



MMA LEADER

»»»»»»»»»» MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY develops disciplined, morally strong, college-ready, young men who are prepared for responsible leadership. »»»»»»»»»»»»

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50 Years of Excellence »» 1965-2015

April/May 2016

Special Events

Commencement Exercises

The 50th Annual Marine Military Academy Commencement Exercises took place May 21 in Yeckel auditorium. **Haoyang Li** of Beijing had the honor of being valedictorian for the Class of 2016. **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai was the proud salutatorian.

The guest speaker for this momentous occasion was H. William "Bill" Card III, Class of 1970. Through his own stories, Mr. Card left the cadets with three life lessons: 1) Use good judgment; 2) Know why you are doing something; and 3) Be flexible.

"You only have one race to run. Make it count," Mr. Card said. "If you don't like the race you are running, change it."

He also reminded the cadets to stay true to two words: *Semper Fidelis* (always faithful).

"I learned the true meaning of these words at MMA. They will always steer you in the right direction," Mr. Card said. "Remain faithful to God, your country, your family and yourself."

After listening to powerful speeches by the valedictorian, salutatorian and guest speaker, the 49 graduation candidates walked across the stage to accept their high school diplomas. The event concluded with the traditional tossing of the covers. To view and/or download photos of this event, visit Flickr.com/Photos/MMAHarlingen.



Senior Haoyang Li of Beijing leads the Class of 2016 graduation procession.



The senior class stands to be recognized.



Junior Grant Taylor of Houston presents guest speaker Bill Card III, Class of 1970, with a gift.



Graduate Kolten Wagner Bushu of Tomball, Texas, accepts his diploma from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill (left) and H. William "Bill" Card III, Class of 1970.

Special Events

Alumni Reunion

More than 200 alumni returned to South Texas for Marine Military Academy's 50th Anniversary Alumni Reunion April 1-2. From the inaugural Class of 1966 to the most recent Class of 2015, an alumnus from almost every graduating class was present at this landmark event.

Most of the men gathered again April 2 at the Alumni Reunion Dinner held at South Padre Island. In addition to alumni, hundreds of spouses, children and friends attended the reunion. In fact, some fathers and sons who graduated from MMA decades apart celebrated as "brothers."

Most of the alumni reunited April 1 and participated in various activities on the MMA campus, particularly the Alumni Reunion Parade.

To view and/or download all the photos from the event, go to [Flickr.com/Photos/MMAHarlingen](https://www.flickr.com/photos/MMAHarlingen) and click on the Alumni Reunion albums.



Juan López Álvarez, Class of 2009, rappels Australian style from the MMA Tower.



Lionel Rodriguez, Class of 2009, readies his camera at the "selfie" photo booth.



Long Langley, Class of 1969, presents Battalion Commander Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas, with his senior pin.



Vincent May, Class of 1985, sits with wife and sons Tanner May, Class of 2012, (center) and Jake May, Class of 2015, at the Alumni Reunion Parade.



Some of the younger alumni horse around before the photo in front of the Iwo Jima Monument.

Special Events

General H.M. Smith Dinner



Speaker Gen Alfred "Al" Gray Jr. jests with the audience.



Gen Al Gray Jr. accepts the 2016 Iwo Jima Leadership Award from Battalion Commander Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas.

Though they are living in complicated times, Gen Alfred "Al" Gray Jr., 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps during the Gulf War, reminded the Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets that they are the hope of the nation at the General H.M. Smith Dinner April 7.

"You're going to be the young leaders of our nation, and you'd better do well," Gen Gray said. "The responsibilities that will be placed on your shoulders upon graduation are probably, in my humble opinion, greater than any time in our history."

Gen Gray told the audience the young people of America are capable of being good leaders.

"I think they're smart, they're quick ... and we all know how good they are with technology," Gen Gray said. "I think in the long run they're going to come through for us. They always have, and they always will."

He also reminded the cadets of the most important trait of a strong leader.

"Everything you'll ever achieve will be done with people. So doesn't it make common sense to take care of people? That's what it's all about. Take care of the people, and they'll take care of you," Gen Gray said.

After his speech, Gen Gray was presented with the 2016 MMA Iwo Jima Leadership Award,

Gen Gray served 41 years in the Marine Corps when he retired July 30, 1991, with his last four as 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps. As a reminder that the primary role of every Marine is a rifleman, Gen Gray had his official photograph taken in his camouflage utility uniform, the first Commandant to ever do so. Gen Gray was both a Korean War and Vietnam War veteran. He holds 27 awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

This distinguished leader currently serves as the Chancellor of MMA.

Prior to Gen Gray's speech, James "Jim" Ezzell of McAllen, Texas, and Cheryl Moxley of Oakton, Va., were inducted into the H.M. Smith Fellow society for their extraordinary support of MMA.

Though they have passed, the following were also inducted in spirit: MGySgt Edwin and Katsuko Chester; William Mathews Jr.; LtCol Charles and Cloa Nicholson; and Col Richard and Opal Vanderhoof.



James "Jim" Ezell (right) sports the H.M. Smith Fellow jacket presented to him by Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.



Cheryl Moxley stands as an H.M. Smith Fellow with Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

Special Events

Spring Fling



Freshman Connor Parker of Houston and his grandfather get ready to zipline.



A father takes his own photo as he ziplines.



Freshman Ashton Haresnape of Schertz, Texas, hits his first game table.

The Marine Military Academy Parents Organization hosted 2016 Spring Fling April 22-23. Each year, the parents of the cadets are invited to spend a weekend with their sons in warm and sunny South Texas and engage in some family activities.

On April 22, all parents and siblings joined the cadets for morning colors. Then they visited teachers and spent the morning hours together.

At noon, the families of upperclassmen attended the Junior-Senior Ring Ceremony. At this event, the following 16 cadets were presented with their MMA class ring: senior **Chukwuemeka Atuma** of Abuja, Nigeria; junior **Andre Bergan** of Leirsund, Norway; junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas; senior **Justin Dodds** of The Woodlands, Texas; senior **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.; senior **Chaunce Lee**

of Shanghai; junior **TianHong Liu** of Jiangyin, China; senior **Alejandro Marín Carmona** of Puebla City, Mexico; senior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas; junior **Marco Ortíz Hernández** of Mexico City; junior **Miles Piha** of Mercer Island, Wash.; senior **Luis Tanajara Arteaga** of Nueva Rosita, Mexico; junior **Grant Taylor** of Houston; senior **Zhi Tu** Chongqing, China; junior **Brandon Wood** of Frisco, Texas; and junior **Kaijie Xia** of Jiangyin, China.

In the evening, the cadets and their families hit the tables at "Casino Night." All of the guests enjoyed a night of games, prizes and delicious desserts.

The morning of April 23, a number of families headed to the Back 40 to zipline, rappel and play paintball with their sons.



A group of upperclassmen show off their MMA ring.

Recent Events

Iron Man

Echo Company won the Iron Man competition held April 9.

For Iron Man, each company assembled a team that had to complete a series of 12 physical events. The events were Initial Run, Low Crawl, Fireman's Carry,

Rifle Range, Run to Obstacle Course, Obstacle Course, Confidence Course, Run to Paintball Course, Paintball, Mud Course, Swim Event and Final Run.

Though Iron Man course encircled most of the Marine Military Academy campus, all five companies finished the competition in an hour or less.



Sophomore Jonathan Laube of Richmond, Texas, speeds through the obstacle course.



Eighth-grader Houston Doan of Harlingen, Texas races out of the mud course.

Aviation Merit Badge

Forty cadets from Marine Military Academy's Troop 22 completed the Aviation merit badge May 3. The Boy Scouts were taught by Harlingen pilot Jeremy Reiley over a five-week period.

Aviation was an exciting subject for the cadets. Reiley taught them the fundamentals of flying, the instruments used and Federal Aviation Administration guidelines. Senior **Brooks Dickerson** of Golden, Colo., who earned his private pilot's license at MMA, assisted Reiley.

The Boy Scouts learned both in and out of the classroom. They were

able to tour the FAA facility at Valley International Airport and even took a ride in a single-engine aircraft.



Eighth-grader Ignacio Osorio Jr. of Sugar Land, Texas, holds up his pilot log after his plane ride.

Yearbook Party

Marine Military Academy released the 2016 Pass in Review at the Yearbook Party May 14. The 2016 yearbook not only captures the 2015-16 school year but honors MMA's 50th anniversary.

At the party, the cadets flipped through the pages to find photos of themselves and friends, and took turns "autographing" each other's yearbooks.



Senior Miguel Martínez Porras (left) of Willemstad, Curacao, and Freshman Xuejia Tang of Chengdu, China, read yearbook messages.



Sophomore Maxim Pepper of Austin, Texas, reviews the 2016 Pass in Review.

Open House

Several families turned out for Marine Military Academy's first "Meet the Leathernecks" Open House April 22 in Peacher Hall.

The forum is an opportunity for parents who are inquiring about MMA or MMA Summer Camp to learn more and speak directly with all the department heads in one central location. At the Open House, parents were encouraged to ask specific questions or address any concerns to those who work directly with the campers or cadets. The departments at the event included military, academics, medical, athletics and the MMA Parents' Organization.

Because cadets are also MMA "experts," 10 upperclassman participated in the "Meet a Cadet" presentation. The young men, all from different backgrounds, told the audience why they came to MMA and what they learned from their years at MMA. The cadets stole the show!



Senior Luis Tanajara Arteaga of Nueva Rosita, Mexico, gives his MMA testimonial.

Recent Events

End-of-Year Trips

In May, every company at Marine Military Academy took a trip to a venue where the cadets could "play hard" and make more memories before the end of the school year.



Sophomore Zachary Miller of Altoon, Iowa, (left) and junior Ryan Anderson of Elkton, Md., enjoy tubing at the waterpark.

Alpha Company and Echo Company hit Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark at South Padre Island May 7 for swimming and splashing. Fox Company also chose to visit Schlitterbahn Beach

May 8. Delta Company took a road trip to San Antonio May 8 for rides and thrills at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Golf Company went to Main Event

Entertainment in Pharr May 11 for bowling and arcade games. The end-of-year trips are possible due to strong parental support.

Relay for Life

Twelve cadets from the Marine Military Academy Key Club ran in the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" April 29-30. From sunset to dawn, the team logged at least 70 miles — and raised more than \$5,500 for cancer research!

By the end of the relay, the Key Club broke the 1,200-hour community service record. Led by Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, MMA's Key Club donates about 1,000 man hours to the local community each year.



The MMA Key Club gets ready to run for 12 hours at the Relay for Life event.

Recent Events

Military Awards

Thirty-one Marine Military Academy cadets were honored for their military achievement during the school year at the Military Awards May 21.

MMA

Commandant of Cadet's Award

Junior **Grant Taylor** of Houston

Drill Instructor Senior Awards

- Alpha: **Yang Yi Wu** of Yorba Linda, Calif.
- Delta: **Ryan Nadolski** of Cypress, Texas
- Echo: **Juan Carmona Villarreal** of Cancun, Mexico
- Fox: **Chukwuemeka Atuma** of Abuja, Nigeria
- Golf: **Zhi Tu** of Chongqing, China

Senior Marine Instructor's Award

Michael Lucas of Naples, Fla.

Superintendent's Senior Award

Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas

Auxiliary Awards

American Legion Bronze Medal for Military Excellence

Senior **Zachary Alexander** of Pflugerville, Texas

American Legion Bronze Medal for Scholastic Excellence

Senior **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai

American Veterans JROTC Medal

Junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas

AMCSUS Award

Senior **James Harvey** of Austin, Texas

Colonel H. William Card Jr. Inspirational Leadership Award

Senior **Sterling Mellman** of Victoria, Texas

Daedalian JROTC Achievement Award & Heard Memorial Scholarship

Junior **Kevin Schiefelbein** of Rio Grande City, Texas

Daughters of the American Revolution Award

Sophomore **René Rodríguez Ehrli** of Mexico City

John Philip Sousa Music Award

Senior **Joshua Williams** of Dallas

Marine Corps Association JROTC Award

Senior **George Zenner** of Houston

Military Officers Association of America Award

Junior **Miguel Zapata Dominguez** of Monterrey, Mexico

Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award

Senior **Luis Tanajara Arteaga** of Nueva Rosita, Mexico

NRA Club Championship Award

Junior **Tianhong Liu** of Jiangyin, China

National Sojourners Americanism Award

Junior **Philipp Slivko** of Moscow

Reserve Officers Association JROTC Award & Friedrich Memorial Award

Senior **Jordan Sartor** of La Porte, Texas

Scottish Rite JROTC Award

Senior **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.

Semper Fidelis Award

Freshman **Trevor Roberts** of Fairbanks, Ala.

Sons of the American Revolution Award »

» Senior **Arzel Alexander** of Joshua Tree, Calif.

Theodore Roosevelt Youth Award

Senior **Lorenzo Casso** of Baton Rouge, La.

Third Marine Division Association Award

Senior **Christopher Ballance** of Houston

Veterans of Foreign Wars Award

Senior **Justin Dodds** of The Woodlands, Texas

Women Marines Association MCJROTC Award

Senior **Brooks Dickerson** of Golden, Colo.

Tawani Charitable Foundation Class Awards

- Grade 9: **Benjamin Reading** of Katy, Texas
- Grade 10: **Claude Minkandi** of Houston
- Grade 11: Schiefelbein
- Grade 12: Atuma
- Best Overall: Schiefelbein



Senior **Sterling Mellman** of Victoria, Texas, accepts the Col H. William Card Jr. Inspirational Leadership Award from H. William "Bill" Card III, Class of 1970.

SALUTING THE CLASS OF 2016

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value. ~ Albert Einstein



ARZEL LORENZO ALEXANDER
Joshua Tree, Calif.
United States
Marine Corps



**ZACHERY AARON
ALEXANDER**
Pflugerville, Texas
The University of Texas
at Austin



CLAYTON MORGAN ALLEN
Lafayette, La.
Barry University



**CHUKWUEMEKA WILLIAMS
ATUMA**
Abuja, Nigeria
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



**CHRISTOPHER BUTLER
BALLANCE**
Houston, Texas
Sam Houston State
University



LORENZO CHRISTIAN CASSO
Baton Rouge, La.
Oklahoma State
University



LUIS CERVANTES FABELA
Naucaipan de Juárez,
Mexico
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



**CHARLES EMERET
CHANDLER**
Corona del Mar, Calif.
Santa Barbara
City College



**VICTOR MANUEL
COLIN VAZQUEZ**
Mexico City, Mexico
Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi



**MARK PATRICK THOMAS
CRUZ**
Houston, Texas
Sam Houston State
University



BROOKS DAVIS DICKERSON
Golden, Colo.
University of Colorado
Boulder



JUSTIN GIYK CHAYIL DODDS
The Woodlands, Texas
United States
Coast Guard



MICHAEL ARMAN DURAK
Mission, Texas
United States Navy



KARL REIMONDT FISCHER
Colfax, Wash.
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute



PATRICK JOHN GALLAGHER
San Pedro, Calif.
Naval Academy
Preparatory School



**JOSÉ VÍCTOR
GARCÍA GUERRERO**
Rivoverde, Mexico
Tecnológico
de Monterrey



SERGIÍ SERGIIOVYICH GURA
Cherkasy, Ukraine
Royal Military College of
Canada



JAMES HARVEY
Austin, Texas
Texas Tech University



CADE WARREN JOHNSON
New Braunfels, Texas
United States
Marine Corps



**OBASEYFUNMI
MOYINOLUWA KUFORJI**
Dallas, Texas
Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi



**MAX WILLIAM
KUTSCHINSKI**
Norderstedt, Germany
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



KEVIN C. LAU
West Covina, Calif.
Blinn College



CHAUNCE CURTIS LEE
Pasadena, Calif.
The University of Texas
at Austin



HAOYANG LI
Beijing, China
The University of Texas
at Austin



KING SHING LI
Shenzhen, China
University of Colorado
Boulder



MICHAEL ROBERT LUCAS
Naples, Fla.
Florida State University



**ALEJANDRO MARIN
CARMONA**
Puebla, Mexico
Universidad de La Salle
Bajío



**MIGUEL ANGEL
MARTINEZ PORRAS**
Willemstad, Venezuela
Lynn University



**GRANT BENJAMIN
MEISNER-MOORE**
The Woodlands, Texas
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



STERLING VAN MELLMAN
Victoria, Texas
Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University



**JOSHUA XAVIER
MYERS JOHNSON**
Uniondale, N.Y.
Abilene Christian
University



RYAN CASEY NADOLSKI
Cypress, Texas
University of Houston



JACK MICHAEL NEWBURY
Richmond, Texas
Louisiana
State University



**MICHAEL DUANE
NIKITINS**
Portland, Ore.
Texas A&M University



**ABISOLA AZEEZ
AYOTOKUNBO ODUSANWO**
Brooklyn, N.Y.
St. John's University



BAILEY WARREN RAGSDALE
Tahlequah, Okla.
University of Arkansas



KRISTOPHER ALVIN RICHEY
League City, Texas
United States
Marine Corps



MALCOLM JOHN ROWE JR.
South Port, Conn.
University of New Haven



**JOSÉ LUIS
RUIZ ALEGRIA**
San Juan del Río, Mexico
Tecnológico de Monterrey,
Campus Querétaro



EBADULLAH SALEH
Kabul, Afghanistan
Norwich University



**CHARLES ALEXANDER
SANCHEZ**
Miramar, Fla.
Texas A&M University-
Commerce



JORDAN REESE SARTOR
La Porte, Texas
Texas A&M University
at Galveston



**ROBERT MATHEW
ST. CLAIR**
San Antonio, Texas
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



**LUIS DAVID
TANAJARA ARTEAGA**
Nueva Rosita, Mexico
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



ZHI TU
Chongqing, China
The University of Texas
at San Antonio



**KOLTIN SLADE
WAGNER-BUSHU**
Tomball, Texas
United States
Marine Corps



JOSHUA AARON WILLIAMS
Dallas, Texas
Texas State University
& Texas Army
National Guard



YANG YI WU
Yorba Linda, Calif.
University of British
Columbia



GEORGE OTTO ZENNER
Houston, Texas
Texas A&M University



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1965-2015

Recognition

Annual Awards

Marine Military Academy honored 29 outstanding cadets at the Annual Awards May 20.

Excellence Awards

Col Yeckel Athlete of the Year Award & USMC Music Excellence Award
Senior **Joshua Williams** of Dallas

Dean's Award

Senior **Charles Sanchez** of Miramar, Fla.

Outstanding Senior Alumni Award
Senior **George Zenner** of Houston

Plank Holders

Senior **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai

President's Athletic Award

Senior **James Harvey** of Austin, Texas

The Rensselaer Medal - RPI

Junior **Xialong Tong** of Beijing

Rolls-Royce Pegasus Trophy for Excellence in Aerospace Studies

Sophomore **John Ream** of St. Simons Island, Ga.

Salutatorian Award

Chaunce Lee of Shanghai

USMC Distinguished Athlete Award

Junior **Jackson Theodore** of Brentwood, Tenn.

USMC Scholastic Excellence Award & Valedictorian Award

Senior **Haoyang Li** of Beijing

Top Students by Class & Subject

- Grade 8: **Vikram Makker** of Brea, Calif.
- Grade 9: **Jeshua Podliska** of Orangevale, Calif.
- Grade 10: **Zihao Liu** of Jinhua, China
- Grade 11: **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho

Viejo, Texas

- Computer Science: **Zenner**
- English: Senior **Ryan Nadolski** of Cypress, Texas
- Foreign Language: **Lee**
- Math: Senior **Max Kutschinski** of Norderstedt, Germany
- Science: **Li**
- Social Studies: Sophomore **Yu Chen Khew** of Shanghai

Auxiliary Scholarships

Friedrich Memorial Scholarship

Senior **Jordan Sartor** of La Porte, Texas

Heard Memorial Scholarship

Junior **Kevin Schiefelbein** of Rio Grande City, Texas

Marine Corps League Coastal Bend Scholarship

Senior **Patrick Gallagher** of San Pedro, Calif.

Harlingen Rotary Scholarship: **Lee**

University Scholarship Recipients

- **Clayton Allen** of Lafayette, La.★
 - **Brooks Dickerson** of Golden, Colo.★★
 - **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.★★★ Gallagher★
 - **José García Guerrero** of Rioverde, Mexico★
 - **Michael Lucas** of Naples, Fla.★
 - **Miguel Martinez Porras** of Sunrise, Fla.★
 - **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas★★★
 - **Michael Nikitins** of Portland, Ore.★★
 - **Luis Tanajara Arteaga** of Nueva Rosita, Mexico★
 - **Williams**★
 - **Zenner**★
- ★ Each represents a scholarship



Senior Joshua Williams of Dallas accepts the Col Yeckel Athlete of the Year Award from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.



Senior James Harvey of Austin, Texas, accepts the President's Athletic Award from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.



Senior Haoyang Li of Beijing accepts the USMC Scholastic Excellence Award from a Marine Corps representative.

Recognition

Academic Awards

Marine Military Academy awarded 77 cadets with a wreath pin at the Academic Awards May 20. The Gold Wreath is given to cadets who make the President's List, or a semester GPA of 3.75 or above, while the Silver Wreath is given to those who make the Dean's List, or a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74.

Cadets who make the President's List for two straight semesters also receive a Gold Star. Those who do the same for the Dean's List receive a Silver Star.

Gold Wreath Seniors

- **Zachery Alexander** of Pflugerville, Texas**
- **Chukwuemeka Atuma** of Abuja, Nigeria
- **Brooks Dickerson** of Golden, Colo.**
- **Max Kutschinski** of Norderstedt, Germany**
- **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai**
- **Michael Lucas** of Naples, Fla.**
- **Haoyang Li** of Beijing**
- **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas*
- **Jordan Sartor** of La Porte, Texas**

Gold Wreath Juniors

- **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas**
- **Tyler Ledbetter** of Fort Worth, Texas
- **Zhengyang Ma** of Guangzhou, China
- **Philipp Slivko** of Moscow
- **Kaijie Xia** of Jiangyin, China

Gold Wreath Sophomores

- **James Beamon Jr.** of Missouri City, Texas*
- **Giancarlo Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico
- **Giovanni Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico**
- **Luis Carcamo** of San Antonio

- **Huan He** of Shanghai
- **Yu Chen Khew** of Shanghai *
- **Brice Kolle** of Sugar Land, Texas
- **Joshua Lewis** of Stamford, Conn.
- **Zihao Liu** of Jinhua, China**
- **Christopher Lucas** of Naples, Fla.**
- **Cameron Montgomery** of Key Largo, Fla. **
- **Maxim Pepper** of Austin, Texas
- **René Rodríguez Ehrli** of Mexico City
- **Madhav Sood** of Sanford, Fla.
- **Chikemefola Umeorah** of Sugar Land, Texas
- **Bo Ning Zhang** of Shenzhen, China
- **Zhaoyang Zhang** of Beijing
- **Yuhan Zhou** of Beijing

Gold Wreath Freshmen

- **Gage Hayne** of San Antonio
- **Connor Parker** of Houston
- **Jeshua Podliska** of Orangevale, Calif. **
- **Richard Popp** of Fort Lee, N.J.
- **Benjamin Reading** of Katy, Texas*
- **Tuan Tran** of Broken Arrow, Okla.

Silver Wreath Seniors

- **Clayton Allen** of Lafayette, La.
- **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.
- **Patrick Gallagher** of San Pedro, Calif.*
- **James Harvey** of Austin, Texas
- **King Li** of Shenzhen, China
- **Ryan Nadolski** of Cypress, Texas*
- **Michael Nikitins** of Portland, Ore.*
- **Charles Sanchez** of Miramar, Fla.
- **George Zenner** of Houston

Silver Wreath Juniors

- **Andre Bergan** of Leirsund, Norway
- **William Crocker** of Mission, Texas
- **Michael Mendoza** of Chula Vista, Calif.
- **Miles Piha** of Mercer Island, Wash.
- **Xialong Tong** of Beijing*
- **Brandon Wood** of Frisco, Texas

Silver Wreath Sophomores

- **Jousef Bechara Aguilera** of Mexico City
- **Brett Boren** of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
- **Harrison Kunneman** of Spring, Texas*
- **Xin Liang** of Shanghai
- **Claude Minkandi** of Houston
- **Christian Morse** of Converse, Texas
- **Mason Murphy** of Plano, Texas
- **Ryan Rakowitz** of La Vernia, Texas
- **José Salazar Medina** of Puebla, Mexico*
- **Cameron Rush** of Cushing, Okla.
- **Jonathan Sison** of Centreville, Va.
- **Mokutmfon Utibe** of Pleasanton, Calif.
- **Xiangyu Wang** of Shanghai
- **Matthew Wisely** of Kerrville, Texas
- **Shawn Wu** of San Diego*

Silver Wreath Freshmen

- **Trevor Roberts** of Fairbanks, Ala.*
- **Alan Said Maccise** of Naucalpan de Juarez, Mexico
- **Javier Tan** of Singapore
- **Hongyu Zhao** of Nanjing, China
- **Jinson Zhang** of Yunnan, China
- **Silver Wreath Eighth-graders**
- **Denys Chepulsky** of Milpitas, Calif.
- **Ethan Fuhrman** of Spicewood, Texas
- **Nathaniel Ungashick** of Boerne, Texas
- **Hiram Vazquez Jr.** of Laredo, Texas

** Gold Star, * Blue Star

Teacher of the Year

Marine Military Academy named math teacher Rosalinda Garcia the 2016 Teacher of the Year at the Annual Awards May 20.

Ms. Garcia teaches calculus, pre-calculus and other advanced math. She is known for explaining high-level material in a manner that students can understand and apply.

This deserving teacher is dedicated to the cadets inside and outside of the classroom. Ms. Garcia serves as the sponsor of the MMA National Honor Society, and she attends and volunteers at MMA events.

Ms. Garcia joined MMA in August 2013. Prior, she taught at San Benito High School for 22 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Texas-Pan American.



Math teacher Rosalinda Garcia is the 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Recognition

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Three Marine Military Academy cadets were initiated as Eagle Scouts at the Troop 22 Court of Honor ceremony May 20. Before the troop members, junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas; junior **Aaron Frahm** of

Corpus Christi, Texas; and senior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas, were presented with the Eagle Scout medal and neckerchief by their parents and Scout Masters. Eagle Scout is the highest possible rank for a Boy Scout.



(Left to right) Junior Aaron Frahm of Corpus Christi, Texas; senior Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas; and junior Carlos De Leon of Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Battalion Competition

Alpha Company won the 3rd Quarter Marine Military Academy Battalion Competition April 1. This was the second consecutive win for Alpha Company this school year.

The winner of the battalion competition has the honor of carrying the Golden Guidon and also receives a Friday evening liberty. The winning company is evaluated on its overall performance during an academic quarter.

Alpha Company also took home the Academics and Military streamers while Delta Company took home the Athletics streamer.



Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley attaches the Golden Guidon to the Alpha Company staff as senior Zachary Alexander of Pflugerville, Texas, looks on.

Recognition

Court of Honor

Troop 22 honored 51 Boy Scouts at its Court of Honor dinner and ceremony May 12. The Marine Military Academy cadets listed advanced in rank and/or earned at least one merit badge in the second semester:

- Freshman **Adrian Arranaga** of Harlingen, Texas: ★★
- Sophomore **Aiden Berg** of Rollingbay, Wash.: Scout, Tenderfoot Scout ★
- Sophomore **Giancarlo Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico: ★
- Sophomore **Brett Boren** of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.: ★★
- Freshman **John Boerschig II** of Washington, Texas: ★★★★★
- Freshman **Tyler Broussard** of League City, Texas: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Denys Chepulsky** of Milpitas, Calif.: ★★
- Junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Jan Daniec** of San Antonio: ★★
- Sophomore **Longfei Fang** of Spring, Texas: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Tyler Ferrell** of Houston: ★★
- Freshman **Jonathan Fournier** of Homestead, Fla. ★★
- Junior **Aaron Frahm** of Corpus Christi, Texas: ★
- Sophomore **Conrad Franke** of Traverse City, Mich.: ★
- Junior **Davis Fuhrman** of Spicewood, Texas: ★
- Sophomore **Ty Hamilton** of Austin, Texas: ★★
- Freshman **Ashton Haresnape** of Schertz, Texas: ★★
- Freshman **Gage Hayne** of San Antonio: ★★★★★

- Freshman **Erick Hernandez** of Cypress, Texas: ★★
- Sophomore **Caldon Horton** of Lipan, Texas: ★
- Sophomore **Harrison Kunneman** of Spring, Texas: ★★★★★
- Sophomore **Yu Chen Khew** of Shanghai: ★★
- Junior **Victor Lacey** of Yankton, S.D.: ★
- Freshman **Daniel Lanfear** of San Antonio: ★★
- Junior **West Lataille** of DeLand, Fla.: Life Scout
- Sophomore **Jonathan Laube** of Richmond, Texas: ★★
- Sophomore **Haoxiang Lou** of Yiwu, China: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Vikram Makker** of Brea, Calif.: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Caleb Montgomery** of Key Largo, Fla.: ★★
- Sophomore **Christian Morse** of Converse, Texas: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Chidalu Muanya** of Sugar Land, Texas: Aviation, Fire Safety & Public Speaking
- Sophomore **Kenenna Muanya** of Sugar Land, Texas: ★★★★★
- Junior **Robert Myers** of Mansfield, Texas: ★
- Senior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas: ★
- Senior **Abisola Odusanwo** of Brooklyn, N.Y.: ★
- Sophomore **Benjamin Ohikhuare** of Dulles, Va.: ★★
- Eighth-grader **Ignacio Osorio Jr.** of Sugar Land, Texas: ★★
- Junior **Jack Parker** of Newcastle, Calif.: ★★
- Sophomore **Dawson Pate** of Richmond, Texas: Life Scout ★★

- Sophomore **Maxim Pepper** of Austin, Texas: Life Scout ★★★★★
 - Freshman **Jeshua Podliska** of Orangevale, Calif.: ★★
 - Freshman **Shaun Powell** of Columbus, Ohio: ★★
 - Sophomore **Ryan Rakowitz** of La Vernia, Texas: ★★
 - Freshman **Benjamin Reading** of Katy, Texas: ★
 - Sophomore **Alejandro Sánchez Guzmán** of Uriangato, Mexico: ★
 - Sophomore **Chikemefola Umeorah** of Sugar Land, Texas: Life Scout ★★
 - Sophomore **Mokutmfon Utibe-Ukim** of Pleasanton, Calif.: Tenderfoot Scout ★★
 - Sophomore **Matthew Wisely** of Kerrville, Texas: Life Scout ★★★★★
 - Sophomore **Zhaoyang Zhang** of Beijing: ★
 - Freshman **Minghoa Wang** of Shenzhen, China: ★★
 - Freshman **Zilong Wang** of Weifang, China: ★
- ★ Each represents a merit badge



Freshman Tyler Broussard of League City, Texas, holds up his Public Speaking merit badge.

Top Graduates

On May 20, Marine Military Academy officially announced the top two students for the Class of 2016. **Haoying Li** of Beijing was named valedictorian while **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai was named salutatorian.

Both young men originated from China, and both will attend the University of Texas at Austin. Li will study art and entertainment technology to become a video game designer. Lee will major in civil engineering and then work in the public or private sector.

Rounding out the top 10 students for MMA's 50th graduating class are: **Zachary Alexander** of Pflugerville, Texas; **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.; **Max Kutschinski** of Norderstedt, Germany; **Michael Lucas** of Naples, Fla.; **Michael Nikitins** of Portland, Ore.; **Abisola Odusanwo** of Brooklyn, N.Y.; **Jordan Sartor** of La Porte, Texas; and **George Zenner** of Houston.



Seniors Chaunce Lee of Shanghai (left) and Haoying Li of Beijing stand as salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively.

Recognition

Jiu Jitsu Team

The Marine Military Academy jiu jitsu team took home the most medals at the 6th Rio Grande Valley Jiu Jitsu Open May 7. The team collected five gold medals, 12 silver medals and four bronze medals.

Gold Medals

- Sophomore **Mokutmfon Utibe** of Pleasanton, Calif. ★★
- Sophomore **Jonathan Laube** of Richmond, Texas
- Senior **Miguel Martínez Porras** of Willemstad, Curacao
- Freshman **Kenneth Peden** of Portland, Texas

Silver Medals

- Sophomore **Luis Carcamo** of San Antonio★★
- Senior **Lorenzo Casso** of Baton Rouge, La.★★
- Senior **Patrick Gallagher** of San Pedro, Calif.
- Martínez Porras
- Senior **Sterling Mellman** of Victoria, Texas
- Peden

- Junior **Miles Piha** of Mercer Island, Wash.★★
- Freshman **Trevor Roberts** of Fairbanks, Ala.★★

Bronze Medals

- Sophomore **Conrad Franke** of Traverse City, Mich.
- Gallagher
- Martínez Porras
- Piha

★ Each represents a medal



Sophomore Mokutmfon Utibe of Pleasanton, Calif., was the top jiu jitsu winner with two gold medals.



(Left to right) Senior Lorenzo Casso of Baton Rouge, La.; sophomore Jonathan Laube of Richmond, Texas; junior Victor Lacey of Yankton, S.D.; junior Miles Piha of Mercer Island, Wash.; freshman Trevor Roberts of Fairbanks, Ala.; Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill; senior Sterling Mellman of Victoria, Texas; senior Miguel Martínez Porras of Willemstad, Curacao; sophomore Mokutmfon Utibe of Pleasanton, Calif.; freshman Kenneth Peden of Portland, Texas; and sophomore Conrad Franke of Traverse City, Mich.

Cadet of the Month - April

Bo Ning Zhang of Shenzhen, China - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, Activity: Weightlifting

Future education goals: I wish to go to Stanford University and study mechanical engineering.

Career goals: I will work in the mechanical engineering field.

Sterling Mellman of Victoria, Texas - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Captain

Grade: 12, Activity: Jiu jitsu

Future education goals: I will earn a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Embry-Riddle.

Career goals: I plan to become NASA test pilot and eventually become an astronaut.

Longfei Fang of Zhejiang, China - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant

Grade: 10, Activity: Cycling

Future education goals: I would like to attend an arts college and study fashion design.

Career goals: I would like to become a fashion designer.

Daniel Calvert Mata of Saltillo, Mexico - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 11, Activity: Football

Future education goals: I am going to major in mining engineering at college.

Career goals: I am going to become a mineral engineer.

Erick Montaña Rodríguez of Chinconcuac, Mexico - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant

Grade: 11, Activities: Football & weightlifting

Future education goals: I will study political science at Universidad de Las Americas Puebla.

Career goals: I plan to be a good and responsible politician in my country someday.

Chidalu Muanya of Sugar Land, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Fox, Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8

Future education goals: I hope to study chemistry at an Ivy League before going to medical school.

Career goals: I am going to become a doctor so I can cure cancer.

Caldon Horton of Fort Worth, Texas - Drill Team

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 10

Future education goals: I will study architectural engineering at Texas A&M University.

Career goals: I am going to work in the homebuilding industry.

Important Dates

- **June 25:** Summer Camp (SC) Registration, 8 a.m. - noon
- **July 22:** SC Field Meet, 5 p.m.
- **July 23:** SC Parade, 9 a.m.
- **July 23:** SC Graduation, 10 a.m.
- **Aug. 7:** Football Camp Check-in, by 3 p.m.
- **Aug. 7:** Leadership Camp Check-in, by 6 p.m.
- **Aug. 13:** Plebe Registration, 8 a.m. - noon
- **Aug. 14:** Returning Cadet Check-in, by 6 p.m.
- **Aug. 17:** First Day of School
- **Sept. 10:** MMAPO Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- **Sept. 10:** Introductory Training Graduation Parade, 10 a.m.
- **Oct. 1:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **Oct. 5-7:** Quarter 1 Exams
- **Oct. 12:** PSAT
- **Oct 22:** ACT
- **Oct. 28:** Parent's Day, 7:30 a.m.
- **Oct. 28:** Birthday Parade, 4 p.m.
- **Oct. 28:** Homecoming Game
- **Oct. 29:** Birthday Ball, 5:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 11:** Veterans Day Parade, 4 p.m.
- **Nov. 18:** Beginning of Thanksgiving Break, flight departure after 4 p.m.

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Extra! Extra!

50th Cover Toss

Just as the previous 49 classes in Marine Military Academy history, the Class of 2016 concluded the commencement exercises on May 21 with the tossing of the covers. No matter the year or generation, every MMA graduate remembers and cherishes this moment.



The 50th graduating class tosses their covers. (Photo courtesy of Eric Scott)

Giving

Recent Donations

In Memory

- LtCol J. L. Flemons, USMC
- Capt James H. Garbrick, USMC (Ret)
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Col Jestus Karl Miller, USMC (Ret) "Karl"
- MSgt Efren L. Quilit, USMC (Ret) / MSgt "Q" — MMA Alpha Company ADI
- Austin P. Roberts
- Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA,

ROK 1951

- Sgt Leroy H. Zeller, USMC — Korea 1953-57

In Honor

- Mr. Kenny Casso & Mrs. Anna Casso
- SSgt Alex E. Diaz, USMC
- MSgt Robert Fracasso, USMC (Ret)
- GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret)
- MMA Class of 2016
- Sgt Nicholas O. Poon, USMC "Nic" - MMA Class of 2011