

## In Memoriam

### Todd Tyler Christmas '00

Todd Tyler Christmas '00 was born March 8, 1978 in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Todd grew up in Wagon Mound, New Mexico on the Christmas Family Ranch. As a child, he enjoyed hunting, horseback riding, participating and competing in 4-H, and generally being outdoors.

Todd was a 1998 graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico, where he ascended to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and was 5th

Officer.

Todd was married to Erica Laine Smith of Arlington, Texas on August 18, 2001. Erica was also a Texas A&M graduate, Class of 2001, a member Alpha Delta Pi and Women's Bonfire Committee.

Todd graduated from Air Defense Officer Basic Course in February of 2002. He then attended the United States Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was awarded the parachutists



Squadron Commander. Todd competed in basketball and ran track. Upon graduation he received an Associates of Arts degree, and was awarded a saber, and the prestigious Joe Govan Memorial Award.

After graduating from the New Mexico Military Institute, Todd moved to Texas where he enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard and went on to attend Texas A&M University. Todd received a bachelor of science in agricultural economics and was the Distinguished Military Graduate in August of 2001. He was a member of Company B-1, Class of 2000. Todd was commissioned through the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets as an Air Defense

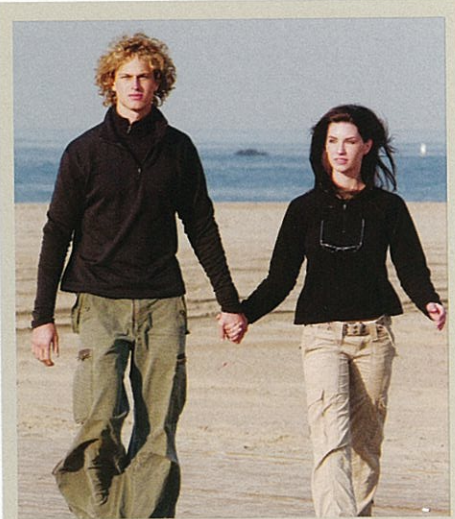
badge. Todd joined the 1st Battalion 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment on 28 March 2002 and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Todd's Military awards included the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Parachutists Badge.

Todd is survived by his wife Erica (Smith) Christmas '01, parents Brad and Becky Christmas of Wagon Mound, NM, and his brother Matt Christmas of Albuquerque, NM, and Will Christmas of Las Cruces, NM. He was an American Hero and true friend that was loved by many and will be missed by all.



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED FOR AGGIE

Dr. Jo Ann Ford '81 has been honored as the namesake for Georgetown's ninth elementary school. Jo Ann Ford Elementary School opened with about 450 students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Dr. Ford receives this tremendous honor after "fifty years of working tirelessly to better the community and ensuring that the whole child is educated."



Courtesy of CBS

### AGGIE PLACES THIRD IN CBS' AMAZING RACE

After racing 72,000 miles around the globe, Brandon Davidson '01 and his girlfriend Nicole O'Brian placed third in CBS' popular reality show, Amazing Race. From Dallas to Tanzania to Argentina to Uruguay, the couple did whatever it took to compete for the one million dollar prize. Brandon & Nicole met just over a year ago at a Bridal Extravaganza in Houston. As reigning Miss Texas, she was there to model a new bridal gown, while Brandon was there as her escort on the runway.