

POST BRIEFS

VMI Receives Garden Club Award

Along with neighboring Washington and Lee University, VMI was awarded the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation by the Garden Club of Virginia at the club's 2015 Conservation Forum, held Nov. 4 in Lynchburg, Va. VMI was recognized for its commitment to conservation and energy responsibility, as demonstrated by the Institute's stewardship of the Chessie Natural Trail, along with its efforts to support recycling and energy conservation on post. In addition, VMI's hosting of the Environment Virginia Conference was noted as further evidence of commitment to environmental issues. Receiving the award on behalf of the Institute were Col. Jay Williams '83, post engineer; Lt. Col. Richard Fletcher, deputy post engineer; Larry Camper, chief of maintenance and operations; and J.B. Harris, grounds foreman.

Flu Shot Exercise a Success

A new electronic sign-in procedure for influenza vaccines at VMI this fall resulted in shorter lines and more cadets electing to receive the vaccination. The new sign-in protocol was developed by the Department of

Information Technology. This year's exercise required all cadets to sign in, as part of a pandemic planning exercise, but receiving the vaccine was optional. As of mid-November, 908 cadets, or 53 percent of the Corps, had received the flu vaccine. During the 2014-15 academic year, 832 cadets had received the flu shot prior to Christmas furlough.

Gerow Receives Early Career Award

Maj. Jennifer Gerow, assistant professor of economics and business, was recently named the recipient of the Early Career Award by the Association for Information Systems. The award, which was bestowed for the first time this year, recognizes individuals in the early stages of their careers who have already made outstanding contributions, through research, service, or teaching, to the field of information systems. In nominating Gerow for this award, Col. Robert Moreschi, department head, noted that Gerow is an "outstanding and energetic teacher," who has developed and implemented two new courses, Web 2.0 for Business and Business Leadership, since her arrival in 2011.

Cadets Assist Family of Fallen Lexington Police Officer

By Chris Floyd

VMI boxing matches have never looked like this before.

With tuxedo-clad spectators watching from ringside and the team's national championship trophy on display, the Keydets battled each other and boxers from the University of Maryland in the first Andy Painter Classic Nov. 14 at Natural Bridge's Stonebridge Center. The black-tie event, the first of its kind in the area, was an effort to raise money for the family of Andy Painter, a Lexington police officer who died of cancer earlier this year.

"[From those] to whom much has been given, much is required," said VMI boxing coach Larry Hinojosa, who helped organize the event for his friend and supporter of VMI. "I feel like we've been given a lot with nationals, and my team, they know how important it is. That's just something we nurture."

Saturday's event wasn't the only charitable effort of the VMI boxing team. It recently sponsored a turkey drive to help feed needy families in the area on Thanksgiving. It completed a video project for a young cancer patient, and plans are in the works for a toy drive for the Christmas holiday.

"This is just a great group of guys," Hinojosa said. "They just want to keep on doing good. I couldn't be more proud of them."

Displayed in a glass case, Painter's uniform stood by the entrance to the arena while the VMI color guard and pipe and drum band ushered in the boxing portion of the program. With boxers and spectators alike pausing for a moment of silence, the ringside bell rang with a memorial 10 count.

"It's something that's customary for boxing if a famous boxer passes away," Hinojosa said. "I thought that was a nice way to [honor] Andy."

As far as the boxing is concerned, VMI's contingent posted a 2-2 record on the night. Jeremiah Sokol '18 defeated teammate John Winalski '16 by unanimous decision, while John Tartala '18 scored a technical knockout over Mitch McDonald '18

The University of Maryland boxers won the next two bouts. Jake Sato defeated Bryson Kelly '18, and Paul Neuberger remained undefeated with a win over Townsend Wilburn '18. Each winner received an Andy Painter Classic trophy for his victory.

But this night wasn't about the boxing.

"Andy wasn't here with us tonight," said Hinojosa, who noted that he and Painter had been planning an event like this before Painter's death, "but this is something I needed to continue with. I felt like there were a lot of positive things we could do in our community, and there was a lot of positive support."



Boxing coach Larry Hinojosa (left) and assistant coach Joe Shafer prepare boxer Jeremiah Sokol '18 for his match. - VMI Photo H. Lockwood McLaughlin.