

# THE THUNDERBOLT

March 2013

592ND CADET WING

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# Major Moore

>> SHANTTEE CUNNINGHAM

Our last lead lab of the month was marked by an important event that will surely be remembered by all those who were able to witness it. Our friend, colleague, and mentor Captain Brent Moore gained a great accomplishment through being officially promoted to the rank of Major. The ceremony itself was memorable in its own right, filled with moments of humor, happiness, and honor. Attendees gained some insight into a side of the former Captain that they probably did not know existed. Great joy was felt throughout the room as Major Moore received his new rank, and amusement spread during particular trips down memory lane.

Though what became most memorable for Major Moore's family, friends, and cadets present was being able to see the honest emotion and progression gained through merit. It is something in which we may all wish to experience for ourselves someday. That which is true, honest, and deserving achievement. Being able to feel a mixture of anxiety, satisfaction, and happiness within ourselves after obtaining some feat... Yet for now it is gratifying to simply know that we were able to see success where it was rightfully earned. And so I find pride within myself to say: Congratulations Major Moore, may you go even further in our United States Air Force.



# Into The Wild Blue Yonder

>> Jeremiah Spurlock

A tingle of excitement runs through you as you stop your plane just short of the runway. You ready your plane for takeoff, complete your pre-takeoff checklist, and use your rudders to navigate onto the runway. You set the engine power to full. Your adrenaline begins to pump as you fight to keep your plane on the centerline of the runway. When you hit the right speed, you pull back on your controls. As your plane lifts into the air your spirits soar. Being the pilot of a plane is truly an amazing experience.

You may be interested in flying, but maybe you think the financial cost is just too high. It's true, flight lessons are very expensive. But you don't need to get a license to enjoy flying. If you are interested in being a pilot, especially for the Air Force, contact one of the flight schools at the local airports in Concord or Monroe, and start saving. When you have enough money, go for a few flights with an instructor. If you think you really have a passion for flying, make it a personal goal to one day earn your own pilot's license. Piloting a plane is an unforgettable experience, whether you do it for yourself or for the US Air Force. See you in the sky!

# WARRIOR DAY

>> Marvis Joseph

Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2012. The Time: 0600. The scene: Belk Gym. Remedial PT was transformed into the kickoff of what we at 592 Traditionally call WARRIOR DAY. From daybreak to COB, Cadets from all flights were battling each other for the collection of Points. The goal: Rack up as many points as possible to go towards earning the prestigious award that is Warrior Flight.



Events for the day included Warrior Knowledge quizzes, Cornhole, Picture Scavenger hunt, hot dog eating relay and the oh-so-famous brawn tester: Tug-o-War! Spirits were high and the competition was fierce, but in the end only one flight stood *solum dominus*. Congratulations Foxtrot Flight!



# Charlotte Bridge Home

>> Alette Pittman

On Thursday, 21 March, Mrs. Dubois hosted a luncheon at the Chancellor's home to honor Women in the Military and, on a grander scale, our veterans. Thirty-seven guests attended the event— all veterans or having connections to one of the many organizations in Charlotte who make it their mission to aid veterans.

The food was delicious: a buffet of salads, roast ham and chicken, asparagus, deviled eggs, and more. In the kitchen, guests found fresh Caesar salad and made-to-order pasta. All in all, a much nicer meal that I would have eaten on my college-student budget (seriously, who ever heard of a crab deviled egg?). After a half-hour of mingling and perusing the buffet line, Mrs. Dubois called us back into the foyer to present our guest speaker. Though impressive, the food was not what brought all of these women together...

Sara Melbourne enlisted in the Army in 1988 and spent 10 years as a dependent spouse. She then rejoined the Army in 2010, as a member of the National Guard. Today, she is still serves as a member of the SC National Guard, but her commitment to "service before self" doesn't stop there: She was the program manager for the New York National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, where she promoted the well-being of soldiers, veterans, and their families. In this program, she helped organize efforts to assist

veterans in their reintegration into civilian life and support active duty soldiers with their deployment preparations. Now, she is the Lead Social Worker for a newly-formed organization called Charlotte Bridge Home.



She addressed us, not only as a veteran herself, but as an advocate for the approximate 55,000 veterans in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. In particular, she spoke on behalf of female veterans who face a somewhat different set of challenges compared to their male counterparts. Our women returning from military service, Melbourne explained, are "more likely to have service-related disabilities, less likely to be insured beyond VA hospitals, have a lower income, and have a higher rate of homelessness." It was in honor of those struggling sisters in arms (as well as veterans in general) that we were brought together that day. Melbourne explained that the goal of Charlotte Bridge Home is to serve as a figurative bridge between our veterans and Charlotte's many non-profit organizations that aid veterans; to make connections and referrals to the right programs.

The keys to helping our vets are to 1) Get involved—whether it's volunteer work or signing up to be part of a mentoring program, 2) Identify the veterans and acknowledge their sacrifice and service, and 3) Simply spread awareness. One of the biggest reasons why so many veterans go without help, is that they just don't know about the programs available to them. This is what CBH hopes to accomplish.



# CADET LIFE



## *Silver Wings*

>> **Marvis Joseph**

When Key members of the SW board were asked: How is the society doing? This is what they had to say:

“Silver Wings is making excellent progress. Our key focus is to get civilians involved.” *Ashley Anderson, Secretary.*

“With the national Charter in view, I really see us going far!” *Alycia Cody, Finance Director*

“It has been an awesome experience so far, and we plan to Make it BIG!” *Sean Hartsel, Director of Training.*

In sum, expect progress to greater heights. “Like” our Neil A. Armstrong SW chapter on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SWatUNCC](http://www.facebook.com/SWatUNCC).

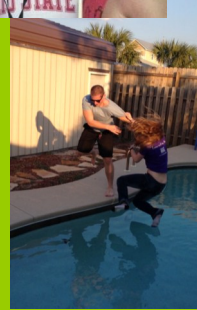
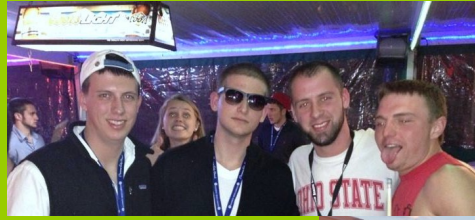
With less than a month left before our scheduled Dining-Out, APSO is working hard trying to get some fundraisers going. The first event, the campus-wide Yard Sale, is scheduled for 5 April (Friday) from 1200-1600. For just \$10, students can set up shop and sell their items. However, that \$10 fee can be waived if a portion of the sales are donated to the fundraiser. This is a great opportunity to do some spring cleaning and make some cash, not to mention raise money for our Dining Out! So while you're home this weekend, take a look around the house...and spread the word! The more people we get involved, the more money we can raise for the detachment.

## *APSO*

>> **Alette Pittman**



# CADET LIFE: SPRING BREAK



# ACTIVE DUTY

>> Christopher Pitillo

**TSgt. Siemiet:** I came into the Air Force in 1998 and after basic training tech school I went to my first assignment at Offutt AFB, NE as an Aircrew Flight Equipment technician. I was responsible for all of the survival and oxygen equipment aboard the RC-135 aircraft. It was there that I also got into teaching which started as a part time role teaching local area survival, chemical defense, and egress to the aircrew there.

In 2001 I got picked up for a position at Beale AFB, CA as a Personnel Recovery Instructor for the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (I was assigned to the 9th OSS). I primarily taught survival to the U-2 pilots there, but we also got used as a mobile training team to augment the SERE instructors at various bases along the West Coast. It was there that I began getting into testing out new equipment and working with vendors and engineers on redesigning and improving various survival equipment and radio systems.



In 2004 I was hired by the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope AFB, NC. My primary job there was the test and development of new technologies for our Combat Controllers, ParaRescuemen, TACP's, and Combat Weathermen. I worked with industry to help improve or develop new night vision equipment, laser targeting systems, and various rescue equipment amongst others. When deployed I filled roles as mission planner, personnel rescue coordinator, and tactical operations center director. While assigned to the 24th STS, I completed my Aeronautical Engineering degree from Embry Riddle. I also attended a myriad of military courses to include Army Airborne School and Military Freefall (aka HALO school). Of all of the fun things I got to do, I found a true love for jumping and teaching.

In 2011 I was hired by the Air Force Parachuting Team the "Wings of Blue" as a jump instructor. I am currently a Technical Sergeant serving as the Chief of Operations. I am responsible for the training of all of the assigned jump instructors and I oversee all of our training programs for the academy cadets that come through the jump courses. If you are interested in learning more about the team, we have an active Facebook page full of pictures, video, and more.



**Here are a few of the key topics that I drive home with my academy cadets:**

1. Every single day you go into work, ensure that you improve at least one thing in your workplace before you go home. Even if it is something as simple as straitening a picture on a wall, it makes a difference. If everyone did that every single day of their career the entire Air Force would shine regardless of our manpower or budget woes. Those who show pride in their unit and surroundings stand out from their peers.
2. Scoop up as many schools, courses, and qualifications that you can and set your career up as if you were going to stay in for 30 years. I've seen too many examples of people not get an advanced degree or attend some school because they didn't have any long-term career aspirations. Later in their careers they were prevented or delayed advancement because they didn't "check the right boxes". Set your career up for success early, because you never know.
3. Learn as much as you can about the enlisted force (how they promote, advance, career opportunities, etc). It will help you better understand and relate to your troops and it will greatly increase your credibility and leadership capability with them. Attach yourself to a high-speed NCO early in your career and seek their mentorship and counsel.
4. Build an "I Love Me" book where you keep copies of EVERYTHING (from your PCS orders to letter of recommendation and everything in between). There are literally countless uses for that book throughout and after your career. I am currently working on building my third full binder and I actually use them on a daily basis.
5. Finally, enjoy every last minute of every day you are in. Make the most out of every assignment and every duty location. No matter how mundane a duty location seems, there are always things in the region worth seeing and doing. This all goes towards getting the most out of life. Too many servicemen spend their careers miserable because they never experience everything that their job and location have to offer.

## CADRE CORNER >> Kira John



As with any excellent program, the work of an excellent team is required—even more so for an Air Force ROTC program. Detachment 592 has many members of the ‘cadre’, one of whom is Sergeant Sylvia Bivins. Although she doesn’t teach any of the classes, she is certainly a leader: helping cadets grow, reach their goals, and prepare for the future. When asked what led her to joining the Air Force, she responded :

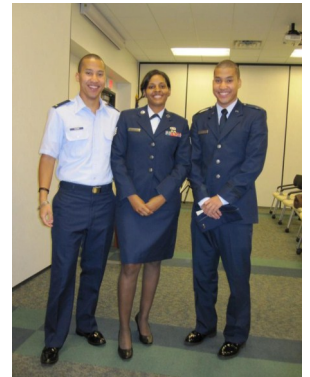
*“My oldest brother, Greg is the reason why I am in the Air Force. I have always looked up to him so I followed his footsteps as he was in the military and I saw how good his life was and wanted it! It was the best decision ever!”*

Her favorite part about assignment to an ROTC detachment is being able to see the outcomes of her work—cadets growing, maturing, and becoming the future leaders of the Air Force. As

expected, this makes choosing a favorite memory impossible, as every single memory becomes a favorite:

*“All the memories are my favorite, good or bad they are everlasting! The cadets coming in my office daily to talk to me about their day, life or just to say hello is memorable. The seniors saying I helped them get thru ROTC never gets old! I love being asked to do the first salute: it makes your heart smile! I have so many memories that are my favorite, let's just say every day at ROTC is a favorite of mine!”*

Sergeant Bivins makes certain to enjoy every day working with the ROTC and the cadets to mold the future leaders of the Air Force.



### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

The 592nd Cadet Wing, at the conclusion of Warrior Day, March 2013



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Davis: 5th

Chau Tran: 10th

Miyah McClaney: 13th

Beatriz Jimenez: 13th

Jace Redmond: 16th

Jennifer Dulin: 31st