

# ***FALCON FAMILY NEWS***

**JANUARY 2009**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## **CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 December 2008)**

	Men	Women	Total
2009	891	173	1064
2010	853	191	1044
2011	902	221	1123
2012	993	274	1267
<b>WING</b>	<b>3639</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>4498</b>

## **ACADEMY AMONG NATION'S TOP 100 "BEST VALUE COLLEGES"**

The U.S. Air Force Academy was named as one of the nation's top 100 best value colleges for 2009 today by The Princeton Review.

The Best Values College List features 50 public and 50 private colleges. The Princeton Review selected these institutions as its "best value" choices for 2009 based on its surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private colleges and universities. The selection criteria covered more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs of attendance, and financial aid, using the most recently reported data from each institution for its 2007-08 academic year.

"The Air Force Academy is honored to earn this distinction," said Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Dean of the Faculty. "It is further recognition of the great effort we are making in providing cadets with not just a world-class education, but a full spectrum of learning experiences which develop their character and leadership so they become officers that are ready to meet the challenge of serving the Air Force and the nation."

The Princeton Review has also recognized the Air Force Academy's academic prowess in previous years, recognizing the Air Force Academy as the nation's #1 college for professor availability for the past four years.

## **SPRING BREAK**

Spring Break is proposed to start after LMD on 20 March 2009. Noon meal formation is scheduled on that day so that is a Military duty. Cadets with no commitments would be able to leave after lunch. Rescheduling classes for that day to allow early departure is not allowed. So in line with local policy, do not schedule any departures earlier than 4 hours after LMD if flying out of DENVER and 3 hours prior if flying out of COS.

The cadets need to know their schedules so they'll know whether or not they can leave after lunch or after their last class.

## **GRADUATION SCHEDULE ON WEB SITE**

The 2009 Graduation Website is now published and available on the USAFA homepage at <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation>. The site reflects the schedule of events as approved last year so please continue to check the schedule for changes.

## **CADET WING MEDIA**

Cadet Wing Media offers the only professionally produced sanctioned USAFA graduation products. The 2009 USAFA Graduation products include a video-DVD format, photographs of your cadet receiving his/her diploma, Thunderbird flyover and the 2009 POLARIS Yearbook. The DVD includes the Class of 2009 story, cadet interviews, excerpts from all four years, graduation week activities, and the graduation ceremony, including your cadet receiving the diploma, graduation speech and Thunderbird flyover. This DVD is the only graduation product officially sanctioned by the USAF Academy. Graduation 2009 order forms will be available beginning April 2009. Orders will not be accepted prior to April.

**SPRING portrait appointments AND retakes:** Tuesday-Friday, 20-23 January 2009, 0800-1600 hrs, (Closed for lunch: 1200-1230 hrs). Location: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor (Terrazzo Level) Cadet Library.

**REQUIRED UNIFORM** for seniors is parade jacket, white pants, white hat, and class ring. The underclassmen uniform is service dress and service cap.

-All portrait sessions are walk-in appointments **ONLY**.

-Portrait session is approx 20 min for Firsties, 10 min for 2-4 degrees. Times vary depending on number of cadets. (Early morning -- best availability.)

-Portrait sessions: Cadets formerly on fall semester exchanges; cadets whose medical condition prevented previous sessions; OR portrait retakes.

-Final portrait session -- portraits are mandatory!

Check out cadet life at the Air Force Academy by visiting [www.afaphotos.printroom.com](http://www.afaphotos.printroom.com) for continuously updated candid cadet photographs, sports, clubs, recreation and beautiful scenic portraits.

## **USAFA VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) CENTER**

### Free Tax Return Preparation for You by Volunteers

Puzzled by the tax law or which credits and deductions to take? Need assistance with your tax return? You may want to visit the USAFA VITA Center in Arnold Hall. The IRS-sponsored VITA Program offers free tax help for military members and their families, active duty or retired.

IRS-trained volunteers can help you with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Rebate Recovery Credit for which you may qualify. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, we also offer free electronic filing of your federal and state returns.

Starting 26 Jan 2009, the USAFA Tax Center will be open Monday through Thursday to provide tax assistance and preparation from 0800-1600. Appointments are required, so please call 333-3905 to schedule your appointment.

### Military Personnel and Their Families Get Free Tax Help!

The military has a strong VITA Program. Military members and their families worldwide receive free tax preparation assistance at offices within their installations. VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. Volunteers are trained and equipped to address military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits, and the effect of the new EITC guidelines. Last year the USAFA tax center prepared 1,309 returns, saving military members over \$125,247 in filing fees, and securing \$719,794 in federal and state income tax refunds.

### VITA Benefits

- **Taxpayers Get Their Refunds Faster:** Due to the vagaries of mail service and IRS processing times, military members can expect to wait 45 or more days from the day they mail their returns to the day they see their refund checks. In contrast, electronic filers can expect to have their refund deposited in their bank accounts as early as 9 days after their return is transmitted to the IRS, no matter where they are in the world!
- **Direct Deposit of Refunds:** This automatic system takes the hassled and delay out of dealing with refund checks, especially for those who are transferring or who are deployed and don't have easy access to their bank.
- **Accuracy:** The accuracy rate for e-filed returns is 99.5%! As many as 12 people will handle the average paper return (from preparer to postal staff to IRS staff) and the error rate is as high as 20%. The e-filed return is sent from computer to computer, with fewer

humans handling the return, making fewer mistakes. This leads to fewer tax headaches for Airmen!

- No Need for Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs): RALs are short-term loans from commercial tax preparers or other sources, aimed at taxpayers desperate to get their refunds as soon as possible. In the past, these loans often charged exorbitant fees and interest; depending on the amount and length of the loan, interest rates could reach as high as 980% APR! Recent changes in the law and DoD Regulations do not permit RALs for military members if the total interest rate, including fees, exceeds 36%. And while 36% is significantly lower than rates in the past, the availability of VITA make these loans unnecessary, since military members can have their refunds deposited in their bank accounts in one to two weeks at absolutely no cost.

### VITA Limitations

**Eligibility:** The Air Force VITA program is sponsored by and run under the Air Force's Legal Assistance program. Consequently, only those clients eligible for legal assistance services can be served by the tax center.

- **Prioritization:** The AF VITA program is primarily intended to serve junior active duty Airmen and their families, as well as USAFA cadets, with other eligible clients assisted as resources, and program limitations permit.
- **Scope:** The IRS VITA program is not a full-service tax program. While the military part of the IRS VITA program is granted some additional authority to prepare tax returns for military families, the USAFA Tax Center must strictly adhere to IRS guidelines for VITA. For example, we cannot prepare any business returns (no Schedule C's for example) other than for family childcare providers using a Schedule C-EZ. We cannot prepare a return for multiple rental properties, but can prepare a Schedule E for a former principal residence that is now being used as a rental. In addition, we should not prepare any returns with complex Schedule D's for significant buying and selling of stocks and bonds. If military members are actively trading securities they have the ability and/or resources to do their own taxes or should seek professional assistance!

### Rebate Recovery Credit

The Rebate Recovery Credit is a one-time benefit for people who didn't receive the full economic stimulus payment last year and whose circumstances may have changed, making them eligible now for some or all of the unpaid portion. Generally, a credit adds to the amount of your tax refund or lowers the amount of taxes owed. Therefore, the amount you receive for the recovery rebate credit will be included as part of your refund, as shown on your tax return. People who fall into the categories below may be eligible for the recovery rebate credit this year:

- Individuals who did not receive an economic stimulus payment.
- Those who received less than the maximum economic stimulus payment in 2008 because their qualifying or gross income was either too high or too low.
- Families who gained an additional qualifying child in 2008.

- Individuals who could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return in 2007, but who cannot be claimed as a dependent on another return in 2008.

The recovery rebate credit is claimed on the Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Unlike the economic stimulus payment, the recovery rebate credit will be included in your tax refund for 2008 and will not be issued as a separate payment. You need to know the amount of your 2008 economic stimulus payment to determine if you are eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit, so please bring that information with you to your appointment at the tax center.

Documentation Cadets should bring to their appointment at the VITA Center:

- Proof of eligibility/identification: Military ID card
- Social Security Card.
- Wage and earning statement (s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-M, from all employers.
- Interest, dividend, and brokerage account statements from banks and financial institutions (Forms 1099), and the cost basis for any stocks or mutual funds sold. This includes Form 1099 statements mailed to parents for accounts under the Cadet's social security number.
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available.
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit.

#### Filing Late

There is still time to file for those who have not yet filed an income tax return for 2005, 2006 and/or 2007 to claim a refund. If a taxpayer is due a refund of withholding or estimated taxes paid, it must be claimed within 3 years of the return due date (including extensions) or the taxpayer loses the right to that refund. The same rule applies to a right to claim a tax credit such as the Earned Income Credit (EIC). Penalties and interest do not apply in years in which a taxpayer is entitled to a refund. The USAFA Tax Center can assist members in completing tax returns and claiming refunds for 2005, 2006 and 2007 but these returns cannot be electronically filed and must be mailed to the IRS.

Questions regarding military income tax benefits and requirements can be addressed to the USAFA Tax Center at 719-333-3905 or a JAG legal assistance attorney at 719-333-3940. The IRS web page at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) also has a wealth of information for military taxpayers including a very useful Q&A section that may address your particular issue. Information contained herein is valid for the 2008 tax year. This article was prepared with information from the IRS web site and Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General, Legal Assistance Division (Code 16).

## **\*\*ATHLETICS\*\***

**Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009**

### **AIR FORCE ANNOUNCES SECOND HALL OF FAME CLASS**

**Jim Bowman, Callie Calhoun, Dee Dowis, Terry Isaacson, Ernie Jennings, Ben Martin honored**

*U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.* – The Air Force Academy announced its second class for induction into the Air Force Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. The six inductees, Jim Bowman, Callie Molloy (Calhoun), Dee Dowis, Terry Isaacson, Ernie Jennings and Ben Martin will be inducted on Friday, May 8, at the Air Force Academy Falcon Club.

The six inductees represent a former athletic coach and administrator, a track and cross country multiple All-American, two of the football program's most decorated performers, a multiple-sport standout and a former coach who held one of the longest tenures in Air Force history.

Bowman first came to the Academy in 1958 as a physical education instructor. He was named head junior varsity football coach in 1960. He led the junior varsity for four years before taking over the freshman team and working as the associate athletic director for recruiting support. Bowman coached the freshmen until 1975 when he went back to the junior varsity head post. After the 1975 season, Bowman stepped down from coaching to devote his full duties to recruiting support, where he served until his retirement in 2007. In his five seasons as the junior varsity head coach, Bowman compiled a 24-4-1 record, with his 1963 and 1975 teams going undefeated. In his 11 seasons as the freshman coach, Bowman led the squad to a 37-28 mark. During his tenure at the Academy, Bowman was a part of the athletic staff that led the Falcons to 17 postseason bowl games. In 2001, Bowman was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 1958 Cotton Bowl team.

Callie Molloy (Calhoun), a 1991 Academy graduate, is one of the most decorated female athletes in Academy history. She is a five-time NCAA Division II track and field national champion (3,000-meter run, 5,000-meter run, 10,000-meter run) and won the 1990 NCAA Division II cross country national championship. She is an eight-time track and field All-American and three-time cross country All-American. In addition, she was the team captain of both squads and a two-time track team MVP, as well as a 1991 NCAA Academic All-American. She is still the school record-holder in the 3,000-meters (indoor and outdoor), the 5,000-meters (indoor and outdoor) and the 10,000-meters. In 2001, she was inducted into the NCAA Division II track and field hall of fame. Molloy is also the younger sister of Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun.

Dowis is a 1990 graduate of the Academy and was a three-year starter at quarterback for the Falcons. He was a finalist for the 1989 Heisman Trophy award, awarded to college football's best player. His sixth-place finish is the highest of any Falcon ever. Dowis was also awarded the Downtown Athletic Club's Exemplary Player Award in 1989. Dowis earned honorable mention All-American honors in 1989 while being named the Western Athletic Conference's offensive player of the year. In 1989, he became the fifth player in NCAA history

to rush and pass for over a 1,000 yards in the same season while leading Air Force to a Liberty Bowl appearance. Dowis scored a school-record six touchdowns and rushed for a then-school record 249 yards vs. San Diego State in 1989.

Isaacson, who is a retired Air Force colonel, is the Academy's only three-time wrestling All-American, earning the honors from 1962-64. He was the NCAA runner-up at 167 pounds in 1962. In addition to his wrestling accolades, Isaacson was a three-year football letterman and led the team in rushing in 1961 and 1963 and in passing and total offense in '62 and '63. He recorded 1,747 yards of total offense as a senior in 1963 while serving as the team captain. He also led the team in punting during the 1962 and '63 seasons. Isaacson was named the Air Force Academy male athlete of the year in 1964 and was recognized as a Helms Football Foundation All-American in football in 1963.

Jennings is widely known as the best receiver to ever play at the Academy and was regarded as one of the top wide outs in college football in the early '70s. He is one of Air Force's five consensus football All-Americans, earning the honor in 1970. He still holds single-game school records for catches with 15 vs. Wyoming in 1969 and for receiving yards with 235 vs. the Cowboys the following year. His 74 catches for 1,289 yards in 1970 are still single-season Academy records. He is the Air Force career record-holder for pass receptions (148), receiving yardage (2,392), touchdown catches (43), kickoff returns (43) and kickoff return yardage (1,053). He was the first Falcon to finish as a finalist for the Heisman Trophy, finishing eighth in 1970. Jennings was the Air Force male athlete of the year in 1971.

Martin, known as the father of Air Force football, coached the Falcons from 1958-77. He was 96-103-9 during his 20-year tenure, which is the second-longest in school history. Martin led the Falcons to a pair of New Year's Day bowl games, the only two in school history. His 1958 team is the only undefeated team in school history, finishing the year at 9-0-2 and earning a trip to the 1959 Cotton Bowl where it tied TCU, 0-0. The '58 squad featured the school's first consensus All-American, Brock Strom, and helped put the fledgling Falcons on the national map. The school had not even graduated a class when Martin took over and his nine wins are tied for the most by a first-year coach in school history. Martin also led the Falcons to the 1971 Sugar Bowl, defeating the likes of nationally ranked Missouri and Stanford during the 1970 season. Martin passed away in July 2004.

### **FAN VOTING FOR HOBEY BAKER AWARD OPEN**

Three Falcons, Flynn, Lamoureux and Volkening, on the ballot.

USAFA, Colo. – As college hockey heads into the second half of the season, it's time for the fans to help determine the winner of the Hobey Baker Award as the game's top player.

The highly popular fan-voting phase is available by visiting the Hobey Baker website: **[hobeybaker.com](http://hobeybaker.com)**. Click on the **Vote for Hobey Baker** icon and follow the prompts to make your selection from this year's outstanding crop of college hockey players.

This first phase of fan balloting will run now through March 8, 2009. Phase two of fan balloting will then begin on March 20 from the list of Top Ten Hobey Baker finalists. The

fans' vote accounts for a full 1 percent of the total ballot in each phase in selecting this year's award recipient.

Three Falcons are on the initial ballot. Senior Greg Flynn, junior Andrew Volkening and sophomore Jacques Lamoureux are among the players nominated for college hockey's most prestigious individual honor. All three rank among the best in the nation in numerous statistical categories.

Flynn, a defenseman from Lino Lakes, Minn., is the top scoring defenseman in the nation, averaging 1.20 points per game. In 20 games this season, Flynn has 24 points on four goals and 20 assists. He ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in points by all players and is the only defenseman in the top 35 in the nation. Volkening, a goaltender from Genoa, Ill., ranks sixth in goals-against average (1.63) and ninth in the nation in saves percentage (.932). His 15 wins are tops in the nation. He leads Atlantic Hockey in all three categories. Volkening also has three shutouts this season and eight for his career. Lamoureux has spent most of the season as the top scorer in the nation and is currently third in the nation in scoring with 1.50 points per game (17-13-30) and goals (0.85) in 20 games. He leads the nation with 11 power-play goals and five game-winners.

In 2007, former Falcon Eric Ehn became the first service academy player ever named as one of 10 finalists for the Hobey. Ehn was then named to the "Hobey Hat Trick" as one of three finalists for the award. The nation's second leading scorer in 2006-07, Ehn was invited to the Hobey Baker awards ceremony at the Frozen Four in St. Louis, but North Dakota's Ryan Duncan won the award.

Award criteria include candidates mimicking the exceptional character traits exhibited by the award's namesake, Hobey Baker, a World War I flying star better known as America's greatest amateur athlete in his day. Award candidates must demonstrate strength of character both on and off the ice, contribute to the integrity of his team and display outstanding skills in all phases of the game. Consideration should be given to scholastic achievement and sportsmanship.

Key Hobey Baker **announcement dates** for 2009 include:

- Top Ten list of candidates: March 19
- Hobey Hat Trick of three finalists: April 2
- Hobey Baker Award winner: April 10

The 2009 Hobey Baker Award winner will be announced from a field of three Hobey Hat Trick finalists on Friday, April 10, 2009 during the NCAA Frozen Four Championships in Washington, D.C. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual award announcement honoring college hockey's top player will be televised live during prime time on ESPNU. For more info on the Hobey Baker Award or to access the Hobey logo, please visit **[hobeybaker.com](http://hobeybaker.com)**.

### **SENIOR TEAM CO-CAPTAIN EARNS FIRST-TEAM HONORS.**

Roni Yadlin Named To CoSIDA/ESPN Academic All-District Team  
(Oct. 30, 2008)

USAF ACADEMY, Colo. -Air Force senior midfielder [Roni Yadlin](#) was named to the CoSIDA ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District Women's Soccer Team announced today by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Yadlin was a first-team selection in District seven and is now on the ballot for the Academic All-America team.

A team co-captain, Yadlin maintains a 3.81 grade-point average while majoring in astronautical engineering. The Irvine, Calif., native is a three-time Mountain West Conference All-Academic team selection and two-time MWC Scholar Athlete.

The senior is also one of Air Force's top goal scorers this year, ranking second on the team with four goals and nine points.