

SPRING 2024



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



VOLUME 37, ISSUE 3



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ON THE BACK COVER

The class of 2024 concludes their graduation with the traditional hat toss.



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Class of 2024 commencement celebrated

PRESIDENT'S *Reflection*



Dear Marine Military Academy Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Marine Military Academy (MMA) is 59 years old this year. We see our age as a badge of honor in that we have fifty-nine years of successfully leading, educating, and preparing thousands of young men for the next phase of their lives. I am honored to report that MMA is continuing to make positive changes that embrace the ever-changing dynamics of education. We persist in maintaining the highest standards in core education while simultaneously staying abreast of cutting-edge science and technology. Our priority remains maintaining a safe and healthy environment in which

to learn and grow. We are starting this next school year in a strong position.

It was my privilege and sincere pleasure to have graduated forty-nine cadets (newly minted alumni) on 25 May 2024. A commitment to serve and a connection between past, present, and future are the foundations of MMA. I am incredibly pleased with the progress we have made on campus, from our unbelievable scholastic curriculum to our student-athletes who perform at the highest levels in competition and shine a brilliant light on our outstanding cadets and the MMA.

Your continued support makes all this possible. In tough economic times, we need your support even more. Please give generously to help keep MMA strong. Consider setting up a monthly gift or using your connections and influence to spread the word about the good things we are doing here at MMA. Let your friends, family members, and colleagues know about our summer camp and our amazing educational opportunity. I continue to encourage all of you who are reading this to participate in our events throughout the school year and share the MMA story.

As the president, I view our ultimate task as helping to prepare young men, for the road ahead. As the adage goes "Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child." MMA remains an exciting, challenging, and rewarding place to grow and learn. I look forward to the new beginning of the school year. Thank you for your support and congratulations to the amazing 2024 MMA class.

Leatherneck Strong!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. S. Dowling". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

CADETS TAKE TOP PRIZE IN ITALY AT INTERNATIONAL FORUM



CADET COWART AND CADET YANG PRESENT ON "THE IMPORTANCE OF THE G7 IN PROTECTING AND PROMOTING A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS GLOBAL ORDER IN THE FACE OF GROWING THREATS."

ACADEMICS



The International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity has a mission to educate and inform future generations of the history of peace in the world.

Cadets Jon Cowart and Jinzhou Yang participated in the forum by presenting on "The Importance of the G7 in Protecting and Promoting a Stable and Prosperous Global Order in the Face of Growing Threats." Their presentation took them all the way to the finals in Italy, where they presented via Zoom. Of the six finalists, Cowart and Yang took the top prize and were the international first place winners! What an amazing accomplishment!



TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



MR. LARRY KRUSE

"He helps you understand what you are having trouble with, and we have fun while learning so we can understand it in a way that we as a class can comprehend."

MARCH



MS. BELINDA DURAN

"A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others, and that is what Ms. Duran shows to all of my classmates and me."

APRIL



MS. ROSALINDA GARCIA

"Her innovative teaching methods and dedication to student success have made a significant impact on all her students leading them to better understanding in math."

CHINESE CLASS GETS A TASTE OF TRADITION

Cadets enjoy traditional dumplings and learn calligraphy in Mrs. Wang's class



In Mrs. Wang's Chinese Foreign Language class, students are also learning about traditions. Cadets savored the tasty traditional Chinese dumpling and learned how to properly use chopsticks! Cadets also learned the art of Chinese calligraphy and scripted various words in a class project. What a wonderful way to learn the Chinese traditions!



Top left: Cadet Adams scripts in Chinese calligraphy. **Bottom left:** Cadet Quiroga enjoys a tasty dumpling. **Center:** Cadets are eager to use their chopsticks and try a traditional dumpling. **Right:** Cadet Hurtado learns how to script in Chinese calligraphy.



CADETS ENJOY MOVIE AND SPEECH ABOUT NASA ASTRONAUT, JOSE HERNANDEZ

INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH: FROM FARM WORKER TO ASTRONAUT

Cadets made their way to McAllen, Texas to watch an inspirational movie titled "A Million Miles Away." Based on the true life story of NASA Astronaut, Jose Hernandez, this biopic showed his tale of perseverance from a farm worker to becoming an engineer, then astronaut.

The real treat was the visit and motivational speech given by Hernandez after the movie.



COLLEGE CORNER

WITH
**MR.
FONSECA**



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

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY VISITS WITH CADETS, EXPANDS DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM



Tarleton State had a great visit at MMA speaking to juniors about the opportunities and offerings at their university. In addition, we are working diligently to expand the dual enrollment program at MMA in partnership with Tarleton State to offer cadets the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. The future awaits!



MR. FONSECA VISITS WITH SOPHOMORES ABOUT IMPORTANT TOPICS TO SHAPE THE NEAR FUTURE

Mr. Fonseca made classroom visits to chat with sophomores on the importance of junior year, classes and exams and the impact it has when planning senior year and beyond graduation.



CADETS PREPARE WITH PRACTICE EXAMS

Cadets take the time to prepare for the ACT exam with a practice test. This helps our cadets find their areas of weakness to prepare before they schedule their real exams.



SUMMER

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR BREAK TIME AND GET AHEAD!



- CATCH UP ON READING A GOOD BOOK
- PRACTICE YOUR WRITING SKILLS AND JOURNAL
- SPEND TIME IN YOUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING
- GET A PART TIME JOB AND SAVE MONEY
- CATCH UP WITH PEOPLE WHO WILL BE YOUR REFERENCES
- STUDY FOR ACT AND SAT EXAMS
- SCHEDULE SOME COLLEGE VISITS AND SEE THE CAMPUSES
- RESEARCH POTENTIAL CAREERS AND THEIR COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

with
Adan Trevino

Cadets enjoyed a beautiful spring season as we celebrated baptisms and gathered together in prayer.

God made you and loves you! His love is boundless and unconditional. God is real, and He wants you to personally experience His love and discover His purpose for your life through a relationship with Him.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27



ALUMNI REUNION 2024

A weekend filled with activities brings together MMA brotherhood



It's always a great time when MMA alumni have the opportunity to come together and reminisce about their time at the Academy. It's also great for our current cadets to hear the success stories from the ones who once roamed these halls. From senior lunch and pinning to the alumni parade and some fun time at South Padre Island, our alumni truly enjoyed their time together!



CADETS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



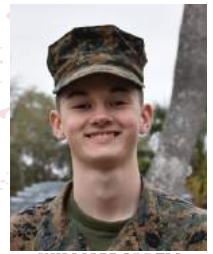
SAWYER MOORE
Alpha Company



DANIEL CASTRO
Delta Company



DRAKE DORSEY
Echo Company



WILLIAM APPELL
Fox Company



TREVOR TAYLOR
Golf Company



ASHTON CARPENTER
Drill Team / Color Guard



ARVIN ZHENG
Rifle Team



JACOB BENDER-BERG
Band



INDIANA JONES
Alpha Company



DAMON CONNER
Delta Company



JAMIE TWEEDY
Echo Company



CARLOS ZEPEDA
Fox Company



ISAAC SHARP
Golf Company



TORIN KNACKSTEDT
Drill Team / Color Guard



THOMAS EMORY
Rifle Team



ERIC ECKSTEIN
Band

MARCH



ANGEL REQUEJO
Alpha Company



JAYDEN NGUYEN
Delta Company



MATTHEW MCLENEHAN
Echo Company



ZEIN ALI YAFFAR
Fox Company

APRIL



**ANTHONY
JIMENEZ-PEGUERO**
Golf Company



ANDREW BOHNING
Drill Team / Color Guard



JUAN GARCIA GOMEZ
Raider Team



MICHAEL RUF
Band

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



DAMIAN NAVARRO
English



LAWSON MAIRIE
Mathematics



JACOB MONTEZ
Science



JUAN GARCIA GOMEZ
Social Studies



MATEO QUIROGA
General Studies



COLIN MCCLURE
Foreign Language



TREVOR DOGGETT
English



LOREN MORRIS
Mathematics



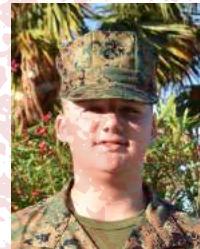
ACE TO
Science



KRUSHAL RAJ
Social Studies



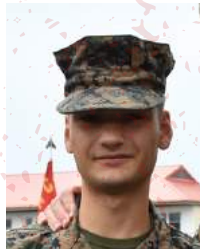
WILLIAM CRAWFORD
General Studies



JONAH COX
Foreign Language



KEVIN CHEN
English



PATRICK MCBRIEN
Mathematics



MARCO BONOMETTI
Science



BRIAN WENDELL
Social Studies



DOMONICK HIATT
General Studies



**OLUMAFOLAJIMI
OSUNKOYA**
Foreign Language

APRIL

MMA WELCOMES NEW COMMANDANT OF CADETS

LTCOL RICK RODRIGUEZ SET TO FILL THE NEWLY RETIRED BOOTS OF SGTMAJ SMYTHE IN JUNE



MILITARY

LtCol Richard S. Rodriguez is a Harlingen native. He attended elementary school in Harlingen and in 1979 he enrolled at the Marine Military Academy, where his mother was working at the time.

Upon graduating from MMA in 1985, LtCol Rodriguez attended and graduated from Texas State University. After college, LtCol Rodriguez took a position with the City of Brownsville as an Associate Planner. There, LtCol Rodriguez worked primarily on the 1990 Census and a Capital Improvements Plan. Having missed everything that MMA had stood for, LtCol Rodriguez applied to the United States Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia.

In the summer of 1991, LtCol Rodriguez was accepted and reported to Officer Candidate School, graduating, and completing his follow-on basic training. Upon completion, LtCol Rodriguez reported to 29 Palms, California where he completed 4 years of active-duty service. In 1995, LtCol Rodriguez left active-duty service and entered the United States Department of Justice as a Special Agent but continued a career in the Marine Corps Reserves.

In 1996, LtCol Rodriguez again left Quantico, Virginia and reported to the McAllen, Texas District Office, where he worked on large-scale investigations, focusing on organized crime. While in McAllen, LtCol Rodriguez deployed his Marine unit to Iraq in 2004, serving as the Commanding Officer of Company C, 1st Battalion 23rd Marines, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division and again in 2010 to Afghanistan as the Counter-Narcotics and Training Officer for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd).

In 2015, LtCol Rodriguez and his family moved to Cameron County when he was promoted and served as the Resident Agent in Charge of the Brownsville Resident Office. In 2019 with 28 years of service, LtCol Rodriguez retired from the Marine Corps Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel, and in 2022, LtCol Rodriguez retired from DOJ and took a position with Brownsville's Pace High School as their Marine Corps JROTC Senior Military Instructor. In July 2023, LtCol Rodriguez was hired by the Marine Military Academy to serve as their Assistant Development Director.

A position he holds today.

LtCol Rodriguez is an MMA Plank Holder. His two older brothers graduated from the Marine Military Academy in 1981 and 1983, respectively. His mother worked in the MMA Quartermaster from 1973 to 1998 and his Stepfather served as the MMA Band Director from 1976 to 1984.

LtCol Rodriguez is married to the former Carmina Salinas of Mission, Texas and together they have four boys. When not working, LtCol Rodriguez enjoys family time, classic cars and exercising.

MMA ALUMNI CONTINUE TO DO GREAT THINGS

ALUM BRIAN PRITCHARD LEADING VMI 2024-25



Congratulations to MMA Alumni, Brian Pritchard, Class of 2020, on his selection to be the Regimental Commander for the Class of 2024-2025 for Virginia Military Institute!

A true leader, Pritchard makes time to meet with MMA cadets who visit the VMI campus. We wish him the best!



2019 graduates, Simeon Apanpa and his brother Victor will graduate from the United States Military Academy West Point in May. Both young men have been selected for their respective graduate schools. Victor will be attending Northwestern for Computer Science. Simeon will be attending Carnegie Mellon for Management in Information Systems. Simeon and Victor will not report to the Basic Officer Leadership Course until after graduate school. Simeon's branch is the Adjutant Corps and Victor will be an Armor officer. Congratulations to these fine leaders!

MMA LEADERSHIP FORUM

The MMA Leadership Forum is always an event the cadets look forward to. They know when pushed to their limits, they conquer obstacles they might never have. The cadets truly excelled and pushed themselves and each other to new limits with their brothers. From trail hiking to camping, our cadets had some real experiences in the field. After a night in the tents, it was great to see the sun come up and finish the the forum with a big mess hall brunch. No doubt we are bulding leaders here!



TECOM MCJROTC COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

DELTA COMPANY TAKES TOP HONORS, HIGHEST COMPLIMENTS TO OUR BATTALION



The annual TECOM Inspection is a highly anticipated event for our companies. This event shows just how hard our cadets are working to ensure they are on point. This year, Delta Company took the top spot with only 3 demerits! The battalion received so many compliments from inspectors on how outstanding all of the cadets were from uniforms to drill. Congratulations to all!



MMA HOSTS FIRST JROTC SKILLS MEET

MMA MILITARY DEPARTMENT AND CADETS ORGANIZE FINE TUNED EVENT



MMA hosted their first ever JROTC Skills Meet competition this year! What is now planned to become an annual event, was a fantastic opportunity to unite local high school JROTC programs in good competition and also to meet other like minded individuals destined for leadership! This year, Brownsville Pace High School took the "Best Overall" award. We look forward to hosting this great event and more amazing students in the future.



CADET SMITH COMMITS TO FOOTBALL FOR THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY



Cadet Benjamin Smith is not only a model cadet around the Academy, but his stellar athleticism has left a mark as one of the greats. Cadet Smith signed his letter of intent to play NCAA Division III football for the United States Coast Guard Academy! We wish him the best of luck! Go Bears!



Annual

GENERAL H.M. SMITH DINNER

U.S. SENATOR JOHN CORNYN DELIVERS ADDRESS



The Marine Military Academy had the pleasure of hosting guest of honor, United States Senator John Cornyn at the annual H.M. Smith Commemorative Dinner. Senator Cornyn delivered a wonderful address leaving our supporters in awe and our cadets inspired! He spoke on his own personal connection to the military and the amazing opportunity that MMA is for many amazing young men.



Top & Bottom Left: Mrs. Tricia Ezell and Mr. Barry Zale honored as H.M. Smith Fellows. **Top Center:** The Cowart family meets Senator Cornyn who gave a service academy recommendation to Cadet Jon Cowart. **Top Right:** Senator Cornyn delivers address during dinner. **Bottom Right:** Cadets thank Senator Cornyn for his time and address. **Bottom Center:** Battalion Commander Patrick Omev welcomes guests at H.M. Smith.



SIX CADETS HEADED TO SERVICE ACADEMIES

SIX MORE EARN ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

We are thrilled to share the excitement of six amazing cadets who have chosen to pursue their post-secondary education at four different United States Service Academies! Cadets Jon Cowart and William Crawford will be headed to the United States Military Academy West Point. Cadets Patrick Omev and Shaun Elsner will make their way to the United States Naval Academy. Meanwhile, Cadet Benjamin Smith will be playing football at the United States Coast Guard Academy. Cadet Everett Estipona will find himself at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. These fine young men are off to do amazing things, and we can't wait to see it!



In addition to being one of the six cadets headed to service academies, Cadet Patrick Omev has earned himself the Marine ROTC Scholarship. Cadet Jon Cowart was offered both the Army and the Navy ROTC Scholarships. Franklin Polonsky, who will be attending Texas A&M in the fall, is the recipient of the Marine ROTC Scholarship. Cadet William Shardonofsky, who will be attending the University of Alabama, and Cadet Loren Morris, attending the University of Denver, both earned the Army ROTC Scholarship. Cadet William Bozell will be attending the Citadel in the fall on the Army Minuteman ROTC Scholarship.





MMA SENIOR CLASS OF 2024



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



Jad Adams



Travis R. Ashley



Diego Barbachano



Canon M. Baylor



Mehkhi K. Blue



Marco P. Bonometti



William C. Bozell



Jon T. Cowart



Stephan L. Crain



William D. Crawford



Sebastian
De La Iglesia Morales



Fernando
Del Angel Del Toro



Patrick C. Omev
Valedictorian



Hunter L. Doyle



Eric E. Eckstein



Shaun M. Elsner



Everett E. Estipona



Juan J.
Garcia Gomez



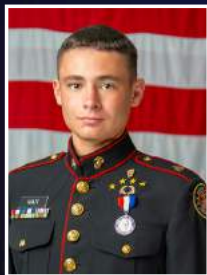
Hunter R. Glass



Jason Gomez



Braeden E.
Heberling



Dominick K. Hiatt



Gerardo P.
Horabuena Castillo



Asa T. Hudson



Indiana W. Jones



Yu-Chen Lu

SENIOR CLASS OF 2024



**Ignacio S.
Martinez Rodriguez**



**Mauro A.
Melo Colleo**



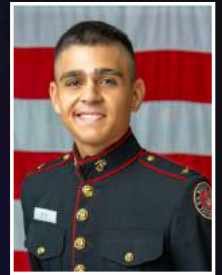
**Maximo A.
Montes Hernandez**



**Mael I.
Ordonez Abreu**



**Nosazeme
Oyemwense**



Javier Pena Garcia



**Franklin J. A. M.
Polonsky**



**Mateo
Quiroga Valle**



**Cristian A.
Ramirez Monroy**



Michael I. Ramirez



Amir R. Rashdan



**William J.
Shardonofsky**



Benjamin H. Smith



**Cesar A.
Sosa Sanchez**



Bohdan Tychna



Evan R. Wageman



Tymur Podkovyrov
Salutatorian



Jacob R. West



Jack A. Wooster



Ali Yaffar Zein



Jinzhou Yang



Chenmiao Zhang



Arvin K. Zheng



Loren D. Morris
Post Grad



**Federico
Safi Barraza**
Post Grad



Ismail S. Sarhill
Post Grad



LEATHERNECKS

CYCLING HITS THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

ATHLETICS



Under the direction of Coach Gander, our cycling team can be seen around the streets of MMA and surrounding areas pushing and getting stronger. Participating in cycling events around the community and Rio Grande Valley, our Leathernecks are always ready for a good competitive ride!

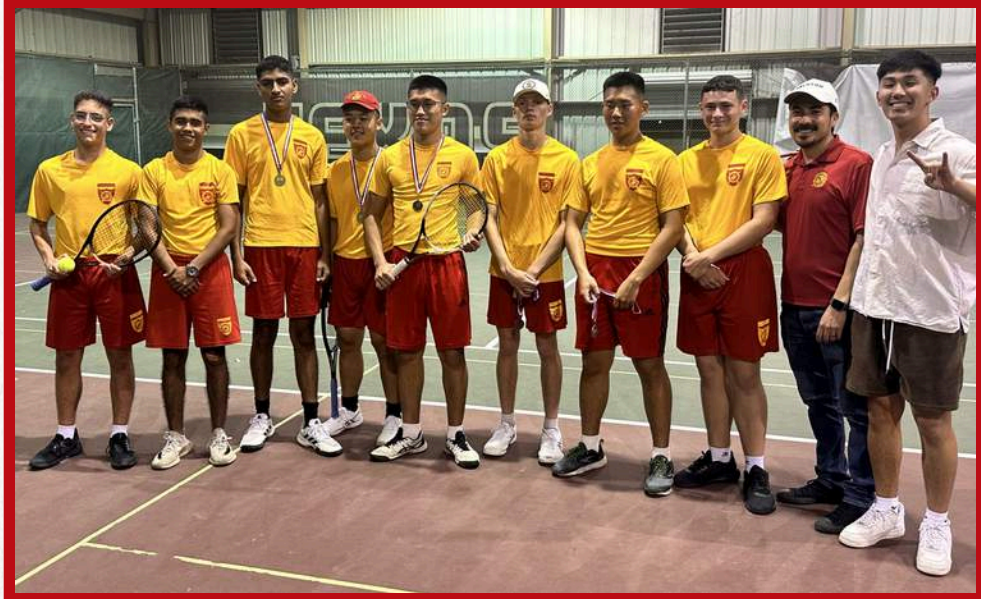
TENNIS HEADS TO STATE, PICKS UP THE WIN AND THE RUNNER UP

Around here at MMA we don't just have players, we have state champions! Cadet Nguyen and Cadet Lakhani took first in state in Boys Doubles!

Not only did we bring home the state championship, but we brought home the second place spot too! Cadet Wooster and Cadet Yang played against Cadet Nguyen and Cadet Lakhani in the final for the championship! It was a win win situation at Texas State University!

Congratulations to Cadet Yu who also made the final four in Boys Singles!

We are so proud of Coach Ordonez and the entire team for a great season!



GOLF DOMINATES, TAKES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

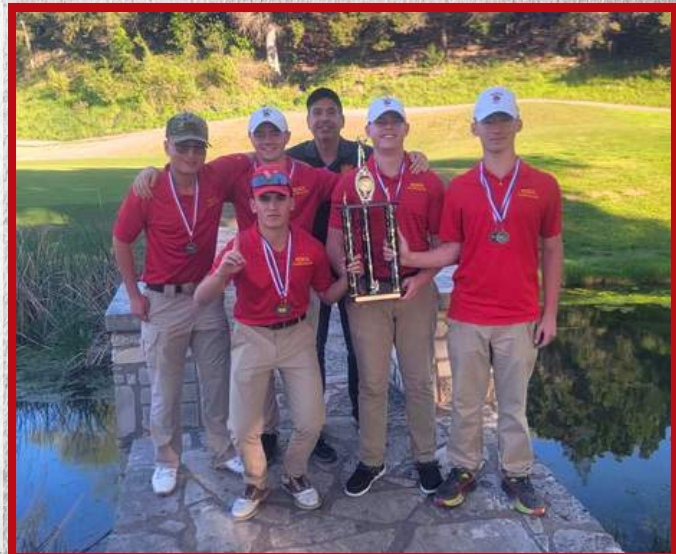


The golf team headed to Leander, Texas to compete in the TCSAAL State Golf Tournament in March.

Cadet Garcia earned an individual medal for first place while Cadet Persons earned himself the second place spot!

As a team, they scored the lowest earning themselves the TCSAAL State Championship!

Congratulations to Coach Elizondo and the Leathernecks for an amazing golf season!



ATHLETICS



VISA SOCCER BUILDING STRONG PROGRAM

The VISA soccer team is a force to be reckoned with! Under the direction of Coach Rodriguez, our middle school boys are growing tougher everyday. The boys play with passion and with a winning record this season, cadets moving up to the varsity level will be ready. Great job, Leathernecks!



MMA BOXING MAKES A STATEMENT IN SOUTH PADRE ISLAND



Cadet Barbachano of Alpha Company, fought his first fight against a current Austin Golden Glove champ. Barbachano showed true MMA heart and fought hard for three 2 minute rounds. Outstanding boxing performance!

HITTING THE MATS HARD IN BRAZILIAN JIU JITZU



Brazilian Jiu Jitsu has grown here at MMA. This year, the cadets traveled to several tournaments, but in their most recent, brought home some heavy hardware! Congratulations on the successful season gents!

TRACK AND FIELD HEADS TO STATE, BRINGS BACK SOME GOLD

The Leathernecks earned a trip to the state meet at Texas State University and returned with some nice hardware! For middle school, Smith earned bronze in the MS 100M and Dorsey earned silver in the Triple Jump. In the varsity meet, Cadet Blue earned gold with his career best in the Shotput. Cadets Wendell, Ford, Duffy and Paul picked up silver in the 4x100M. Outstanding season, gentlemen!





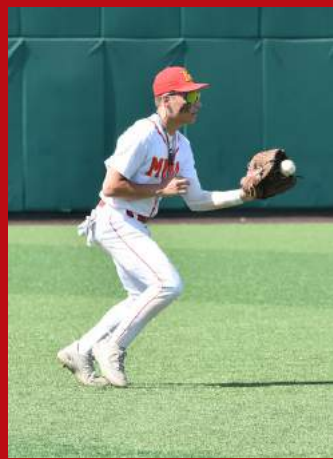
ATHLETICS

SOCCER HAS OUTSTANDING SEASON, PLAYS IN STATE FINAL

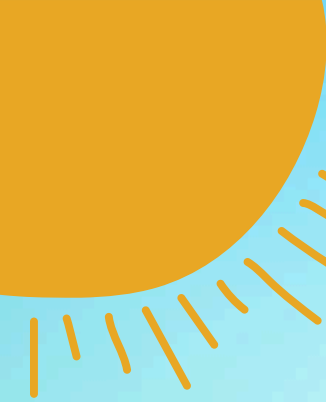


The Varsity Leathernecks had an outstanding season! The team's incredible playing earned themselves a trip to the TCSAAL State Semifinal, in Pflugerville, where they won 3-2 over IDEA STEM! Coach Perez and the Leathernecks then headed to the state final against Kipp Austin Collegiate and fell just short 4-2. We commend these amazing young men for their hard fought season and congratulate them on their 2nd place accomplishment in state!

BASEBALL TAKES DISTRICT AND REGION, HEADS TO STATE



The Leathernecks worked hard this season dropping only two in the regular season. Come district play, these boys went out to play! Going undefeated in the district season earning District Champs status, then convincingly taking the TCSAAL South Texas Regional Champion title. With this, they earned their trip to the State Semifinal in San Marcos, Texas at Texas State University. The Leathernecks fell short in a historic thriller 7-6. Congratulation to Coach Fonseca, Coach Zepeda and Coach Ramirez and the team for their amazing run!



Spring Fling FAMILY WEEKEND

The annual Spring Fling Family Weekend is such a great time at Marine Military Academy! A full weekend of fun visiting with drill instructors, teachers, but most of all families enjoying their cadets. Families began with a Friday morning colors and were able to take part in the monthly awards. Families moved on to visits with teachers and the college counselor and were able to schedule time to visit with their cadet's drill instructor. Parental involvement is key, here at MMA, to ensure the cadets success! Saturday was a great day of fun family activities and families have the opportunity to bond with one another creating great friendships. Cadets were able to visit with their visiting families before the weekend was over. After Spring Fling, it's a push to the finish line anticipating the return of a restful summer!



Top: Parents beat out cadets in the tug of war competition!
Bottom: The Spring Athletics Presentation was held for all seniors in spring sports.



DECA HEADS TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

CADETS HEAD TO SUNNY CALIFORNIA FOR FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS COMPETITION

Our DECA team had a phenomenal year earning their trip to the international competition in sunny Anaheim, California.

DECA, a competitive events program for entrepreneurship, marketing, personal financial literacy, business management and finance, has a variety of competitive challenges from business growth plans to food marketing series to hospitality and even sports entertainment marketing.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



In Anaheim, the boys enjoyed DECA night at Universal Studios Hollywood. They also enjoyed their time networking with other students from around the country.

Team MMA was given cowboy hats to represent the great state of Texas while at nationals. Congratulations to all of our DECA participants for a great year and all of the amazing accomplishments !



TCSAAL STATE ARTS FESTIVAL

Two very talented cadets performed in Austin at the TCSAAL State Arts Festival. Cadet Bender was named the High School Classical Piano State Runner-Up! Cadet Valdez was named the Junior High Classical Piano State Champion!



CADETS FULFILL EAGLE SCOUT REQUIREMENTS



Not every boy who joins the Boy Scouts earns the rank of an Eagle Scout. Only 4% of all Boy Scouts do so. They make up only 0.512% of the U.S. male population today. Congratulations to Cadet Baeza for earning his part of that slim percentage! Cadet Deez and Cadet McBrien are on their way and completed their projects and presented them to Loaves and Fishes. Great job, gentlemen! We are so proud of you!



CASINO NIGHT

Junior Senior Prom



As the school year winds down, all the memorable events start to take place. Junior Senior Prom is a memory of a lifetime. This year, the cadets and their dates enjoyed "Casino Night." They were able to win play money to buy chances to win some great prizes. Dinner, photos and dancing made for an unforgettable prom night!



GRADUATION PARADE

CADETS PARTICIPATE IN TRADITIONAL GRADUATION PASS IN REVIEW



Graduation is a memorable time, and what better way to kick off the graduation and senior class festivities than with a traditional Marine Military Academy parade. Dressed as an MMA cadet for the last time this year, our young men participated in the parade marking the end of an era for some young men graduating and moving on to their next chapter. Families gathered with gleams of pride in their eyes as they watched their sons beautifully march in sync for pass in review. Such a beautiful event kicking off graduation!

Celebrating the Class of 2024

SENIORS, PARENTS AND MMA STAFF CELEBRATE THE CLASS AS A FAMILY



Seniors and parents joined the staff at MMA to celebrate the newest graduating class. It was not only a time to celebrate, but also laugh, cry and reminisce about all the memories made throughout their years at the Academy. Cadets were able to chat with their brothers, and parents able to share their stories and experiences over a delicious dinner. Congratulations to the wonderful families and their cadets!

We are so proud of our graduates!



ACADEMIC & MILITARY Awards



This year marks the 58th Annual Academic and Military Award Ceremony. This time of year, we honor and celebrate the cadets and all of their accomplishments, many of which are no easy feat. From academic awards such as the Dean's Award to the President's Volunteer Service Awards and all the way to our Military Awards such as Senior Marine Instructor and Cadet Officer Leadership Award, these cadets have strived to continue to do well in all aspects and not just do well, but exceed expectations and set remarkable standards for the future.



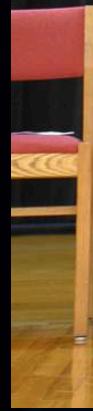
MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY 2024 COMMENCEMENT



Graduation marks a special time each year. While the event is traditional, the amazing young men who walk in through the gates of MMA, walk out remarkably different. They march a little prouder. They speak with more confidence. They leave the Academy and are sure of the steps they are taking into the future.

The graduating class, along with family and friends, were treated to addresses from Salutatorian, Tymur Podkovyrov and Valedictorian, Patrick Omev. Guest speaker, alumni, Caleb Reynolds spoke to the class from experience and wished them well in their future endeavors and reminded them to continue to serve others.

Forty nine seniors walked across the stage, along with three post graduates, to close the 2023-24 chapter at MMA.



Giving Donations

February 14, 2024 - May 28, 2024

Memorials

Maj John H. Austin, USMC (Ret)

Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN

Brendan Joseph Hall, Jr.

Dr. E. Bruce Heilman

Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)

Erasmio Molina, Jr. “Coach Mo”

1stSgt Billy J. Rogers, USMC (Ret)

Maj Raymond L. Simonsen, USMC (Ret)

Janice Huff Smith

Sgt John Haddock Stevenson, IV, USMC

SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN

SSgt Edward L. Walsh “Knobby”, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea

In Honor of

Dan S. Davis - US Army, Vietnam

James A. Davis - US Navy, Vietnam

William H. Dunn - US Army, World War II

LEADER

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MAGAZINE STAFF

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IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE

01 Deadline for Re-Enrollment 2024-25

17 Drill Instructors Report for Summer Camp

18 2024 Summer Camp Instructors Report By.....1200

22 2024 Summer Camp Registration.....0800-1200

JULY

19 Family Social.....1700

20 Summer Camp / Graduation0900

AUGUST

11 Leadership Camp (Invitation Only).....by 1600

11 Football Camp (Director Approval).....by 1600

11 Band Camp (Director Approval).....by 1600

17 Fall Registration / Check In for First Year Cadets.....0800-1200

18 Check in for Returning Cadets.....by 1600

19-20 Military Orientation for Plebes

19-20 Teacher Inservice Days

21 Fall Semester Classes Begin

24 SAT Exam.....0800

SEPTEMBER

7 ACT Exam.....0800

13 NJHS / NHS Inductions

14 Fall Plebe Graduation

OCTOBER

5 SAT Exam.....0800

9-11 1st Quarter Exams

14 Beast Competition

17-19 Parents Weekend

17 Bonfire.....1845

18 Colors- COM/SOM/TOM/Streamers Presentation.....0815

18 Parents Day - No Classes- Scheduled Conferences.....0845

18 Tailgate.....1500

18 COC March On

18 Homecoming Football Game / Senior Night.....1800

19 Birthday Ball.....1800

26 ACT Exam0800

31 Trunk or Treat.....1800

NOVEMBER

02 SAT Exam.....0800

09 Veterans Day Parade.....0900

22 Begin Thanksgiving Break.....depart after 1200

DECEMBER

01 End of Thanksgiving Breakreturn by 1600

02 All Classes Resume

07 SAT Exam.....0800

14 ACT Exam.....0800

16-18 2nd Quarter Exams

19 Begin Christmas Break.....depart after 1200



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