

Front and Center



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

A Christmas Letter from the Battalion Commander

Edward C. Jones, Battalion Commander

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King, Jr.

is "Body, Mind, and Spirit." Fork Union provides every young man the opportunity to excel.

What will make them men is how they choose to handle dis-

realize that the decision to send your son to FUMA was the right choice.

My wish for your sons is that they realize the opportunity afforded to

them and appreciate your sacrifices, and the dedication of faculty and staff.

The advantages gained at FUMA have been immeasurable to me.

I hope your sons profit from this experience as much as I have. I

look forward to seeing your proud faces as you notice the positive changes your sons have made throughout the year.



Battalion staff (from left to right) are: CPT Cody Peck, Executive Officer; 2nd Lt. Bryan Coenen, Supply Officer; 2nd LT Ha Kim, ED Provost; 2nd LT Adam Welsh, Activities Officer; MAJ Edward Jones, Battalion Commander; 2nd LT Kurt Housh, Head Middle School Advisor; MSG Stuart Graham, Armory officer; 2nd LT Paul Parmly, Day Student Commander.

From my perspective, as a four-year attendee and Battalion Commander, I feel Fork Union's overall goal for your sons is to help them obtain the essentials they need not only to survive but also to be successful in life.

The distractions here are limited, the schedule is tight, and the challenges are many. What makes Fork Union successful is its emphasis on good character and corps values.

While your son has been here he has had the opportunity to progress physically, academically, and morally. This is why our motto

comfort and whether they have the fortitude to finish what they have started.

I know the values obtained at FUMA will prepare your son for the challenges he will face in the future. I hope, for now that you

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Annual Skills Day Showcases FUMA Football Players

Assistant PG Football Coach, Sean Mizzer

This year's annual football Skills Day was held in December in the indoor facility of the Estes Center. The event is held each year to expose post graduate and prep senior football players trying to play at the collegiate level to recruiters and coaches.

Over 80 colleges represented by 120 coaches lined up at 11:30 am to meet the players.



Some players sat out Skills Day, having already committed to play at the collegiate level. Nicholas Acree (left) committed to Virginia Tech and Jameal Turner will play for Ohio State University.

Among the representatives included were Florida, LSU, Alabama, Georgia, UVA, Virginia Tech, Clemson, Maryland, Miami, Ohio State, and Mississippi State.

After a brief warm-up period athletes negotiated an obstacle course requiring lateral movement and speed.



Above and right, PG and Prep football players compete against each other during FUMA's annual Skills Day.

This year's Skills Day emphasized one-on-one competition. The first drill pitted offensive linemen against defensive linebackers, and the second drill put the wide receivers against defensive backs.

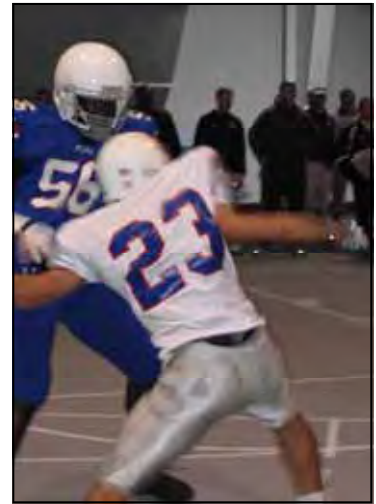
The highlight of the day was when coaches called out players that wanted to see compete against each other. There were some big hits, surprising defeats, and a few stalemates.

For the rest of the day the skill players alternated with the offensive and defensive linemen in different one-on-one drills. "In previous years," said Coach Mizzer, "we had too many things going on at one time. This year we wanted one main feature at a time so all the players and coaches

could be in one place at the same time."

At the conclusion of the day, the quarterbacks were able to show their arm strength, throwing deep pass routes to the skill players. Player performances didn't disappoint. Many players picked up scholarship offers on the spot, while others received interest from schools. The players competed well and after a grueling 3 hour period were exhausted. After showcasing their talents, the players will spend weekends visiting schools and await signing day this February.

Several players have already verbally committed to various schools throughout the nation. These students continue to prepare for pre-season camp.



Mark Shuman committed to Virginia Tech earlier this year.



Russell Bodine will play for the University of North Carolina next year.

Is it Contagious? FUMA Home to Four Sets of Twins

FUMA staff recently discovered that four sets of twins currently attend the academy. We thought it would be interesting to determine what these cadets thought about it.

Mason and Christopher Covington are juniors and reside in Fork Union, VA. Mason said, "Being twins is the same as having a brother, but people often confuse one of us for the other." Christopher adds that "Sometimes it's pretty cool. We know what the other is thinking and can finish each other's sentences." Though identical, Mason says he's the better looking of the two, while Christopher says he's more "buff."

Nabeyu and Solomon Zewdie are from Alexandria, VA, and are seniors. They enjoy being twins. "It's fun," said Nabeyu "I am never bored." Solomon agrees adding, "I like it. I always have someone to talk to." When asked who was the better looking twin, Nabeyu replied, "Come on now. Just ask the ladies." Solomon disagrees. "I have to say, I am the better looking one. You can just ask around." Nabeyu says he is more "book smart" and that Solomon is more



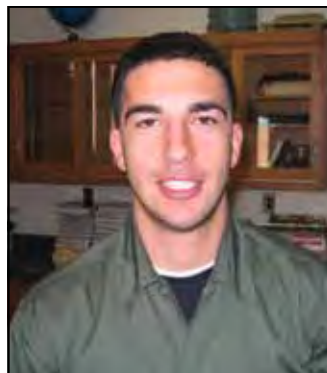
Cadets Mason (left) and Christopher Covington



Cadets Solomon (left) and Nabeyu Zewdie



Dorian (left) and Derek Brown

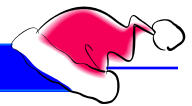


Cyrus (left) and Sia Maleki

"common sense" smart. His brother disagrees. "I think," he said, "my GPA and SAT scores speak for themselves."

Dorian and Derek Brown are Juniors and reside in Annapolis, MD. Each brother enjoys having a twin. Derek said, "It is very interesting. I get to find out about myself and my brother." Each thinks he is the more handsome twin, but when asked who is the smarter of the two, Dorian said, "Hmm. I'm not sure. Ask him." We did. Derek responded in no uncertain terms: "I am, of course." Dorian believed his experience at FUMA is better because of his twin, who is his roommate. "At least Derek is suffering, too."

Sia and Cyrus Maleki, seniors from Savannah, GA have interesting views about being twins. "I can really play with people's heads," said Sia. "It can also open some windows for double dates." Cyrus agrees, adding, "It's pretty amusing to mess with people around campus." Sia also wanted to request we "don't tell others their secret that they really do have super twin powers."



What Do You Want for Christmas?

A Dialogue between Cadets and Santa



Gus Coleman
 "What I really want for Christmas is an A in my Government class."

Santa: "I just talked to your teacher. He said to expect a lump of coal."



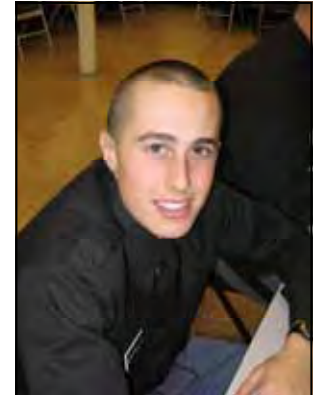
Jacob Humphrey
 "I'd like to have a puppy for Christmas."

Santa: "You'll shoot your eye out (Just kidding). How about a gold fish or an Easy Bake Oven?"



Cody Peck
 "I would like money for my summer trip to Denmark and for college."

Santa: "I thought about this one, Cody. How about money for summer school instead of a trip to Denmark?"



Matt Winchell
 "I would like a new cell phone."

Santa: "Cell phones are against the rules."



Joe Edwards
 "I think I would like a PSE compound bow for Christmas."

Santa: "See my note above to Jacob Humphrey."



Xavier Carter
 "I would like a pair of new shoes and a mountain bike for Christmas."

Santa: "You live in Virginia Beach. Why do you want a mountain bike?"



Sam Stone
 "I would like for my friends and family to be happy they are alive to see another day. I really do not want anything material."

Santa:



Kavon Udoh
 I want my mom to be happy...and I want a PS3 with DJ Hero."

Santa: You make your mother very happy, Kavon. She'd be much happier, though, if you didn't bring the DJ in the house.



Devonte Jackson (left)
 "I want dubs for my caddy and my windows tinted more straight up."

Santa: "What?"



Joe Beckley (left)
 "I want a pair of Vans shoes."

Santa: "Which is it, shoes, or a van?"

