



## Press Release

For more information contact  
Barbara Esteves-Moore  
292-5134, ext. 272 or  
[estevesmooreb@dominicanampus.org](mailto:estevesmooreb@dominicanampus.org)

### **Two St. Cecilia students will train with the military this summer**

St. Cecilia juniors Maggie Page and Rachel Duff will not have a typical summer experience before starting their senior year. Each will attend a summer seminar in the military to gain a true experience of cadet life at a military academy. They will attend academic, leadership, athletic, and military workshops with hundreds of other select rising seniors from across the country.

Maggie will attend the Summer Leaders Seminar at West Point, The United States Military Academy. Over 4,000 students applied for this program and only 1,000 were selected. She first heard of the seminar through her own research into West Point. Maggie's interest in the Academy is not just about the military, but also the academics it offers.

"I was really drawn to the respect that West Point has, but also how you are developed academically and as a leader," Maggie said. "I want to go into the intelligence field and I know West Point and the Army is the best avenue to get me there."

She is also looking forward to experiencing what it is like as a female at West Point and feels her formation at St. Cecilia has prepared her for this next journey. In the fall, SCA alumna Donna M. McAleer, '83, returned to campus to speak to girls looking into attending a military academy and to speak to the entire student body about her years in the military and the leadership she gained. Donna graduated from West Point and has had a successful career in the military and in the business world since.

"Being female gives me the opportunity to stand out. It can be to my advantage," Maggie explains. "My leadership opportunities at St. Cecilia, specifically as class president, have pushed me in this direction. I have developed a respect for my classmates and enjoy working as a team."

Rachel will be attending the United States Air Force Academy's Summer Seminar, which had over 3,600 applicants for just over 1,000 slots. She has grown up inspired by the stories told of her father's life as a Marine and her uncles' Army stories.

“Every time I would see one of my family members in their military uniform, I was always very proud of how they served their country,” Rachel said. “I feel I have that military personality and could handle the stress, take on the leadership, and carry on the passion for my country.”

She is looking forward to having a first-hand experience of the Air Force Academy and to getting a taste of life as a cadet.

“I want to see if the Academy is for me. I want to see if it will continue to challenge me to go above and beyond what is my limit,” Rachel said.

The seminars are designed to help juniors in the college-selection process, while giving them an idea of the importance of leadership and sound decision-making in their education, careers, and lives. Colonel Amy Cox is the local admissions liaison for the Air Force Academy.

“The seminars are just as important for the student as the academies. The experience is priceless for the candidates. They get to have the experience with peers who are similarly minded and with actual cadets to help them make decisions,” Col. Cox explains.

She continued, “For one school to have two girls attending the seminars is a true honor for the school and shows its students have leadership and rise to the challenge. These girls are definitely distinguished among those who applied to the seminar and wherever they go and whatever they do, they are going to make life happen.”

St. Cecilia Academy—Nashville’s oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation—is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout the 2010-2011 school year. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five times since 2004. Eighty-five percent of the 53 Class of 2010 members were offered college scholarships totaling \$5.5 million. That equals an average of over \$100,000 in offered college scholarships per graduate.

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