

WINTER 2024



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2

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ON THE BACK COVER

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Cadets work hard giving back to community

PRESIDENT'S *Reflection*



I love this time of year. It is especially enjoyable to see the excitement in our seniors as they look forward to the next chapter in life. Also, I enjoy observing the underclassmen gain confidence in their academics, and in their extracurricular activities whether it be in athletics, activities or in academic clubs.

Our Cadets are successfully navigating through the rigors of what makes Marine Military Academy (MMA) so special. The years of attending MMA are extraordinarily challenging and it reveals the breadth of their strengths and resilience in learning to adapt to living away from home, to learning military leadership and discipline, and to overcoming their dependence on their mobile devices (at least during the school week). Through this process we call MMA, your Cadets have transformed into young men capable of greater challenges.

I have discovered that champions are made from something they have deep inside of them- a desire, a dream, a winning commitment they just need the opportunity to prove it. Our students do that daily! Stories like our profile of alumni, Cadet Liam Kelly, who earned Dean's List recognition last semester at the Citadel as he continues his pursuit of an U.S. Army Commission and a degree from the Citadel. Additionally, our cover story is about an incredible basketball season. MMA's talented coaches did a phenomenal job coaching our basketball teams this season. Our first year in Robotics was remarkable as we advanced to the State final competition. Our other new club, DECA, is also going to the State Finals. I cannot forget our Chess team that performed superbly at their State Finals. Academically, MMA also advanced in the Spelling Bee competition. All our athletics, activities, and academic clubs have been terrific this year and I am enormously proud of our Cadets and their determined spirit.

As the President of MMA, it has been an incredible honor and privilege to observe our Cadets throughout the school year grow, advance, and pursue their dreams. Like our graduating students, I am excited about the future of Marine Military Academy and the passion from our educators, Drill Instructors and staff who continue to provide the proper momentum and excitement which is contagious - their energy and commitment to higher education is encouraging.

I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Fling, and around campus, and I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible this spring. I also look forward to our upcoming Alumni Reunion on South Padre Island.

With Leatherneck Pride,
Semper Fidelis, CSD

Christopher S. Dowling
Colonel, US Marine Corps (Ret)
President, Marine Military Academy



CADETS HEAD TO STATE IN AUSTIN FOR TCSAAL ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS



ACADEMICS



Spelling Bee



The Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League (TCSAAL) held their South Texas Regional Spelling Bee and the MMA Spelling team finished strong making a big name for themselves! Cadet Remington advanced to the state spelling bee at the State Capitol in Austin, Texas! He earned himself 12th place in the state!

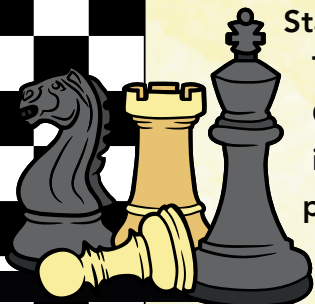
Spelling Team Cadets: Marcelo Valdez, Hurtado, John Seastrunk, David Remington, Dominick Bazaldúa

CHESS



Chess Team Cadets: BohdanTychyna, Phillip Rogers, Anthony Sosnovskiy and ChristianTebbs

The chess team has had an outstanding year! After competing in the IDEA Tres Lagos tournament, they qualified for the TCSAAL State Chess Tournament at the Texas State Capitol in Austin! Cadet Tychyna placed 15th individually. The MMA Chess team placed 9th collectively. Way to go, gentlemen!



Cadet Remington at the TCSAAL South Texas Regional Spelling Bee where he earned a trip to the state meet!

TAKING LEARNING *OUTSIDE*

CADETS EXPAND THEIR LEARNING BEYOND THE FOUR WALLS OF THE CLASSROOM AND GET INTO THE REAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

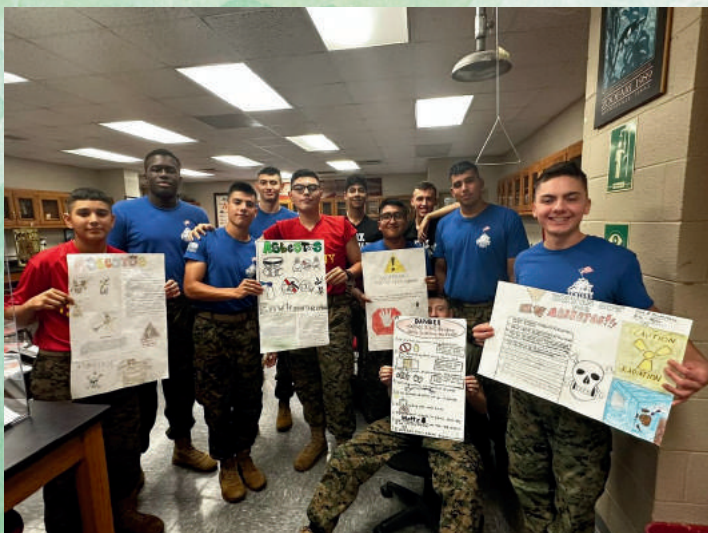
THE CLASSROOM

Learning comes in all shapes and sizes and our cadets have really taken their learning outside the box! With our amazing teachers, cadets have really been able to come alive with some hands on learning experiences. From the class on the dairy farm cow to guided tours of the Laguna Atascosa, our cadets are having true, real life learning experiences. The hands on experiences and interactions help students retain the information being taught while exploring some possible career choices.

Our cadets learned about the dairy cow and the milking process with the SouthWest Dairy Farmers Mobile Dairy Classroom. At the Laguna Atascosa Refuge, cadets received an educational tour of the refuge with a focus on the red head duck species and native flora and fauna.

East Ranch Education Foundation and Texas Wildlife Association presented to the cadets on the water cycle, our local water sheds and pollution.

Our cadets have some amazing academic opportunities to keep learning and excelling!



ACADEMICS CELEBRATES

Awards and Inductions



Hard work, dedication to studies and good citizenship, are always good reasons to celebrate. Our cadets are doing

amazing in the classroom and celebrating their successes is a must. Our cadets are keeping their GPA's high and their academic standards higher! In addition to the work our cadets put into their studies in the classroom, a good handful of cadets are now the newest additional members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society having demonstrated their very best in character, scholarship, leadership and service. Congratulations to all of our cadets on a job well done!



MIDTERM *Graduation Day*

MMA WELCOMES NEWEST CADETS AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR INTRODUCTORY PERIOD

Plebes no more. These outstanding young men have done everything necessary to complete their introductory period and are now the newest cadets standing proud at the Marine Military Academy. These cadets have settled in nicely putting in their work in the classroom, with their respective companies and their activities. We celebrated their accomplishment in front of family, friends and the MMA staff and showed these young men the support they have standing behind them. After they were presented and recited their oath, they each took their spot with their respective companies and marched in unison for pass in review. A beautiful sight to see.



COLLEGE CORNER

WITH
**MR.
FONSECA**



Mr. Oscar Fonseca
956-421-9216
ofonseca@mma-tx.org



CADETS TOUR TEXAS A&M

MMAPO sponsors junior and senior cadets interested in attending



Thanks to MMAPO, junior and senior cadets showing strong interest in Texas A&M, were able to tour the campus and Corps of Cadets. Along the way, some familiar faces! It's always good to run into MMA alumni continuing to do great things! Proud of our cadets shaping their future!

CADET ESTIPONA COMMITS TO UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY



We are proud to congratulate Cadet Everett Estipona on his signed commitment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy! His hard work and dedication to studies gave Cadet Estipona an array of acceptances in which he was proud to take that of Merchant Marine! Congratulations to the Estipona family!



SENIORS ENJOY PIZZA LUNCH FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All seniors were rewarded for their accomplishment of getting applied to at least one college before the end of September. ALL seniors have now applied and acceptances are rolling in! What great role models for the underclassmen!



NO PIE
'TIL YOU
APPLY



IMPORTANT DATES

SAT NOW ONLY OFFERED DIGITALLY

09
MAR

8:00AM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEB 23
LATE REGISTRATION: FEB 27

04
MAY

8:00AM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APR 19
LATE REGISTRATION: APR 23

01
JUN

8:00AM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 16
LATE REGISTRATION: MAY 21

ACT

13
APR

8:00AM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAR 8
LATE REGISTRATION: MAR 24

08
JUN

8:00AM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 3
LATE REGISTRATION: MAY 17



CADETS EARN TOP HONORS IN MILITARY COMPETITIONS

MILITARY



Our cadets are a fine representation of everything MMA strives to exemplify. Whether they are participating in skills meets competing against local high school JROTC programs or fulfilling invitations to attend events, there is no doubt our cadets are putting the Academy's best face forward.

The cadets are keeping themselves sharp competing in many skills meets in places such as Brownsville Pace High School and William B. Travis High School for the Battle of the Alamo Skills Competition in Sugarland, Texas. At PSJA Memorial High School the Air Rifle Team placed 3rd overall, the Raiders Team placed 1st overall and Drill Team placed 1st in armed regulation.

In honor of Veterans Day, our cadets were invited to participate in the VFW Auxiliary Rally Day at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. What an honor to be a part of such a celebrated day!

Keep striving and keep shining, cadets, you're leaving a remarkable impression!



Delta Company cadet, Nicolas Chestnut, stands firm to be reviewed at the Battle of the Alamo Skills Competition in Sugarland, TX.



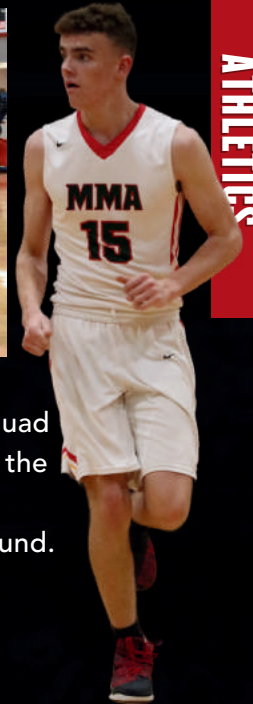
LEATHERNECKS

ATHLETICS

JV and varsity basketball finish the season with a perfect record, make run for playoffs VISA takes the middle school championship

The basketball program is going strong! After the varsity made a state final four playoff appearance last year, the Leathernecks were determined seasons for the

to get back to the top. After perfect regular both the JV and Varsity squads, it was no doubt hard work was pushing them through. Coach Williams does a great job preparing the JV boys for the varsity level, giving Coach Kruse a perfect advantage to execute his plans. Not far behind come our VISA middle school team. With the coaching talents of Coach Rodriguez, fundamental skills continue to grow. This year, our VISA squad took home the Middle School Championship, while our JV team made the playoffs and bowed out in the state semifinal. Our varsity team also enjoyed a trip to the playoffs falling just short in the state semifinal round. Looking good Leathernecks!



ATHLETICS

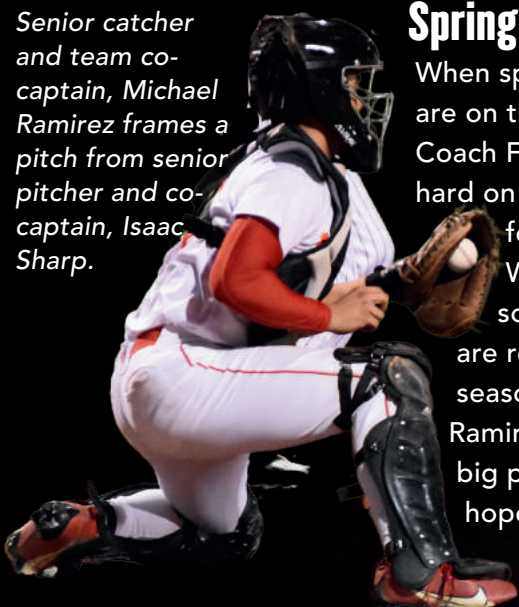
Tennis and golf teams take top spots in their respective tournaments



The beautiful Texas weather allows our golf and tennis teams to enjoy some great sports outdoors! Our golf team competed in the Brownsville tournament and concluded with a first place team finish! Cadet Sergio Garcia finished Top Medalist! Our tennis team also took a recent first place team finish with Cadets Lakhani and Nguyen taking first in doubles and Cadets Wooster and Montes taking second place. Cadet Yu took a first place finish in singles! Way to go, teams!



Senior catcher and team co-captain, Michael Ramirez frames a pitch from senior pitcher and co-captain, Isaac Sharp.



Spring is here and so is Leathernecks baseball

When spring arrives, that can only mean one thing...baseball is back! The Leathernecks are on the hunt for another trip to the state tournament this year and chasing a title.

Coach Fonseca and the Leathernecks have been working hard on the diamond preparing for the upcoming season.

With scrimmages against some tough schools, they are ready for their district season. Team captains, Cadet Ramirez and Cadet Sharp, have big plans for their team and hope to leave their mark not only at MMA, but at the state tournament in May.



CADET BLUE COMMITS TO UTRGV



**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN MAKING HISTORY SIGNING TO PLAY
DIVISION I FOOTBALL FOR VAQUEROS INAUGURAL SEASON**

Cadet Mehkhi Blue is hard to overlook when he walks around the MMA campus. Standing at 6'6" and 270 pounds, it's no wonder the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley wanted to make sure Blue makes the Valley his college home. Not only is Cadet Blue earning his football scholarship, but he is also part of a historic time for the university. The 2025 football season will mark UTRGV's inaugural season as the Vaqueros make their appearance in the Division I football scene. We wish all the best to Cadet Blue as he represents MMA at the collegiate level!



ALUMNI

Spotlight

Former cadet excelling at The Citadel

At The Citadel, the dean's list is a recognition given to both cadets and students who are registered for 12 or more semester hours and whose grade point average is 3.20

or higher. In addition, they hold no grade of I (Incomplete) and no grade below C for work in a semester. Cadet Liam Kelly, 2023 MMA graduate and current Criminal Justice major, is doing amazing at The Citadel and found himself on the dean's list last semester. Cadets who are named to the dean's list receive a medal, which is worn on their uniform during the semester following their academic achievement. What a great start to his college studies and very well deserved!

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY PARENTS ORGANIZATION

it has been a fabulous year!

BIRTHDAY BALL DJ AND FLOWERS
COMFY HOODIES FOR ENTIRE BATTALION
COMPANY REC FUND DONATIONS
FINALS WEEK FOOD TRUCKS
TRIP TO VISIT TEXAS A&M CORPS OF CADETS
TEACHER OF THE MONTH SPONSOR
APPRECIATION EVENTS AND GIFTS FOR MMA
STAFF SPRING FLING BLOCK PARTY
SUPER BOWL PIZZA
AND SO MUCH MORE!



MMAPO brings The Sparkle
★★★

JOIN & SUPPORT OUR CADETS

www.MMAPO.org

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

CADETS IN THE

From serving to clean up, our cadets have their helping hands all around the community

Community

Serving the community is a regular practice for our cadets. From serving meals at the annual H-E-B Feast of Sharing to giving time decorating patient doors at the DHR Oncology Center, our cadets are sharing their contagious smiles throughout the community. Cadets have also been busy helping usher guests at the Harlingen Concert Association series of concerts. The Science Club has been

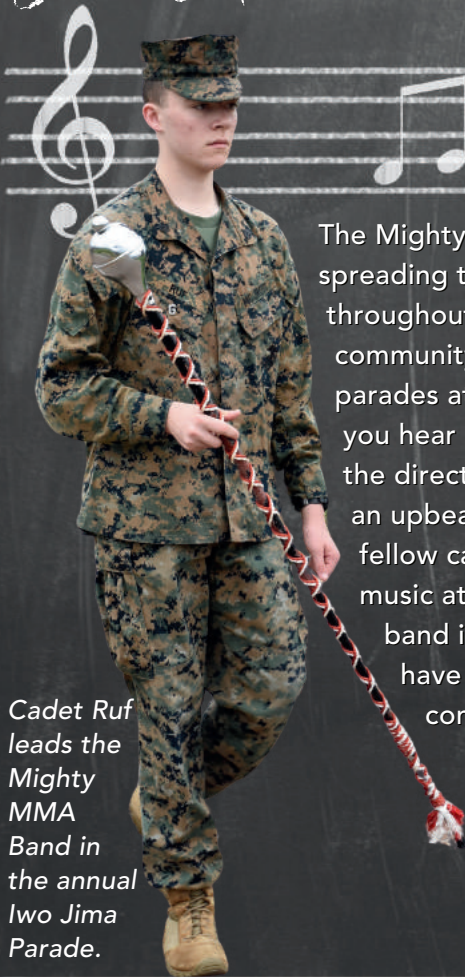
busy getting their hands dirty helping clean up garden beds and grounds at the Laguna Atascosa Refuge. We are so proud of our cadets and the tireless efforts they give each and every day to make our community a better place for all.



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



The Musical Sounds of the Leatherneck Band



Cadet Ruf leads the Mighty MMA Band in the annual Iwo Jima Parade.

The Mighty Leatherneck Band...you can find them spreading their amazing musical sounds throughout MMA and our community. From community holiday parades, to celebration parades at MMA, you can bet the great sounds you hear come from our talented band. Under the direction of Mr. DiSantis, the band provides an upbeat and positive sound to MMA. Their fellow cadets are able to enjoy the music at morning colors, as well. Our band is a gem and we are proud to have them represent MMA in the community every given opportunity!



DECA TEAM HEADS TO STATE IN HOUSTON

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for various careers in marketing, finance and management in high schools and colleges around the world.

The MMA DECA chapter competed at the Texas DECA District 1 competition on January 12th at UTRGV. The cadets competed in individual events where they were asked to explain business concepts to a judge during a role-play. The cadets showed true

professionalism and excelled in their events. For this, they earned a trip to the state competition in Houston, where Cadets Sharp, Bonometti and Oyemwense all qualified for ICDC (International Career Development Conference) 2024 in Anaheim, California! Cadets Yang and Cowart were also awarded as state finalists!

We are so proud of each of the members of the team and excited for those moving on to the international meet!

Team: Cadet Bonometti, Cadet Breger, Cadet Cowart
Cadet Lakhani, Cadet Oyemwense, Cadet Podkovyrov
Cadet Sharp, Cadet Yang, Cadet Omey Cadet Raj





MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Throughout history, warriors have been asked to face overwhelming odds, defend the indefensible, oppose the unstoppable, and do the seemingly impossible. Many died carrying out their orders. Others somehow fought their way to an unlikely triumph. When God asks us to do impossible things, we have more than a remote possibility of success. We can proceed with absolute confidence, regardless of the circumstances, the opposition, or our personal limitations. As we step out in obedience, we can be certain GOD will equip us, strength us, and see us through to victory. "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations" Jeremiah 1:4-5

SPRING FLING

family weekend

April 19

**MORNING COLORS
PARENTS DAY-ACADEMICS
MMAPO MEETING
JUNIOR / SENIOR PROM**

April 20

**JOHN & JANE WAYNE DAY
SENIOR SPORTS PRESENTATION
MMAPO BLOCK PARTY**

Make plans to join us!

Giving Donations

November 1, 2023-February 13, 2024

Memorials

Capt Alexander Louis Bearce
Col Elkin S. Dew, USMC (Ret) "Tex" - VMF 422
Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) - 9th Marines RVN
Robert Terril Gebert "Terry"
SSgt Tyrel L. Genoff, USMC - MMA '07
Brendan Joseph Hall, Jr.
H. Richard Harrod
Chris Heard - MMA '99
Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
SgtMaj David A. Miller, USMCR (Ret)
CWO4 Casimir C. Mroz, USMCR (Ret)
Joseph Christopher Perales
Thomas G. Ringer - MMA '92
Capt David H. Rosenthal, USMC (Ret)
Sgt John Haddock Stevenson, IV, USMC
SSgt Dennis Studenny - 5th Marines, RVN
Eusebio Trevino "Chevo"
SSgt Edward L. Walsh "Knobby", USMC - 7th Marines, Korea
Steven Doyle Wieland "Steve"

In Honor of

LtCol Thomas J. Duff, USMC / HMLA 169 - MMA '00
Ruthie Ewers
Ret General Mark A. Milley, U.S. Army

LEADER

The Leader is a quarterly publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy.



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(956) 423-6006

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

1 Leadership Forum.....0800-1300
6-7 Third Quarter Exams
8 Spring Break.....Departure after 1200
17 End of Spring Break.....Return by 1800
18 Classes Resume

APRIL

1-2 TMCI
3 HM Smith Dinner.....1800
5-7 Alumni Reunion
6 ACT.....0800
19-20 Spring Fling Family Weekend
19 Colors - COM/SOM/TOM Streamers Presentations.....0815
19 Parents Day - No Classes (Meet & Greet at CAC).....0845
19 Parents Visit Classrooms.....0915
19 MMAPO Meeting at Hilton Hotel.....1930
19 Jr/Sr Prom.....1900
20 John & Jane Wayne Day / MMAPO Block Party
25 Deadline for Financial Aid Application 2024-2025
26 Re-Enrollment Contracts 2024-25 Deadline

MAY

4 SAT.....0800
17,20-22 Second Semester Exams
24 Graduation Weekend Parade.....0900
24 Eagle Scout Ceremony.....1100
24 Academic / Sports / Military Awards.....1330
24 Senior Dinner.....1730
25 Graduation.....1000
25 All Cadets Schedule Departure.....1300

JUNE

18 2024 Summer Camp Instructors Report By.....1200
22 2024 Summer Camp Registration.....0800-1200

JULY

19 Family Social.....1700
20 Summer Camp / Graduation0900

Making plans to visit?



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Harlingen, Texas 78552

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