

... provides a caring structured environment so that students can develop a sense of confidence, purpose and identity by which they can be guided ... that each student may realize full potential and cultivate high standards of personal responsibility, discipline, and honor.

from the Christchurch School
Mission Statement

The McLaughlin Symposium

April 24, 2006

The McLaughlin Symposium at Christchurch School was established in 1975 by the late Dr. William B. McLaughlin, parent of Christchurch graduate David McLaughlin '67. Dr. McLaughlin was a longtime resident of Irvington, Va, and a longtime friend of Christchurch School. He was an orthopedic surgeon, a Colonel in the U.S. Army, and he enjoyed barbershop quartet singing, fishing, boating, and travel.

Dr. McLaughlin established the symposium to “promote the cause of American democracy and patriotism as a part of the educational experience.” He once told a group of students, “the primary objective of this program is to present to the students at Christchurch School a fresh look at our American heritage of constitutional democracy, in the hope that you will want to learn more about it and work to preserve it.”

Since its establishment more than 30 years ago, the symposium has brought to campus such distinguished speakers as a justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, a Marine colonel who spent six years as a POW, the daughter of a US President, a member of the White House Staff, a news editor, several generals, a political commentator, a sports figure, a Naval war hero, our own war hero **Joe Farrar '65**, and now this year, decorated hero **John Newton '93**.



Not long ago, **John Newton '93** was a Christchurch student, just like you. As a freshman, he lived in Faye Dormitory. He played Lacrosse for Mr. Nolan, football for Mr. Todd and Mr. Homer. He studied art with Mr. Roebuck, Latin with Mr. Byers, and Computer Science with Mr. Przybyl. He ate JT Jones' good cookin' in Cameron Dining Hall. He was a proctor on 3rd Floor Scott, and just like you, he started each morning seated in St. Peter's chapel with his advisor, Mr. Galleher.

1LT (Promotable) John T. Newton
Christchurch School Class of 1993
VMI member of the class of 1997
Member of the 1994 Keydet Lacrosse Team
American Military University
(graduating in fall 2006 with B.S. in International Relations)

Entered active military service on 19 April 1995 in Nashville, Tennessee

Assignments:

3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA (September 1995 to September 2000); 4th Ranger Training Battalion, Fort Benning, GA (September 2000 to March 2003); 1 / 30th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, GA (February 2004 to Present)

Positions Held:

Rifleman, 60mm Mortar Gunner, Radio Telephone Operator, M249 Gunner, Mortar Squad Leader, Ranger Fire Team Leader, Ranger Squad Leader, Ranger Instructor, Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader / Battalion Sniper Employment Officer, Company Executive Officer

Military Schools and Courses:

Basic and Advanced Individual Infantry Training, Indirect Infantryman Training, Basic Airborne Training, 75th Ranger Regiment Ranger Indoctrination Program, Jungle Warfare and Survival Course, 75th Ranger Regiment Pre-Ranger Program, U.S. Army Ranger School, S.E.R.E. (Search, Evade, Resist, Escape) High Risk Level C, U.S. Army Combatives Level I & II, Primary Leadership Development Course, Unit Drug and Alcohol Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Ranger Instructor Certification Course, Total Army Instructors Course, Combat Lifesavers Course, Emergency Medical Technician Course, Pathfinder Course, Jumpmaster Course, Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Mechanized Leaders Course, Air Movement Command Air Load Planners Course

Awards and Decorations:

Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (x2), Army Commendation Medal (x3), Army Achievement Medal (x7), NCO Prof. Medal (x2), Good Conduct Medal (x2), Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Service Ribbon, British Parachutist Badge, German Parachutist Badge, Egyptian Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab

Overseas Experiences:

Operation Iraqi Freedom III, Diyala Province, Iraq (Jan 2005-Jan 2006), Flintlock, Graffenwoer, FRG (June-July 1999), Bright Star, Cairo West, Egypt (Sept - Oct 1995), Panama (Nov-Dec 1995)

John Newton '93 and his wife, Shannon, live in Georgia with their two daughters - Anna (5) and Lily (3).