

The Citadel Foundation



Jay Dowd
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone • 843-953-5297
FAX • 843-953-7689
CitadelFoundation.org

Location
Holliday Alumni Center
69 Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

U.S. Mail
The Citadel Foundation
171 Moultrie Street
Charleston, SC 29409

FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. James J. Ethridge, Jr., '81
Chairman

Mr. Luther C. Kissam IV, '86
*Vice Chairman &
Campaign Chairman*

Mrs. Marina Daniel Buescher, '06
Secretary-Treasurer

“A New Face of The Citadel”

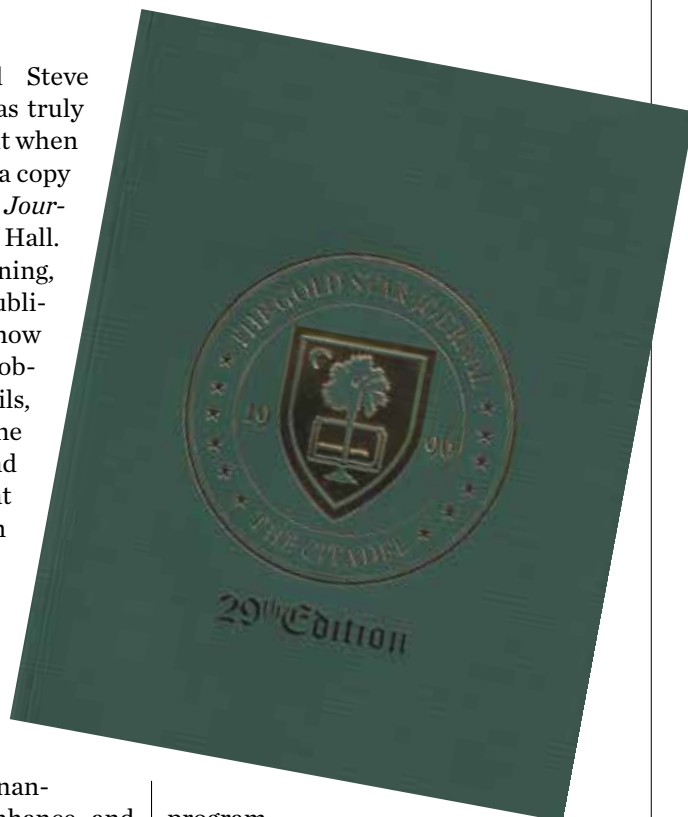
The Gold Star Journal at 30

By Cadet Noah Miller, '26
Rising Regimental Academic Officer

For Noreen and Steve Hodges, '63, it was truly a magical moment when Steve discovered a copy of *The Gold Star Journal* (GSJ) on a table in Bastin Hall. “Cadets are writing, designing, and publishing this great publication, but alumni don’t know about it,” he said. “That’s a problem. “A few phone calls, emails, and encounters later, the Hodges met the GSJ staff and were impressed with what they saw. Deeply involved in nonprofits and civic organizations, the couple rolled up their sleeves and got to work. In late 2024, they established the **Gold Star Journal Endowment by Steve and Noreen Hodges, '63**, which will provide financial resources to support, enhance, and sustain The Citadel’s Gold Star Journal

program.

Founded in 1996 by



From left to right: Noah Miller, '26, Assistant Editor-in-Chief; Gage Timberlake, '25, Editor-in-Chief; Mrs. Noreen Hodges, and LTC Steve Hodges, '63.



Gage Timberlake welcomes guests at the 9th annual Gold Star Journal Academic Conference in Capers Auditorium.

Dr. Suzanne T. Mabrouk, *The Gold Star Journal* promotes academic excellence at The Citadel through (1) the publication of scholarly and artistic work and (2) presentations by published students at an annual conference, called the Gold Star Journal Academic Conference (GSJAC). The staff, operated completely by cadets, accepts nonfiction papers, artwork, photo stories, and photographs from cadets, evening undergraduates, graduate students, and active duty and veteran day students. Since its inception, *The GSJ* has received only accolade after accolade, winning a record number of six awards for the 2024 edition, five from the College Media Association and a first place from the American Scholastic Press Association. The staff reciprocated these honors by dedicating the 2025 edition to Sergeant Major Andrew L. Yagle for his 31 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 11 years in the Commandant's Department at The Citadel. He has been a great friend to the editors and a gracious supporter of *The GSJ*.

After academic work has been selected, each editor works with his or her author or artist to prepare for the Academic Conference, during which students present their scholarly and creative work to an

excited crowd of cadets, faculty, staff, and alumni. This year's GSJAC took place in Capers Auditorium with a reception beforehand in the courtyard. The intention behind the conference is to give the selected authors a professional platform from which they can share their scholarly work with friends, family, and the greater Citadel community. This year's program ended with the presentation of awards, including the audience deciding the winner of the Best Oral Presentation. Robert Isaac Williams, '26, won for his informative and engaging talk on "Social Well-Being and the Importance of a Third Place."

The GSJ has received financial assistance from many Citadel personnel throughout the years. The late Brig. Gen. Roger C. "Cliff" Poole, USAR, '59, saw the great vision of *The Gold Star Journal* as a means for cadets to elevate themselves. He



Noah Miller, '26, congratulates Robert Isaac Williams, '26, recipient of the Best Oral Presentation Award at the GSJAC.

The first guests arrive in Capers courtyard to celebrate the GSJAC.



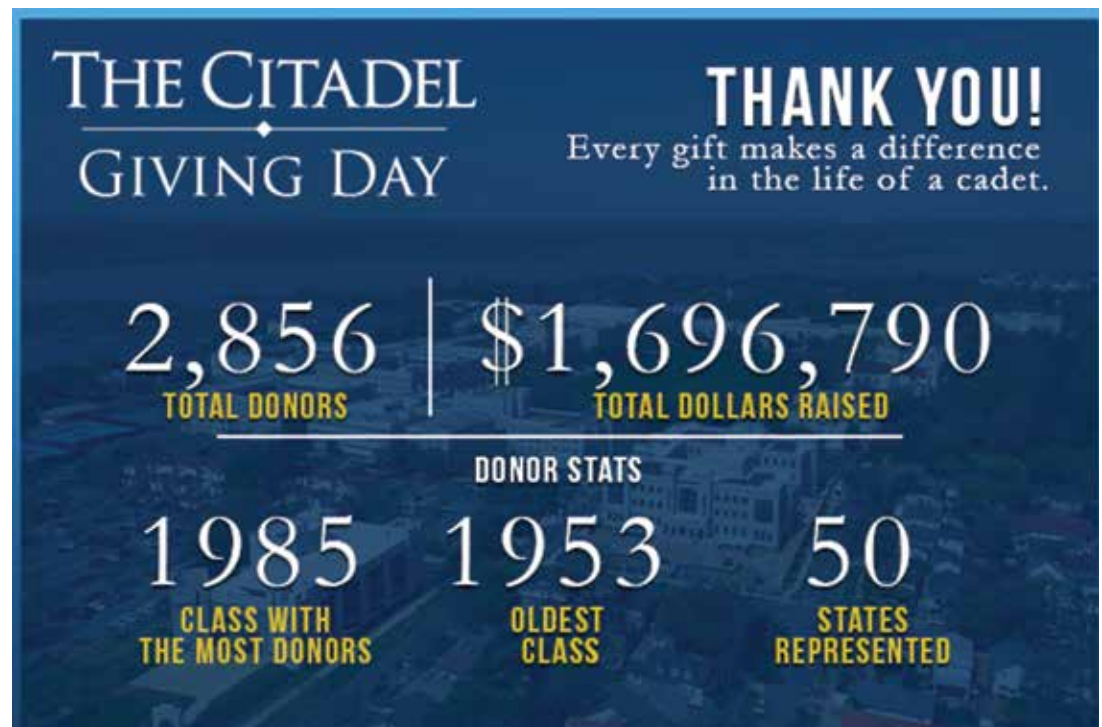
became an ardent supporter and secured the initial publication funds. The GSJ budget has grown over the years, with the addition of the conference in 2016 and printing expenses fluctuating with increasing fuel and paper costs. Like General Poole, Dr. Sally Selden, Provost and Dean of the College, is also a staunch champion of *The GSJ* and its vision, providing funds for its annual operating budget. Commenting on the 2024 edition of *The GSJ*, she said, “it is a testament to the remarkable achievements Citadel cadets and students are capable of when they come together to learn, create, and lead with integrity.”

In one meeting with the GSJ staff and Dr. Selden, Noreen Hodges declared that the GSJ is “a new face at The Citadel. This journal needs to belong in every cadet and alumni’s hand.”

The GSJ is currently distributed on and before Corps Day and at the GSJAC, which commences and heralds The Citadel’s Academic Excellence week. With the establishment of this endowment and the help of alumni and readers like you, placing more journals in the hands of The Citadel community can become a reality.

Spring 2026 will mark 30 years since the founding of *The Gold Star Journal*. The editorial staff has planned special events to celebrate 30 years of academic excellence at The Citadel as documented by *The GSJ*. The Hodges believe 2026 will be the best year yet for the journal and are excited about your involvement. Please join Noreen and Steve Hodges, ’63, as donors to *The Gold Star Journal* endowment at citadel.edu/goldstar/donations/. ■

Giving Day by the Numbers



Thank you for making The Citadel’s 2025 Giving Day a resounding success! Together, we exceeded our initial goal of 2,025 donors to honor the graduating Class of 2025 and secured gifts from proud Bulldogs representing 75 classes, all 50 states, and several foreign countries. We are grateful for your participation to help raise nearly \$1.7 million for The Citadel on Giving Day. Go Dogs!