

Local athlete swims her way to college

By SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
and MAJ. DEIDRE MUSGRAVE
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Oak Grove High School student Meghan Petersen has made her mark in Hattiesburg, and now plans to do the same in college once she graduates from high school.

Meghan, the daughter of Col. Jennifer Peterson and retired Lt. Col. Dale Petersen, made her college choice official. The Oak Grove Warrior signed a national letter of intent swimming schol-

arship with the University of Arkansas Little Rock Trojans.

Meghan will have a full tuition scholarship to swim for the UALR Trojans.

"Swimming is a great team and individual sport," said Meghan. "I am really excited about swimming for UALR and taking my passion for this sport to the next level."

Since the age of eight years old, Meghan has been swimming. Throughout her commitment and dedication, Meghan has had a positive influence on her younger

brother, Chase, who is also swimming.

"Swimming teaches kids how to prioritize their efforts and set goals," said Meghan.

To keep in shape with other competitors, she swims year round at the Hattiesburg YMCA under the leadership of Coach Steve Panzram.

Even though the Trojans are not nationally ranked, they have started their season off by breaking three school records during the opening night. She will join Holly Myers, who is a native of

Purvis.

Meghan has not only made waves with the accomplishment of a swimming scholarship, she has set the standard in leadership during her senior year at Oak Grove High School as the National Honor Society President.

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way," said Meghan in response to her leadership challenge as the NHS president.

Meghan plans to pursue a degree in engineering while at UALR. Meghan's Family and the Camp Shelby Family wish her all the best.



Meghan Petersen smiles with her Mom, Col. Jennifer Petersen the Medical Task Force commander at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, during the scholarship signing at Oak Grove High School.

Turner is a native of Natchez

By DANA ELISE SMITH
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Sgt. LaWanda Renea Turner is a native of Natchez and a member of the 168th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Vicksburg. She is currently working in the personnel section at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Her duties are to ensure that the mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers' documentation, such as insurance policies or emergency contacts, are properly updated and processed.



Turner

Turner attributes her influence to join the military to the Natchez High School's JROTC program in which she participated all four years.

"I liked it because it has better prepared me for the military," she said.

Turner said that she was cer-

PERSONNEL PROFILE ENLISTED

tain that she wanted to make the military her career and so far, it has spanned eight years. She deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 with the 168th En. Bn, and returned in November 2009.

She holds a Military Occupational Specialty as a human resources specialist- a skill that proved useful overseas. While deployed, she served as the human resource specialist for Soldiers on rest and recuperation. She was responsible for the accountability of the R&R Soldiers. She also presented R&R briefings for her unit. In addition, she processed emergency leave and passes. Her service in Afghanistan earned her the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. Immediately following her return home, she was mobilized at CSJFTC.

When she is not working,

she enjoys watching television and spending time with friends and Family. Most of all, she is an avid reader. Reading was a hobby that spurred in her youth, when she invested into many book series. She said that R.L. Stine's "Fear Street" book series was one of her childhood favorites.

"Now, I read a lot of romance novels, but I'll read almost anything if it appears interesting on the back cover," said Turner.

Also in her spare time, Turner's attentions are geared to finishing her college education. Every Saturday, she attends her final class at Jackson State University in Jackson. She plans to graduate on May 7 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

She is married to Corey L. Turner and together they have a son, Corey, 4, and a daughter, Kiley, age 2.



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Gibbs helps keep CSJFTC online

By DANA ELISE SMITH
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Newly commissioned officer, 2nd Lt. Brian Gibbs, was honored with a pinning ceremony on Feb. 11 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center to shed his rank of sergeant and proudly wear his new rank of an officer.

There to congratulate him were the post commander, Col. Steve Parham and the Director of Information Management, Lt. Col. Anita Easley. Gibbs' wife, Erica, had the honor of pinning on his new rank.

Gibbs addressed his co-workers, Family and friends after the pinning.

"I want to express gratitude for people who have led my success. You guys developed me into what I hoped to become," said Gibbs.

He is a native of Conroe, Texas and is a member of B Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team. He has been mobilized at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center for nearly seven years working as a senior systems analyst in the Directorate of Information Management section.

He is responsible for providing internet and network services to Camp Shelby personnel and mobilized Soldiers. This includes managing, maintaining and upgrading Camp Shelby's Non-classified Internet Protocol Router network (NIPR), Secret Internet Protocol Router network (SIPR), commercial, and satellite networks.

In addition, he works closely with mobilizing units and training units on specialized training networks to provide any necessary training and assistance that they may need for current and anticipated missions.

Gibbs enlisted in the military 12 years ago after years of being inspired by military Families.

"I grew up around military Families and always had a tremendous respect for my friends' parents who were in the military," said Gibbs.

Within his career he has earned two military occupational specialties; Information Systems

PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER



Latasha Williams/CSJFTC PAO NCO

HAPPY FAMILY... 2nd Lt. Brian Gibbs, a senior systems analyst for CSJFTC directorate of information management, stands with his wife, Erica, and their 18-month-old daughter, Aubrie, after his pinning ceremony on Feb. 11.

Analyst and General Construction Equipment Operator. Gibbs has also been deployed overseas on both humanitarian and combat missions. He deployed with B Joint Task Force Bravo to Honduras to assist in recovery efforts after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. He later deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 with 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group as a Systems Analyst. In 2004, he mobilized at Camp Shelby where he has remained since.

In his spare time, he enjoys golfing with his Family and co-workers and spending time with his wife and his 18-month-old daughter, Aubrie. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Southern Mississippi.

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"Confessions are tough. Real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession though, let me say a few other things first.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say "Oh yeah, I know you, you're Dr. Spiers. I've seen your ad with that picture of you and those cute little children and beautiful wife." I do feel pretty blessed to have my family. Well, perhaps I should tell you a little more about that photo, and why I use it in my ads. Let's start with me, the tall guy to your left.

Years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever. Let me tell you my story.

"Back then I was a busboy at a pizza restaurant. I was lifting some heavy garbage and felt an instant pain in my lower back. The pain at times was so breathtaking that I couldn't move. I developed a lean to my left and couldn't stand straight. I couldn't even put my shoes on. I was afraid that I'd lose my job if the disability continued. After taking several pain pills which didn't help, I thought I might have to have surgery to fix it. I thought there has to be an easier way and decided against it. But, there's more...

My grandmother convinces me to give her doctor a try. This new doctor does an exam, takes some films, and then "adjusts" my spine. The adjustment doesn't hurt, it actually feels good. I get relief, and I can stand straight and move again. It works so well for me, and I'm so impressed with the other "miracles" I see in his office that I eventually go to chiropractic school myself. And that's how it happened!"

Now for Ashley (17), who is the oldest of my four girls in the photo and Nathan (14), my only boy, they developed asthma when they were very young. They both have been admitted to the hospital with it. They've even been limited in their activities because of the attacks. Upon finishing school, I started to adjust them regularly and

the attacks started to subside. Now their asthma is only occasional. Later we rode ten miles together on bicycles, with no problem. That seems like a small thing, but it makes a huge difference to them.

The other little girls, Laura (12), Leah (10), and Katie (8) get adjusted when they are not feeling well or sometimes just to stay "tuned up." My children rarely get sick with ear infections or colds. My wife, Kelly, also gets regular chiropractic care which helps her asthma and to exercise optimally.

Here's what some of my patients had to say:

"I was afraid of chiropractic until I couldn't stand the pain any more. Dr. Spiers was very helpful and understanding. After a few treatments I felt like a new person and I never have to take any medicine for my back and leg pain. I recommend him to everyone."

—(Susan Martin, housewife)

"I was very skeptical at first, being in the medical field. Now I recommend chiropractic to all my family and co-workers. No more headaches, my TMJ is better, my neck is much better. The treatments have been a wonderful experience."

—(Beth Smith, nurse)

"I was in a car accident and couldn't sleep at all from the pain. After the treatments that Dr. Spiers gave me, I am no longer in the constant pain I was in. (Cassandra Hewitt, customer service representative)

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Great care at a great fee... Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about **quality of care.** You'll get our incredible care at a great fee. My qualifications...I'm a graduate of Parker College of Chiropractic, National and State Board Certified. I've been entrusted to take care of tiny babies, athletes that you may know, and the elderly up to 97 years old. After practicing in Picayune for three years, I opened my practice in Hattiesburg. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care. **My mission is to help people get the best care and become healthier, naturally through diet, exercise and chiropractic.**

My assistants, Danita, Debbie, and Brandie are really great people. Our office is both friendly and warm. We try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service at an affordable fee. Our office is called **SPIERS CHIROPRACTIC CENTER** and we invite everyone to come see us in our new location at 5128 Old Highway 11, Suite 1, located just south of Oak Grove High School. Our phone number is **601-261-9495**. Call us today and end your suffering. We can help you. Thank you.

—Denton Spiers, D.C.

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