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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY NAMES THOMAS 103RD CADET COLONEL
Five Additional Seniors Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Nov. 29, 2010 – D. Thomas of Saint Paul, Minn., was named the 103rd cadet colonel of [Saint Thomas Academy](#) in a ceremony on Nov. 24, 2010. Surrounded by fellow cadets, administrators and faculty, previous cadet colonels, family and community members, Thomas was handed the Fleming Saber by Headmaster Dr. Thomas Mich to signify his selection as head of the Corps of Cadets.

“He is a well-respected, seasoned leader among the Corps of Cadets and will do a fine job in the role of cadet colonel,” said Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Michael DePuglio (ret.), U.S. Army. “He has dedicated himself to achieve excellence in academics, community service and co-curriculars, which will serve him well in this role, in college and in his career. He is an outstanding role model for the rest of our students.”

Thomas, the son of Mark Thomas and Maureen Chevalier of Saint Paul, has been attending Saint Thomas Academy for six years. He is considering Dartmouth College, Brown University, Middlebury College or Colby College for his post-secondary education. He is a member of the reigning state championship Alpine Ski team and was also the 2009-2010 individual state champion. Under direction of the counseling department, Thomas serves a peer mentor to younger students.

“The Academy has, without a doubt, shaped me into the man I am today,” Thomas said. “The tough curriculum, talented peers, exceptional teachers, and high expectations brought out my ability to excel and lead. The relationships with my teachers, the bonds I've formed with my classmates, ‘The Brotherhood,’ and my accomplishments because of my Academy education make me proud to call myself an STA Cadet.”

His role as cadet colonel will prepare Thomas for leadership roles in college and throughout his life. The cadet colonel works closely with the Academy’s administrators and military leaders to implement a wide variety of events at the Academy, including the formal JROTC military reviews, the Brigade Formal Inspection, and numerous other school activities. The cadet colonel also acts as liaison between the cadets and the faculty and administration, often influencing or handling disciplinary matters.

The cadet colonel is chosen based on his academic performance, co-curricular involvement, merits and demerits, military performance and leadership abilities. A board including the headmaster, commandant of cadets, the assistant headmaster, the dean of students, the dean of academics, a faculty representative and a student representative choose the cadet colonel from the 16 senior officers.

The traditional symbol of the cadet colonel’s authority, the Fleming Saber, is named in honor of U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Capt. Richard E. Fleming '35, who served as a flight officer in

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Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron 241 during World War II. He was posthumously awarded the highest decoration for heroism, the Medal of Honor, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his "dauntless perseverance and unyielding devotion to duty." Fleming died in the line of duty on June 5, 1942, during the Battle of Midway. For additional background, visit: <http://www.cadets.com/page/288>.

Five additional seniors were promoted from cadet captain to cadet lieutenant colonel. They are:

- A. Reid of Lakeville was named brigade executive officer
- M. Whalen of Burnsville was named brigade chief of staff
- D. Furth of West Saint Paul was named battalion commander
- N. DeVetter of Minneapolis was named battalion commander
- J. Kruger of Edina was named battalion commander

About Saint Thomas Academy

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2010-2011, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, Catholic, college preparatory, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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