



**Featured in this Issue:**

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Fall 2011

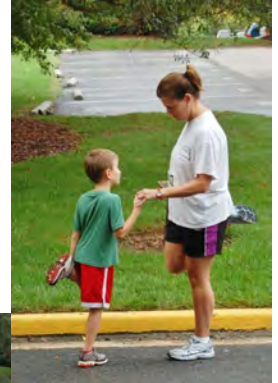
8 November 2011

## Run with the Warriors 5K

**SGT Ben Thomas beginning the race. (BELOW)**



**Tim Farabaugh announced the start of the race. (ABOVE)**



**Chesterbrook Elementary School played an integral role in the events. (LEFT/ABOVE)**



**The Uniformed Services Color Guard. (ABOVE)**



**The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. (ABOVE)**



**LT GEN Willie Williams USMC starts the race and later poses with Marines from Dam Neck Virginia. (RIGHT/ABOVE)**



**Winner Nick Mitchell crosses the finish line. (ABOVE)**

*Vinson Hall Retirement Community*

# News and Views

## Run with the Warriors 5K

24 September 2011

Despite the dreary weather, people turned out in droves to participate and support runners in the first annual Run with the Warriors 5K, held on the grounds at Vinson Hall Retirement Community.

To date, more than \$25,000 has been raised in support of the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation's Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Project at Vinson Hall. This project is designed to respond to the needs of young, wounded veterans who require residential support in an environment that is well suited to meet their needs upon returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Vinson Hall will open its doors to wounded warriors, setting aside a number of apartments to be used as transitional housing.

Over 200 runners comprised of 35 wounded warriors, service members, retired military, and ROTC participants and other community members ran in support of the Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Project. More than 50 volunteers ensured the day's events went smoothly.

The first runners

finished in just over 20 minutes, and as the last of the runners and walkers made their way to the finish line, they were greeted by cheers and chants led by LTC Sue Bozgoz. Her remarks that this was a "world class event with a hometown feel" brought cheers from the crowd.

Just minutes after the race began Sergeant Benjamin Thomas, a wounded warrior, lost control of his racing wheelchair while going down a hill. Unconcerned about their own time, the six leaders of the run veered off the race path to assist him and stay by his side until assistance could arrive.



**SGT Ben Thomas finished the race in his traditional wheelchair after the crash.**

SGT Thomas continued the race, and crossed the finish line in his standard wheel chair. When he finished the race, he motioned to the race organizer, Fred Johnson, Director of Special Events and Programs at Vinson Hall, and asked, "Can I give awards to the six people who helped me? I know

there is no way they could place."

During the awards ceremony, SGT Thomas addressed the crowd, thanked those who helped him and presented them with their honorary medals. One woman's response to his thanks summed up the purpose and overall feel of the day's event. She said, "Honey, the race isn't what's important, you are."



**Edward Gaskell during the first leg of the course.**

One resident signed up to compete in the 5K, Edward Gaskell. He completed the 5K and inspired the young Navy ROTC candidates running with him. One young sailor, as he crossed the finish line with Mr. Gaskell, remarked that he would love to come back to volunteer and become a part of such an amazing community. Congratulations to Mr. Gaskell on competing in the race. • *Vanessa Granville*

**Welcome New Residents!**

**Edward Gaskell**

**Vivian Andersen**

**Marlis Gieser**

**Stella Skrzypek**

## News and Views

*Published by  
Vinson Hall, a  
Continuing Care  
Retirement  
Community owned  
and operated by  
the Vinson Hall  
Corporation.*

## Administrative Staff

*Simone Borisov,  
Volunteer  
Coordinator*

## Resident Staff

*Bets Carnahan,  
Ann Dietrich,  
Rosemary Hogg,  
Luella Morgan,  
Coleman McGuire  
and Martha Poling*

## Photographer

*Don Heile*

Only signed ,  
original articles  
will be accepted  
for News and  
Views.

Suggestions and  
articles should be  
left at the Front  
Desk.

**Thank you!**

## Glenn Bratcher

Facing the door of his apartment, you know you're at the home of a proud Marine. The seal of the Marine Corps and a quote from the Marine Hymn adorn the wall. COL Glenn Bratcher personifies the slogan, "once a Marine, always a Marine."

Born in Okemah, OK, he was the youngest of 13 children. He grew up in West Texas and Artesia, New Mexico. He attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas where he received his Bachelors of Business Administration. He worked on his Masters at George Washington University, Pepperdine University and Central Michigan University where he finally received his Masters degree in 1977. His service schools were numerous and include Marine Corps Command and Staff College (1969) and Naval War College (1980-1981.) He served primarily in disbursing, ground supply and

aviation logistics. He's been stationed all around the USA, plus duty in Japan and 2 tours in Vietnam. He's fluent in Spanish and knows some Japanese. His last assignment was Assistant chief of Staff, Aviation Logistics Division; Head Quarters Fleet Marine Force, Pacific in Hawaii. He retired on June 30, 1989.



Prior to his second "retirement" he was Sales Manager of the Fine Jewelry Department at Macy's Department Store in Pentagon City. He learned about art and culture during his various tours of duty and appreciates them both. His apartment is filled with carefully selected paintings and unique objets d'art. He

## Timothy and Annette Daley

Dr. Daley is that rarity, a Washington native, born in D.C. He attended Gonzaga High School where he played golf and tennis, and worked on the school paper. He went on to George Washington University and it was there his

sister introduced him to his future wife. Annette (Begnoche) was born in Tauton, Massachusetts and graduated from Dunbarton College. She attended graduate school at George Washington University, where she met Tim.

## New Resident Biography

treasures the mementos of his 32 years in the Corps, and will proudly show you his Ka-bar knife.

His first marriage was brief, but it brought him the light of his life, son Kevin. Kevin and his wife, Liz, live in Spokane, Washington with their children Olivia, 16, and Drew, 12. His second marriage reunited him with his high school sweetheart, and it lasted until her death 14 years later.

Glenn is grateful for all the opportunities he's had, and now spends his time "giving back." He's involved in every aspect of his church, First Baptist, in D.C., and spends many hours volunteering there. His hobbies include travel, sports, and e-mailing his family and friends.

Welcome aboard,  
Glenn! Semper Fi! • Bets  
Carnahan

## New Resident Biography

They were married while he was in medical school there.

Tim served two years with the Air Force, stationed in Great Britain at Sculthorpe Air Force Base and Hospital. *Continued on page 4...*

## Timothy and Annette Daley

*Continued from page 3...* Although he was a pediatrician, he treated all ailments for all ages and gained valuable experience in other specialties. They had three children; son John lives in Tallahassee, daughter Lisa lives in Richmond and daughter Joan died in 2002.

After his tour with the Air Force, they returned to the USA and a private practice. They lived for several years in Falls Church, but in 1969 they moved to Chesterbrook Woods in McLean. Tim practiced pediatrics in Northern Virginia for 35 years. He volunteered at the Bread for the City Clinic in D.C. after retiring in 2003. Even now at Vinson Hall,

they still lead busy lives. They both are regular volunteers at the Arlington Free Clinic. Annette also belongs to two book clubs and is interested in the NOSC Book Club, meeting monthly at Vinson Hall. Annette also does Meals on Wheels and Tim spends every Wednesday at St. Aloysius feeding the homeless at Peace Meal.



### *New Resident Biography*

They play golf at Jefferson Park, and both enjoy reading and bridge. Tim has been overheard playing the piano in the auditorium, and sounds like the professionals who come to entertain us! He insists he's had no musical training and plays only from memory and by ear. What a gift! They are a very welcome addition to our Vinson Hall Community. •Bets Carnahan

## Virginia Gallup

Virginia (Gini) Gallup was born and grew up in Woodland, CA in the Sacramento Valley. She is a fourth generation Californian. Her schooling was in Woodland and at times difficult as she suffered from Rheumatic Fever. She missed many classes in her senior year, but she still had enough credits to graduate. She and Mearl Gallup were in the same school, but in different classes and did not know each other until after graduation.

She says that one of her children's favorite stories (one of many she has told them) is of Gini and Mearl's first date. It was a double date and Mearl had borrowed an open top car from his brother. On their way to pick up

the other couple, a truck full of raw sheep skins crashed into their rear end, sending the sheep skins on to the top of the car. We will leave the reader to picture the ensuing mess. Despite this disaster, the courtship flourished until Pearl Harbor when it was interrupted by Mearl's enlistment in the Navy. He served in USS South Dakota and other ships in the Pacific and Atlantic fleets.

In 1944, the Navy sent Mearl to Tulane University to finish his undergraduate work and then to Harvard Business School. In the fall of 1945, Gini travelled cross country all by herself by train to be married. She wanted an "historic place" for the wedding and picked Old King's Chapel in

### *New Resident Biography*

Boston. Mearl's commissioning in the Navy Supply Corps and their marriage were on the same day, October 30, 1945.

Gini enjoyed the many places they lived in their Navy life and made the most of opportunities. In Newport, she developed an interest in antiques and refinishing furniture. In the Brooklyn Navy Yard, she and Mearl took advantage of nearby theatre and museums. When they lived in Hawaii, Mearl had an especially busy assignment, so she decided to take their boys, then 14 and 9, on an adventure. *Continued on page 5...*

## Virginia Gallup

*Continued from page 4...* The 3 of them sailed on an MSTS ship to Japan, and spent 6 weeks in Tokyo and surrounding areas. The boys were tasked to pack their own suitcases. On shipboard, she discovered that in one suitcase there were more comic books than clothes!

Mearl's last Navy tour was in the Pentagon and they bought a house in Arlington where they

lived for 40 years. After retirement, they enjoyed travel, especially in Ireland and Europe.



At the end of last year, Mearl's health failed to the point

### *New Resident Biography*

where Gini felt she was not able to take care of him at home. She moved him into assisted living at Arleigh Burke Pavilion and herself into Vinson Hall. It was a challenging move but she is happy to be close and able to spend every day with him. One son lives in nearby Maryland and the other son and a grandson and 2 great grandchildren live in California. •Ann Dietrich

## Roy Easley

Roy Woodson Easley was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. Of 8 children, he was the only boy, with 6 sisters older and one 1 younger. He attended the Louisville Male High School, which was a public school, but unusually demanding and competitive. Upon graduation in 1944, he enlisted in the Army and requested Paratroop School. But loss of men in the Battle of the Bulge had created a need for replacement Infantry. So Roy was sent to OCS, but by the time he was commissioned, the war in Europe had ended. He was to be sent to serve in the invasion of Japan, but the A Bomb had brought surrender in the Pacific.

He subsequently received a senatorial appointment to the Military Academy and entered West Point in the summer of 1946. In his plebe (freshman) year he found himself learning to play a sport which was completely new to him. He broke records in the 150 and 250 shuttle runs, which brought a "strong suggestion" from his company com-

mander that he try out for lacrosse. It turned out to be a very rewarding experience in his four years at West Point. In his first class (senior) year he became a company commander.

Home on leave after his second year at West Point, his sister Sarah invited him to a fashion show in which she was a model. Not wanting to disappoint her, he went. She also had asked a young friend, Betty Boone, to hand out perfume samples. Roy says he could not take his eyes off Betty that evening (which she told him later had made her very uncomfortable.) But that evening led to courtship and Roy and Betty were married in early 1951.

Following graduation in 1950, Roy finally got his long wished for training as a parachutist. He joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and was deployed to fight in the Korean War. During the Cold War, he

### *New Resident Biography*

found himself assigned to the Air Defense of Chicago. He spent three years back at West Point teaching basic psychology, leadership and methods of instruction. A part of that tour which he especially enjoyed was coaching freshman lacrosse!



He attended Command and Staff College and graduate school in business at the University of Alabama earning a Masters of Science and Commerce with a major in Statistics and Computer. He served in Korea for another year, and then in the Pentagon working for the Assistant Secretary of the Army. *Continued on page 6...*

## Roy Easley

*Continued from page 5...* Upon retirement from the Army, he became Vice President of The Association of Maximum Service Telecasters and later worked with a telecommunications publishing firm. He also taught night classes in statistics at Georgetown Univer-

sity for 3 years. Roy and Betty also found time for travel to Morocco, Ireland and Italy.

The Easleys had 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. Life was busy with Boy Scouts and other outdoor activities. They bought a

### *New Resident Biography*

house in Arlington in 1963 where they lived until they came to Vinson Hall in the fall of 2009. Betty died in February of this year. 4 of Roy's children live nearby and he is the grandfather of 10. • *Ann Dietrich*

## Coleman McGuire

Coleman Lancaster McGuire was born and grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, except for a few years in Scranton, PA. Later, his father's work moved the family to Indianapolis. He attended Notre Dame as a business administration major. He was a senior in 1941 when World War II began, and upon graduation went to Midshipman School at Columbia as one of the "90 Day Wonders." Upon commissioning he was sent to Little Creek in Norfolk, VA for Amphibious Training and was assigned to the USS President Hayes, an APA in the Pacific Fleet.

The President Hayes carried a number of small landing craft (36 and 50 footers) capable of landing a battalion of infantry on the beach. Coleman was responsible for several boats landing men and supplies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division on the beach at Bougainville in the Solomon Islands in 1943. At first, living at Boat Pool #11 on shore entailed sleeping in a hole. After 4 months, the Sea Bees built a camp on shore and Coleman moved into a 2 man tent. He and his tent mate were surrounded by netting for

sleeping as protection from mosquitoes and rats. Coleman's tent mate had pitched in the minor leagues, and one night when a rat gnawed through the net his tent mate picked up a piece of coral, hurled it and killed the rat!



In 1945, Coleman was assigned to the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and not feeling that his future was in the Navy, resigned his commission and took a job in sales in Chicago. That was the beginning of a lifetime career in sales, as his Father before him. At a dance sponsored by the Catholic Youth Organization, he met Elizabeth (Betty) Colterjohn. They were married in 1947 and one year later moved to Louisville. Coleman founded C.L. McGuire, a

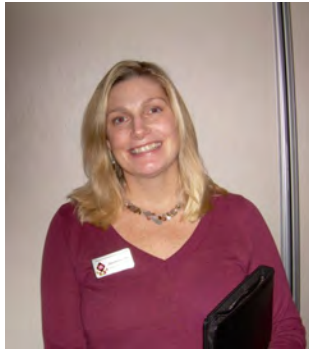
### *New Resident Biography*

sales agency selling technical chemicals. Their 2 daughters were raised in Louisville and the McGuires became involved in the community. Betty taught at the high school level. Coleman was elected President of the Louisville J.C.'s and also managed a successful fundraiser for the Children's Hospital and became a member of their board.

Coleman was an active tennis player and later a golfer. He and his wife enjoyed cruising, travel in France and visiting the daughter who was an army wife living in Berlin. When Betty died in December of this past winter, after 63 years of marriage, Coleman came to Vinson Hall to be near one of his daughters. His other daughter lives in Colorado Springs. He is the grandfather of 3 and also has a great grandchild. Coleman participates in a number of activities here and says he is enjoying it all. • *Ann Dietrich*

## Joan Andres

Joan Andres RN BSN is our new Clinical Manager at Vinson Hall. A local girl, she was born in Fairfax Hospital, and she has lived here most of her life. She decided to be a nurse while attending George Mason University.



The fourth of 8 children, she played basketball, softball and swimming. She loved

science, math and literature.

Joan earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at George Mason University in May 1995 where she was on the Dean's List.

Her experience includes working as an emergency room nurse, risk manager, legal nurse consultant and a hospice and palliative care nurse.

### *New Staff Member Biography*

In her free time, Joan is a part time fitness instructor, so she keeps active outdoors and enjoys doing triathlons.

She and her husband have 3 sons (ages 13, 12 and 10) and she is expecting a baby girl in December.

Joan loves being here and hopes to enable residents to be healthier and happier! • *Martha Poling*

## Simone Borisov

Simone Borisov is the new Volunteer Coordinator, working under Fred Johnson in Special Events and Programs.

She is a graduate of Webster University. She studied in Geneva, Switzerland. She majored in International Relations and specialized in Human Rights and French. She graduated with Departmental Honors and International Distinction Honors in 2011.

Simone's responsibilities

include bringing in new volunteers from the community, including local high schools, scheduling volunteers and logging hours as well as facilitating residents who want to volunteer outside of Vinson Hall. She also assists with any events or programs at Vinson Hall.

From Saint Louis, Missouri, Simone has an older brother who is a musician in the U.S. Army. He plays the fife, a



### *New Staff Member Biography*

revolutionary war instrument, as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Old Guard stationed at Fort Meyer, an official escort to the President.

Simone's objective is to develop resources and networks to improve volunteer services and programs. • *Martha Poling*

## Vinson Hall Voices

There's "music in the air" and it is being made by the residents themselves. Some 19 singers have answered the invitation to form a choral group. The aim is to enjoy singing familiar songs together, to improve vocal technique, to strengthen diaphragmatic breathing, and to bring joy to others.

Bets Carnahan and Joan Mason are the organizers, with Bets doing PR and Joan as conductor and pianist. Volunteer Coordinator Simone Borisov and resident Don Heile have provided large print books. The chorus meets every Wednesday at 4PM in the auditorium.

The chorus also plans to

visit sick rooms and serenade outside residents' doors.

Joan Mason has emphasized that all are welcome to join and no prior training is necessary. For more information call Bets Carnahan or Joan Mason. • *Coleman McGuire*

## The Hurricane of 1938

Hurricanes happen frequently along the Florida coast and westerly along the Gulf Coast. Occasionally one turns north along the East Coast of the United States. One such happened a few weeks ago, and it proved to be a big one. Hurricane Irene caused a lot of damage along the North Carolina coast, less along the Mid Atlantic states, then picked up again in New Jersey, and continued north through New York City and on up to Vermont, where it caused an exceptional amount of flooding. We, here in the Washington, D.C area, were lucky: we lost a number of trees in Northern Virginia, but there was no loss of life, and little damage to the houses and other buildings. The Washington Monument suffered several cracks, so that it is still closed to the public, and the National Cathedral lost some of the gargoyles and figures on the very top of its spires. It could have been a lot worse.

All the publicity concerning Hurricane Irene brought back to me memories of the terrible Hurricane of 1938, which I experienced and remember well. It distinguished itself for many reasons. It happened before hurricanes were named, so it has not been well remembered. It happened before there were national weather reports and storm warnings. No one in New England knew that the storm was headed that way. It took an unusual route in that it veered over the Atlantic Ocean until it hit Long Island, then the coast of Connecticut and

Rhode Island, before going farther north and petering out in northern New England. Nearly seven hundred people lost their lives in that hurricane.



Everett S. Allen, a reporter for the New Bedford, MA, newspaper, in his book written in 1976, [\*A Wind to Shake the World, the Story of the 1938 Hurricane\*](#), called the storm “the worst natural disaster in American history – a hurricane that, in terms of death, destruction, and injury, surpassed both the San Francisco earthquake and the Great Chicago Fire.” That sounds like editorial exaggeration, but, in fact, 680 lives were lost, as against 450 in San Francisco in 1906 and 200 in Chicago in 1871. Property damage figures are comparable.

In his book, [\*Sudden Sea: the Great Hurricane of 1938\*](#), R. A. Scotti wrote that most hurricanes have three weapons: strong winds, heavy rain, and high waves. This hurricane had a fourth weapon: surprise.

“Rampaging through seven states in seven hours, it would rip up the famous boardwalk in Atlantic City, flood the Connecticut River Valley,

and turn downtown Providence into a seventeen-foot lake.”

I was a freshman at Connecticut College in New London. Our class had been at college for a week, Freshman Week, getting acquainted with our new surroundings. It had rained steadily for three or four of those days, but we were too busy to notice. We had meetings or many different kinds, all designed to introduce us to college life and the wonderful experiences ahead of us. We had toured the College buildings, had registered for our classes, had found our way to the Arboretum (Connecticut’s wonderful outdoor biology lab), had learned the ins and outs of the library, and had already come to love the magnificent view of the town, and below it Long Island Sound, from the Green, the highest point in the city of New London, which stretched from the row of the dormitories on one side of the campus to the academic buildings on the other. Finally the upper classwoman had returned to campus, and on Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, the college term had opened with an all-student convocation, followed by the first day of classes. I was determined that I would keep up-to-date with my assignments, get all of my reading done on time, and would not fall behind in my homework. So much for good intentions.

I must have struggled to get back to Thames Hall, my dorm, after my first classes. *Continued on page 9..*

*Jane Peak*

## The Hurricane of 1938

*Continued from page 8...* The ground, saturated with the rain, made for soggy walking. Then the wind began! It blew like I had never seen it before. First, branches of trees began flying around, then slates from the roofs of the buildings. Windows were blown out. One wall of the new auditorium, then under construction, was blown down. The giant stack on the college power plant was blown over; there went our electric power. With the loss of power went my resolve to get my assignments done promptly. It was so dark we couldn't read without the lights, and there were no lights. It was lighted outdoors than it was inside, so, after the rain had stopped and the wind dies down, several of my new friends and I decided to walk into town to see what the storm had done. We climbed over downed trees and loose wires lying on the ground. We may have been college students, but we weren't very bright! Gradually it penetrated our heads



that this was no ordinary storm; it was THE storm of the century!

Cherie Burns wrote in The Great Hurricane: 1938 that "not since Benedict Arnold had burned New London for the British in the

Revolutionary War had such an all-out disaster swept through the town" or New London. Fire broke out in the business section when flood

water caused a short circuit of electrical wires. The conflagration spread in all direction within minutes, raged for hours, and destroyed many commercial buildings.

Everett Allen wrote that the force of the hurricane hit New London in the middle of the afternoon, where hurricane, flood, and fire combined to leave the city in ruins. Damage was estimated as high as \$4 million. The storm wrecked wharves, tossed vessels onto the shore, washed out railroad tracks, ripped off roofs, up-

## A Trip to the Newseum

On Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, instead of knitting and crocheting as is their usual Tuesday pastime, a group of "Knitwits" visited the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The museum touts four centuries of news history featuring people, places, and events. Enjoying this trip were Eileen Maksymiec, Mary Miller, Ann Mulloy,

Jane Peak, Dora Rousseau, Geneva Shea, Rosemary Hogg and Cathy Jamieson. The latter is the Knitwits' volunteer coordinator who planned our trip.

The impressive glass, concrete and steel building on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets showcases numer-

*Jane Peak*

rooted trees, smashed store and house windows, and carried away bridges, The official anemometer in New London broke down when the wind velocity reached 98 miles per hour. The houses that lined the ocean front were totally destroyed. That area became a public beach, Ocean Beach, which was frequented by us college students in later years and is still a popular recreational area.

I must have received one of the last telephone calls that went through to the College. I remember that I talked to my mother the same afternoon, but the wires went dead soon after that, and we were without communication with the outside world except for emergency messages for several weeks.

My class at Connecticut College was known forever after as the Hurricane Class. When we graduated in 1942, our country was deep in World War II, and Selective Service, or "the draft", was the national law. Our motto ever since has been "In with the blow, out with the draft." That's us, the Class of 1942. • *Jane Peak*

ous exhibits on seven levels. One can glimpse an outstanding view of the capitol and surrounding areas from the terrace. ***Continued on page 10...***

# A Trip to the Newseum



Continued from page 9...There is a gallery and five theaters that cover 500 years of history; a gallery devoted to the tragedy of 9/11; a first-amendment gallery; a journalists' memorial; Pulitzer Prize winning photos; pictures of the year; an FBI exhibit; Presidents' pictures plus photos of First Ladies and First Dogs; great moments in sports; and much, much more!

From the Concourse Level

we took the glass express elevator to the 6<sup>th</sup> Level and worked our way down. During our ride up we saw a news helicopter suspended in the atrium, the twisted and charred remnant of an antenna from New York's World Trade Center, and signs indicating exhibits we could choose to view on the various levels.

In the Interactive Newsroom we all experienced 26 seconds of fame as we gave live

news updates on camera in front of selected backdrops, such as cherry blossoms, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, etc. Some read the supplied script while others adlibbed their own news reports.

After lunch in the Newseum cafeteria and a turn in the gift shop we were ready to leave, but determined to return next year in September when seniors pay half price! •Rosemary Hogg



# Scoop

Significant milestones for 3 grandchildren of Veen and Bruce Gibson.

**Brittany Boveri:** Recent Magna Cum Laude graduate of James Madison University with a degree in Studio Art and a minor in Art History. She also received the Senior Academic Excellence Award. Now she's gone to Paris, France to expand her knowledge of French art and language at Catholic Institute of Paris. To help defray her expenses she's obtained a job as an au pair for a French family.

**Courtney Hunt:** Graduate student at Columbia University pursuing a Masters Degree in Environmental Architecture. She has been hired as a teaching assistant for first year graduate students to help defray her expenses in New York. While in undergraduate school at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, she and a partner developed "Light Modal" a series of 30 illuminating arcs that appear to float beneath a 420 foot section of the city's public sky train line. It is one of a few permanent "zero energy" public art installations in North America.

**Brett Gibson:** Just graduated from the Harvard Business School as co-president of the class and received the Dean's Award for having the most positive impact on the University in 2011. He currently is working with LivingSocial developing their international market. Brett is a Captain in the Virginia National Guard, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also serves as a member of Gov. McDonnell's (VA) Advisory Board for Community Service and Volunteerism.



Janet Wolfe attended the wedding of her grandson, Joe Cackler, at the Sequoia Retreat Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco on the weekend of September 9th through the 11th, 2011. All out of town guests stayed at cabins at the retreat center.

Joe and his bride, Christina Jeffery, met when they were freshman at Stanford University. After many years of dating, they had fun planning every detail of their wedding. This included writing their vows. Joe and Christina each have one brother and one sister, so the wedding party consisted of only their siblings.



Joe attended school at Haycock and Longfellow and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Christina is from Barrow, Alaska, and is now a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley. Joe works at 23andMe, a genetics company, as a software engineer.

There were many events during the weekend, including a welcome dinner Friday night, followed by a talent show, at which both Janet and her daughter played piano solos. Guests were treated to many wonderful meals and receptions, as well as yoga and dancing lessons on the day of the ceremony. Several interesting videos were shown during the weekend. Janet had a grand time dancing at the reception; much fun as a finale for this great weekend!

## Submissions

To the soldiers and Marines in Afghanistan, this is to tell you that the residents of Vinson Hall Retirement Community appreciate all you are doing to help us prevent another 9/11, chemical or radiological attack on our homeland.

*Verner Ramsing on behalf of Vinson Hall residents*



Ralph Mason and his wife Joan enjoyed the performance by the brass quintet. "It was a real privilege to have them here," Joan said.

Ralph and Joan Mason were featured in the September 14-20 Issue of the McLean Connection. They were pictured and quoted regarding the recent performance by the McLean Orchestra and Vinson Hall.

The Knitwits meet every Tuesday at 2 PM in the Penthouse Lounge to work on several charitable projects. Since 2008, the group has logged the following contributions: 98 baby afghans for Navy Relief, 496 rectangles for the Homemade Afghan Project (for Wounded Warriors), 138 caps for the Newborn Nursery at Virginia Hospital Center, 14 blankets for the Newborn Nursery at Virginia Hospital Center, 8 blankets for Capitol Hospice, 18 cast sox for Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed, 19 wool scarves for troops in Afghanistan, 5 blankets for the Oncology Unit at Virginia Hospital Center, and 296 rectangles for Warm Up America.



The photograph shows ADM Mullen visiting with a Wounded Warrior in Afghanistan with one of the afghans provided by the Homemade Afghan Project. The Knitwits send completed rectangles to a group in Maryland who designs and completes the afghans. To date, the Homemade Afghan Project group has provided over 7000 afghans to Wounded Warriors.

Besides our regular meetings, the group has taken some field trips together; to Hillwood, the Newseum and the Pentagon Memorial.

If you're interested in joining the group, please come! Everyone is welcomed!

For more information, email [VinsonHallKnitwits@GMail.com](mailto:VinsonHallKnitwits@GMail.com).

# Submissions

## Review of the Vinson Hall Voices

Recently, I sat in on a rehearsal of the Vinson Hall chorus and it was a great experience. Joan Mason, a recent move-in, was directing a group of male and female residents. The new director evidently is very experienced. She explained the need for good posture as well as breath control. The group went on to a drill sounding vowels, etc.

Listening to the group brought back memories of my days with our high school Glee Club. We started each class with similar exercises. I recall too, that we came in first or second at an annual competition at a great hall in Manhattan.

The Vinson Hall Voices practiced many familiar songs and enjoyed the hour long practice. The future looks great and I'm sure the Christmas program will enrich our holidays.

Ann Paduda

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Chapel Schedule

**Protestant Services**

*Sundays at 10:30AM*

**Catholic Mass**

*Saturdays at 4:00PM*

**Episcopal Communion Service**

*3rd Tuesday of the Month at 11:00AM*

**Ecumenical Bible Discussion**

*1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month at 3:00PM*

*Conference Room*

**OASIS**

*Last Monday of the Month at 4:00PM*

*Activity Center/Resource Room*

**In Memorium**

**Ruth A. Adams**

**Ruth E. Anderson**

**Madelyn Des  
Jardins**

**Lucille B. Dion**

**Ruth H. Dornan**

**Marion M. Dullea**

**Emily C. Haseltine**

**Florence L. Nicolai**

**Margaret F. Tofalo**

Questions? Call Chaplain Scott Harrison at 2122.

# The Last Word

*David Chewning*

Presidents of the United States have traditionally resented the intrusion into their lives by the press and other nosey citizens. Some White House occupants however, have coped with this menace. President Calvin Coolidge had, with little warning, inherited the office of the chief executive after the unexpected death of Warren Harding. He was usually friendly and cooperative to the press. But when pushed too hard by some of the questions he regarded as trivial, he retaliated. One Sunday, as the President and the First Lady emerged from a service at a downtown church, they were surrounded by a circle of reporters eager for a story. The interview proceeded like this:

*Reporter:* Did you enjoy the service?

*President Coolidge:* Yup.

*Reporter:* What did the pastor preach about?

*President Coolidge:* Sin.

*Reporter:* What did he say?

*President Coolidge:* He's agin it.

With that, the distinguished worshippers climbed into their limousine and returned to the White House without uttering another word, leaving behind an astonished group of newsmen.

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Woodrow Wilson, America's President, was during the First World War, faced with a different situation. He was the virtual founding father of the infant League of Nations being formed in Geneva. When the U.S. Senate vetoed the legislation that would have allowed the U.S. to become a member, Wilson was crushed and bitter about what he considered a betrayal by his own countrymen. Shortly thereafter, he suffered a very major stroke. One day, when the President had begun a partial recovery, he was visited by three member of the Senate who had destroyed his dream. "Mr. President," they said, "we are praying for you." His reply was simple and to the point. "Which way?" he asked. Determined to complete his term of office, the sick President clung to his job, assisted mostly by his wife. He died hoping that his dream would someday become reality. It never did.

*If you have an amusing or interesting, unusual adventure or story please feel free to leave a submission for The Last Word at the Front Desk.*