

# Thoughts on Ring Day Ceremonies

Larry Roberson, Citadel Dad

For three years in anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Class procession to "The Ring" ceremony I have milled about along the entrance and streets juxtaposed to Padgett Thomas Barracks among parents, family, and friends, trying to stay out of the way. On the other hand, I was there, to connect with the pomp and pageantry that was forming around me. Each year as



chaos became order, underclass cadets mustered to line the route. Tartan clad pipers and drummers emerged. The senior class formed in prescribed order. The martial array of uniformed cadets was a stirring scene as they assembled to parade triumphantly to cheering roars of underclass cadets who lined the way. The command from the be-kilted drum major, the rattle of snares, the first notes and thump of pipes and drums all signaled to the honored assemblage the time had come. In



step, on cue the procession moved. The Ring Ceremony had formally begun. Citadel 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cadets had earned the privilege, endured matriculation, hell week, knob year, recognition day, Saturday morning inspections (SMI), taken leadership roles, achieved physical and academic proficiency, and much more. Honoring those who walked before and maintaining the uprightness of tradition for those to come for the class of 2012 – 14 October 2011 at 1245 is their hour.

The Citadel Alumni Association (CAA) establishes policy and criteria related to the "rules governing the purchase and wear of class rings". This policy reads in part:

**"The right to wear The Citadel class ring ("The Ring") must be earned by study, great sacrifice and loyal service. Closely guarding this right is necessary and reasonable. In the eyes of Citadel Alumni, the standard is exceptionally high and must be rigorously imposed. Nothing in this policy is intended to infer otherwise. Extremely strong justification is required to authorize anyone, other than an eligible alumnus, to be awarded the ring."**



Each year kicking off Parents' Weekend, the 1<sup>st</sup> class procession described above and the ensuing ring presentation is a special time for Citadel families and friends to recognize the excellence and achievements of senior cadets. CFA parents, your underclass cadet will have the opportunity every year to participate in this entertaining and inspiring ritual. From my view participation adds to the sense of awe, sense of connection, and sense of pride in having earned the favor of alumni to wear the Band of Gold. This year I won't be milling about. Along with the other parents of the Class of 2012 my place will be inside McAlister Field House. This is a proud time for parents and all who are connected with The Citadel.



*For a complete overview of information related to The Citadel class ring, visit the Alumni tab at The Citadel home page.*



# THE CITADEL FAMILY ASSOCIATION



## All in the Family

FALL 2011 ♦ CHARLESTON, SC

### Milestones Reached

Greg and Jacque Bear, CFA Chairman

Jacque and I would once again like to thank The Citadel Family volunteers for a job well done. With this being our first Matriculation Day as Co-Chairs we could not have achieved the success that we did without each of our volunteers!

It was an honor helping the more than 734 families who dropped off their children for their first year at The Citadel, an experience we can all relate to. Many of you who gave of your time did not have the chance to hear how much you blessed the families you helped that day. Let me assure you that it was very evident, not only visually, but also from the feedback I received from the families and staff at The Citadel.

By now you have all had the opportunity to hear from your Cadet and have been able to share in their accomplishments, as well as give that invaluable parental advice that will help them to continue with their experience at The Citadel. The board and the company/battalion representatives have had the chance to field many questions from the parents this year.

Our hope is that we have been able to answer your questions in a manner that was not only informative, but also reassuring.

We have all walked in your shoes and understand that there are many emotions that you are going through as your cadet is experiencing their first year -- but believe me, the Thanksgiving break is just around the corner and Christmas break will be here before you know it. Once school starts after the holidays, it goes by quickly. When we picked up our son at the end of his first year, it seemed as though we had only just dropped him off for Matriculation Day, and yes, he could not wait to get back for his sophomore year.

While our children have faced challenges before attending The Citadel, the challenge of the knob year is one that they will wear proudly over the remaining years as they faced and conquered it on their own. This is part of the character building process and an experience that will be built upon as they

continue their education. With Parent's Weekend coming up, the knobs have all reached their first milestone. It will be a time for you to see your Cadet again, but it will also be a milestone for the Seniors as they receive their rings. The Citadel class ring is not only a sign of achievement, but a symbol of the brotherhood your Cadet has worked so hard to build and be a part of over the last four years. It is a recognizable symbol throughout the world that will continue to identify them as a

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 2011**  
14-16 . Parent's Weekend

**NOVEMBER 2011**  
12 . Homecoming  
19-27 . Fall Break

**DECEMBER 2011**  
6 . Classes End  
7-13 . Final Exams  
13 . Winter Break

**JANUARY 2012**  
11 . Classes resume





# Parents' Weekend 2011

## ACADEMIC OPEN HOUSES

◆ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011 ◆

All cadets, parents, and guests are invited to the academic open house at each school or department from 1-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, 2011. The purpose of the open house is to give parents and guests the opportunity to meet our faculty and staff and learn more about our academic programs.

At 1 p.m. a representative from each school or

department will give a brief welcome after which time you will be able to talk informally with individual faculty and staff members. All cadets and their parents/guests are encouraged to attend the open house at the locations listed below and to take this opportunity to become better acquainted with members of our outstanding faculty and staff.

School	Location
Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC)	Jenkins Hall 236
Biology	Duckett Hall 101
School of Business Administration	Bond Hall 295
Chemistry	Byrd Hall 101
Civil & Environmental Engineering	LeTellier Hall 204
School of Education	Capers Hall 302
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Grimsley Hall 117
English	Capers Hall 111
Health, Exercise, & Sport Science	Deas Hall 202-203
History	Capers Hall 423
Honors Program	Bond Hall 290
School of Humanities and Social Sciences	Capers Hall Lobby
Library	Daniel Library
Mathematics & Computer Science	Thompson Hall 228
Military Science (Army ROTC)	Jenkins Hall 317
Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures	Capers Hall 215
Naval Science (Marine & Navy ROTC)	Jenkins Hall 111
Political Science & Criminal Justice	Capers Hall 410
Physics	Grimsley Hall 208
Psychology	Capers Hall 103
Academic Support Center, Multicultural Student Services & International Studies	Thompson Hall 117
Counseling Center	203 Richardson

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part of this brotherhood as they move on into the next chapter of their lives. We congratulate each of them for their accomplishment and know they understand that the values and discipline they have built upon during their time at The Citadel will be a characteristic that will identify them as a graduate of The Citadel just as much as the ring they will wear.

As we continue through the school year, The Citadel Family Association will continue to keep you informed of upcoming events. Be sure to visit the CFA table on Parents' Weekend -- we would love to have you stop by to say hello or allow us to help you with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you on campus and as always, if you need us for anything, don't hesitate to give us a call or send us an email.



# Welcome, Parents!

*Mrs. Donna Rosa, First Lady at The Citadel*

When I stop to think about my favorite weekend of the school year here at The Citadel, it is Parents Weekend that first comes to mind. There are so many wonderful events that take place during these few days.

For our seniors, it is the time when they receive the coveted "band of gold," a special experience shared with families and loved ones at the Ring Ceremony. This event recognizes four years of hard work and perseverance, affording seniors the opportunity to announce to the world, "I wear the ring."

Parents Weekend is also an extremely special time for knobs and their families as well. I remember when our son Brad was going through his first year at The Citadel. We dropped him off as this skinny kid who was trying to figure out what he was doing here and why he had chosen the road less traveled. It was a road that would prove difficult, but one that he believed would be the most rewarding.

When we next saw him, it was months later at Parents

Weekend. As Brad walked towards us, John and I turned to each other wondering who this fine looking, albeit even skinnier, cadet was that was giving us a big hug and kiss. Where had our young son gone? We left a young man in wrinkled clothes, tennis shoes and much longer hair. In his place we were now looking at a very handsome cadet wearing a crisply ironed uniform and the shiniest shoes I had ever seen on his feet. Not only did he look different, but he exuded a new confidence and pride with every word he spoke while filling us in on the weeks since Matriculation Day.

It is difficult to decide who was filled with more pride that weekend: Brad, who was so proud of himself for having endured an extremely tough first few weeks, or his father and me for witnessing the transformation of our child in such short order. The smile on all our faces over the course of that first Parent's Weekend says it all!

For knobs, this weekend also marks the official end of "Cadre", as they will be promoted from "Cadet Recruits" to "Cadet Privates". An important part of this ceremony is moving the cadet company letter pin to the collar, recognizing that they have earned a place in the company they will call home for the next 3 1/2 years. Parents will feel as though their hearts burst with pride when standing in the battalion watching their cadets during this ceremony! They will be standing at attention, of course, and cannot smile, but as parents, take notice of their eyes. They will speak volumes of the meaning of this occasion.

John and I will be walking throughout the battalions on Saturday and will have big smiles on our faces as well. You have all been so kind to "loan" us your sons and daughters for a few short years and we are just as proud as you are to see how far they have come. Please stop by and say hello if you see us. We would so enjoy getting to meet each of you.

Have a wonderful time while you are in town and don't forget to SMILE!

Donna Rosa is a Charleston native. She and her husband, Lt Gen John W. Rosa, 19th President of The Citadel, have two sons, Jonathan and Brad ('03), and two grandchildren.



For a full listing of Parents' Weekend activities and a detailed schedule, please visit

[externalaffairs.citadel.edu/ParentsWeekend\\_2011](http://externalaffairs.citadel.edu/ParentsWeekend_2011)

**PARENTS' WEEKEND 2011 ◆ OCTOBER 14-16**