind... I want you for U.S. Army...an Army of one...so only you can prevent forest... unless there is no 'me' in team...it's settled!! Any comments, questions, criticisms?... *I definitely need a hug!*"