



More than 25 St. Andrews students helped put together more than 300 soldier gift boxes. From left are Katie Tieman, Christina Kalinski, Jess Napier, Anne Neal Thompson, Nancy Reichner, Allison White, and Meredith Fish.

Equestrians fill 300 soldier gift boxes

What do the equestrians at St. Andrews Presbyterian College have in common with people in Seven Lakes, military personnel stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and lollipops?

More than 300 soldier gift boxes.

The idea for the gift boxes came from Jess Napier and Kate McAlinn, two St. Andrews equestrians, who are married to servicemen stationed overseas. The care packages – repackaged shoe boxes – are meant for the soldiers at war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I thought it was the least we could do,” said Napier whose husband is now stationed in Germany. He deploys to Iraq in May 2007.

“I mentioned something to Carla Wennberg (St. Andrews western team coach) about this and so I got involved,” said McAlinn. “We wanted to get at least 200 boxes.” The group finished the project with more than 300 boxes.

How did they get so many? That’s where the people of Seven Lakes became part of the project.

Wennberg’s mother, Nancy, lives in Seven Lakes and she placed a drop-off station for people there to donate their shoe boxes and other items. Some boxes were donated filled with items.

“They wanted to be helping hands with the students,” said Nancy Wennberg. “They are so proud of these equestrians. They can’t wait to see these kids. The whole thing is about being grateful to the guys and girls over there.”

Around 25 students came together at night, volunteering their time to put the boxes together.

“I’m just hoping other equestrians or other clubs will pick up this project nationwide,” said Nancy Wennberg.

Fouke Prize for Excellence in the Study of Law awarded

Jordan Copp '08 has been awarded the Fouke Prize for Excellence in the Study of Law based on superior performance in Introduction to Law.



Jordan Copp

Copp received a certificate of Honor and the books *Lincoln at Gettysburg* and *The Second Bill of Rights*.

This prize is made possible through the Harriet D. Fouke Fund which also funds a variety of other departmental awards for events including the recognition of a graduating politics major.

The Fund was established in honor of Dr. George Fouke and his son Louis Fouke who died in an industrial accident at age 18. Dr. Fouke joined the St. Andrews faculty in 1969 as a founding member of the Politics Department where he taught Constitutional Law and Political Theory among other courses. He was instrumental in establishing and developing the internship program that is a key component of the St. Andrews curriculum.

St. Andrews Press publishes alumnus' poetry chapbook

John Lawson '71, joins a growing list of alumni to have their work published by the St. Andrews Press.

According to Joseph Bathanti, “John Lawson’s *Generations* comes at you with the finesse and bravado of an ace hurler in top form, mixing it up, dazzling batter after batter with the sheer range of his unpredictable arsenal.... This is a fine and ambitious first book.”

Copies of the book will be available for sale during Alumni Weekend or may be purchased by contacting Ron Bayes at 910-277-5254.





Choir invited to perform in Carnegie Hall

For even those completely unattached to the performing arts, there exists knowledge of the distinction of playing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

“Carnegie Hall is a venue that performers all over the world aspire to appear in,” said William McConnell, assistant professor and chair of the music department at St. Andrews. “Its acoustics are considered the finest of any hall in the world. The greatest performers of all time have performed in concerts and recitals on that stage.

“To perform there is to perform alongside the spirits of the world’s greatest musicians.”

On Feb. 24, 2008, McConnell will be the maestro conducting a North American festival chorus that will include members of outstanding choirs from throughout the continent. One of those choirs invited to participate is the St. Andrews Presbyterian College Choir.

Charles Vardell would be proud.

“This excellent chorus received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendation given by Maestro McConnell’s choral colleagues,” said Dr. David Thye, conductor-in-residence for MidAmerica Productions, the coordinator of the event at Carnegie Hall. “It is an elite professional honor to be invited to perform in Carnegie Hall. These wonderful musicians not only represent the quality of musicianship and standard of performance within the institution, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community.”

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The festival chorus will present Franz Josef Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War*.

The singers will spend five days and four nights in New York City in preparation for their concert.

Each year, a small group of conductors are invited to make guest appearances at Carnegie Hall. Other conductors and members of the MidAmerican artistic staff make recommendations.

“Every conductor’s dream is to stand in front of an orchestra on the Carnegie Hall stage,” said McConnell. “This is the kind of opportunity for which we spend years training and preparing.”

At St. Andrews, McConnell conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir, and teaches courses in music theory, music history, and music education.

Many students in the St. Andrews Choir will need financial assistance to become part of this special choir.

“This Carnegie Hall concert is an event of extreme pride for everyone involved and deserving of the community’s recognition and support,” said Thye. “I encourage all business owners, civic leaders, and the general public to be generous in their financial support for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

“I look forward to community support and participation in this exciting project,” said McConnell. “In fact, members of our local community and alumni group may also audition to join our choir in this performance.”

Facilities at Equestrian Center nearly complete

The St. Andrews Equestrian Center is entering the final stages of currently planned construction. With four barns containing a total of 120 stalls, an additional 32-stall barn is the last piece of the current project. The Equestrian Center also contains two covered arenas, five outdoor and show teaching arenas, two hunter trials courses, a dressage arena and an indoor arena.



Participants in the November Admissions Open House attend the information session held in Avinger Auditorium.

November Admissions Open House sets record

On Nov. 18, 2006, St. Andrews hosted a record-setting Open House for prospective students and their families.

“We had 140 prospective students attend with a total attendance somewhere around 450,” said Cynthia Robinson, associate dean of admissions. “They came from all walks of life with interests across the board. The campus was alive with energy and all of our visitors picked up that energy.”

Admissions received 44 applications and two deposits from the event, which targeted an equestrian audience. Along with the typical information sessions, class experience and campus tour, students interested in participating in the College’s nationally recognized equestrian program were given the opportunity to ride for the coaches during scheduled appointment times and tour the facility located on Hasty Road.

“We had so many interested students attending this Open House that we had times scheduled for Friday night and Saturday afternoon,” said Peggy McElveen, director of the equestrian program.

Robinson was greatly impressed with the event. “Almost 80 percent of those attending are seniors and we believe this visit will help them make the decision to come to St. Andrews as members of the Class of 2011.”