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The U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs office provides command information to the installation and the public. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. All information provided is official, but there is also fun stuff on there too. Did you know you can download photos from our Facebook page for free?

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Prep School Access:

<https://twitter.com/USAFAPrepSchool>

<https://www.facebook.com/USAFAPrepSchool/>

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We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy and #YourUSAFAPrep for the Prep School. You might see it on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, please call the Public Affairs office at (719) 333-7731.

Cadet Class Statistics (as of 30 Nov 17)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2017	2	1	3
2018	791	215	1006
2019	758	264	1022
2020	746	304	1050
2021	845	322	1167
WING	3142	1106	4248

53 International Cadets are counted in the Cadet Wing Strength, but do not count in the Fiscal year Strength.

Prep School Class Statistics (as of 12 Dec 17)

Class year	Men	Women	Total
2017-2018	164	54	218

ACADEMY APP AVAILABLE –

Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more with the Academy App.



Android app available on Google Play at:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.u360mobile.airforceacademy> .

Apple app available at the I-Tunes Store at:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/united-states-air-force-academy/id427133480?mt=8>

Or use the following QR codes with your cellphone to get access to the Academy app.



iTunes



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Holiday Bus Schedules: Holiday Bus Schedules can be found online on the USAFA Parent Webpage at the following link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/parents/holiday-shuttle-information/>

Cadet sets sights on China with Schwarzman Scholarship



By Maureen Welch, Dec. 5, 2017

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – An Air Force Academy cadet earned an international scholarship to study in China next year.

Cadet 1st Class Benjamin Hook will study global affairs at Beijing’s Tsinghua University, courtesy of the Schwarzman scholarship.

“Having taken two years of Mandarin language study at the Academy, I look forward to experiencing Chinese culture and language firsthand,” he said.

Hook received the scholarship Dec. 4, the day he was also selected to attend pilot training after graduating in May. He’s the first cadet to receive the scholarship. “It’s remarkable to meet two long term goals on the same day,” he said.

At the Academy, Hook was a mainstay on the Dean’s and Superintendent’s lists, recognizing cadets for their academic, athletic and military performance.

Helen Meisenhelder, the Academy’s Graduate Studies Program director, said the Schwarzman scholarship promotes international relationships and was inspired by prestigious the Rhodes scholarship.

Schwarzman officials selected 142 scholars this year from more than 4,000 applicants from 39 countries and 97 universities. Forty-one percent of applicants are U.S. citizens and 20 percent are Chinese. The scholarship’s curriculum educates students about leadership and China’s expanding role in the world, according to Stephen Schwarzman, scholarship chairman, CEO and co-founder.

Atop a Colorado ‘14er’: Cadets save 2, find confidence



By Staff Sgt. Charlie Rivezzo, Dec. 1, 2017

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – Cadet mountaineers encountered more than they anticipated Oct. 28 when they found themselves leading two lost hikers down Torreys Peak in near subzero temperatures and white-out conditions.

Lt. Col. Robert Marshall, officer-in-charge of the Air Force Academy’s Cadet Mountaineering Club, said the two disoriented men were in a “bad way.”

“They were woefully unprepared for the conditions,” he said. “They had lost the trail and weren’t sure how to get down the mountain. They had no flashlight, map, GPS rescue beacon or shelter.”

The mislaid hikers’ jeans were torn and soaked from the snowfall. They had no food and little water, and with sunset approaching, toed a dangerous line between life and death.

The group of eight cadets and three officers were on their decent from mountain’s 14,274-high peak, when they spotted the lost men, gave them extra clothing and led them back to the trailhead near Loveland Pass. “This was an absolute save,” Marshall said.

The group’s 10-hour climb up and down the Colorado “14er” was challenging enough without the responsibility of taking care of the lost hikers, said Cadet 4th Class Jackson Trent.

“On my ascent up the mountain, I was scared out of my mind and I had no experience whatsoever,” he said. “But, coming back, the confidence we built up in ourselves drove us to help these guys out.”

It was just hours before the save that the combination of weather and terrain pushed the cadets to their limits.

“Two hours before we summited I didn’t care if we made it to the top ... I was not having a good time,” Trent said. “I started getting into my own head and had to be talked through some near panic attacks. They [the officers] told me not to think about the summit or my fears, and just focus on the five meters around me. That’s all I thought about on my way to the top.” Scaling the peak was not a quick affair, as many of the cadets had yet to climb a 14er.

Trent said the group encountered situations and challenges that forced the novice mountaineers to lean on each other.

“Being on the mountain puts things into perspective for you,” Trent said. “When you’re feeling that panic and placed in a dangerous situation, you really have to be on top of your game and focus. You learn that panicking is not going to help you get out the situation any quicker.”

Marshall said many lessons learned on the mountain can’t be found in a classroom or textbook.

“What they learned in this ascent is so foundational to be an Airman and a leader,” Marshall said. “It serves as the absolute bedrock foundation for being cool under pressure, high situational awareness and confidence ... but also realizing you have to be humble because the mountains will humble you every time.”

Atop the peak, Marshall asked the cadets to reflect on their accomplish, “Think about you making it up here, and when the going gets tough at the Academy, remember this moment ... realize you can tackle any challenge if you do it with good teamwork and then break it up into sections.”

Cadet 4th Class James Lambert said there is a confidence boost when you summit a mountain. “You feel like you’re on top of the world, no pun intended,” Lambert said. “You say to yourself, ‘dang,

we just conquered this mountain,’ and you gain so much life experience from this one scenario.”

Marshall, who has summited Mt. Everest and several other tallest mountains on Earth, said the club’s goal is to push people’s limits.

“We always talk about Warrior Ethos here at the Academy,” he said. “But there is only so much talking about it before you have to go out there and practice it. Mother Nature is a really good teacher and she will always find a way to push your limits.”

Lambert added that his experience in the club has shaped his perspective at the Academy.

“This club gives you an opportunity to take a step back from the bustling of everyday life,” he said. “This was by far the greatest experience I’ve had here in terms of growing as a leader and pushing myself beyond what I could do. Coming back from that [Kelso Ridge], there isn’t much that fazes me anymore in day-to-day life.”

Senior cadet selected as Academy’s 39th Rhodes scholar



Cadet 1st Class Jaspreet Singh (left), a mechanical engineering major at the U.S. Air Force Academy, was named an American Rhodes scholar Nov. 18 by the Rhodes Trust. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Charlie Rivezzo)

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- A mechanical engineering major at the Air Force Academy was named an American Rhodes scholar Nov. 18 by the Rhodes Trust.

Cadet 1st Class Jaspreet Singh, of Tennessee, is the Academy's 39th cadet to receive the prominent scholarship, according to Helen Meisenhelder, director of the Academy's Graduate Studies Program.

Singh said he was "dumbstruck" when he learned he'd received the prestigious scholarship.

"All the candidates were gathered in a conference room and then they called us all together and announced the winners to everybody," he said. "I was just surprised."

His academic major is mechanical engineering with a concentration in thermal fluid systems. Singh is also pursuing academic minors in French and philosophy. The senior cadet's philosophy minor included researching policy, ethics and management of military assets and nuclear weapons. Singh hopes his work at Oxford will bridge a divide between technology and policy, according to this year's American-Rhodes Scholars-select list letter released by the Rhodes Trust. Singh interned at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico to research the design of unmanned aerial vehicles at the Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension.

He said he's excited about the prospects of attending Oxford University.

"I hope to get my Master's or doctorate in mechanical engineering while I'm there, but also I want to soak up the experience," he said. "I want to learn more about mechanical engineering, but I also want to learn from the groups of people I will be surrounded by."

Singh said he's thankful for the Academy's academic diversity and faculty.

"I definitely would not have gotten the scholarship without the quality of faculty we have here," he said. "I've had opportunities at the Academy that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. I studied abroad at the French Air Force Academy -- that's something I wouldn't ever gotten to do without being here. I was able to study mechanical engineering but also received a minor in philosophy, too. I don't think I would have gotten as diverse of an education if I hadn't come here."

Singh said he's "just grateful."

"We even have a program here that helps you succeed during the [Rhodes scholarship] process and the

interviews, but my mentors went out of their way to help me out," he said. "Even my friends helped me out. The support I received from the Academy, both formal from my mentors and informal from my friends, really helped me out."

Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost, the Academy's dean, extended his congratulations to Singh and his family. "I know this has been the result of months and years of hard work," he said. "How excited you and your family must be to receive this news."

Rhodes Scholarships, established in 1902, are international postgraduate awards named after Cecil John Rhodes, a British mining magnate and South African politician. Candidates for the scholarships are interviewed by the trust prior to their selection as Rhodes scholars.

The Trust is an educational charity supporting the Rhodes scholars.

Honors and Awards

Singh made the Superintendent's List for the spring 2015, fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters for his military, academic and athletic excellence.

He was selected as a member of the "A Team" for the fall 2014, spring 2015 and spring 2017 semesters for attaining a 4.0 GPA in all academic classes. The A-Team Award goes to approximately 80 to 100 of the Academy's 4,000 cadets each semester.

PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Preparatory School Candidate parents.

Central Email for Prep School Questions:
PrepInfo@usafa.edu, or phone (719) 333-2583

Website: <https://www.usafa.edu/prep-school/>

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL
5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117
USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

Prep School 2017-2018 Academic Calendar:
https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL_Calendar_12Jul2017.pdf

HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs –

Parent Information Link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/parents/>

Graduation Information Link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/about/traditions/graduation/>

USAFA's Public Calendar Link:
(Managed by the Association of Graduates)
www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events

2016 - 2017 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/AY-2016-2017-Calendar-Approved-12-Jul-16-1.pdf>

2017 - 2018 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:
The Academic Calendar for 2017-2018 has been approved and you can find it at the following link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/AY2017-2018Calendar.pdf>

Curriculum Handbook:
(Also outlines summer programs available for cadets):
<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/CHB.pdf>

Cadet Major listing:
<https://www.usafa.edu/academics/majors-minors/>

Cadet Clubs:
(just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):
<https://www.usafa.edu/cadet-life/clubs/>

Cadet Survival Guide: Go to www.usafasupport.com and click Arnold Hall or go to the link below:
<http://nebula.wsimg.com/0c9d0bf12f8b6a1ca725ae69871b531b?AccessKeyId=C7760A2EE485D3702028&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Cadet Media:
www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media

Admissions:
(Parents can help us recruit future cadets):
www.academyadmissions.com/

Sports Schedules:
www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/

Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):
(719) 472-8589
petalsnblooms.com

Gift Cards order phone numbers:
Cadet Store (Base Exchange) (719) 472-1953
10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

Hometown News Release (must have CAC card):
<http://jhns.release.dma.mil/public>

Life Touch photos:
POC: Sherri Peloso <http://lifetouch.com/>
1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241

UPCOMING DATES:

21 – 26 Nov 17	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD). Return by 7:00 pm on 26 Nov 17
22 – 26 Nov 17	Prep School Thanksgiving Break (released at 9:00 am) Return by 7:00 pm on 26 Nov 17
11 -15 Dec 17	Cadet Fall Finals
14-15 Dec 17	Prep School Fall Finals
16 Dec 17 – 2 Jan 18	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Jan 18) Check w/cadet ... Cadets can leave after their last final
16 Dec 17 – 2 Jan 18	Prep School Winter Break (released at 0900/return by 7 pm on 2 Jan 18)
21 – 23 Feb 18	National Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
8 – 10 Mar 18	Recognition for Class of 2021
23 Mar 18 – 1 Apr 18	Cadet Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 1 Apr 18)
23 Mar – 1 Apr 18	Prep School Spring Break (Return by 7:00 pm on 1 Apr 18)
16 May 18	Prep School Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony
17 May 18	Prep School Parade & Graduation
23 May 18	2018 Graduation
28 Jun 18	2022 Class In-Processes
2 Jun 18	1 st Summer Session Begins
23 Jun 18	1 st Session Ends/2 nd Session Begins
28 Jun 18	2022 Class In-Processes
14 Jul 18	2 nd Session Ends/3 rd Session Begins
4 Aug 18	3 rd Session Ends
4 Aug 18	Cadet Wing Returns by 7pm

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