

Featured Alumna: Jackie Waterman Class of 2023



Jackie Waterman '23, Texas A&M '27 is a shining example of how a Duchesne education continues to shape graduates long after they leave campus. Now a leader in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, Jackie was selected out of nearly 600 sophomores as one of only 17 Sergeant Majors. In her current role as **Sergeant Major of 3rd Group**, she supervises 192 cadets across three different squadrons. This position reflects not only her determination but also the discipline and leadership foundation she first built at Duchesne.

Jackie's path to the Corps was rooted in her lifelong desire to serve, Goal III. "I have always wanted to join the military and was inspired to join the Corps of Cadets after I did not make it to the Air Force Academy. Choosing the Corps has been the best decision I could have made for my self-development," she shares. What might feel daunting to many, 5:30 a.m. wakeups, high-intensity training, and the balance of academics and leadership has only strengthened Jackie's character and confirmed her sense of purpose.

When asked how Duchesne prepared her for the Corps, Jackie immediately points to the values instilled in her Sacred Heart education. "Duchesne allowed me to learn my sense of purpose. During my time at Duchesne, I was encouraged to take accountability for all of my work and gain a sense of independence in my duties while still having that sisterhood to come back to every day. I was challenged every day academically and held to exceptional values that I still hold and use at A&M and the Corps today."

Her Duchesne foundation also carried into one of her most recent achievements: earning a coveted spot in the **Parsons Mounted Cavalry**, the largest collegiate cavalry in the world. After a demanding 10-month tryout process, Jackie was one of just 53 sophomores selected from 250 candidates. The persistence and dedication this required echo the resilience and independence she developed at Duchesne and now brings into every new challenge.

Looking ahead, Jackie's vision extends well beyond her current role in the Corps. "After A&M, I hope to go into the construction industry. I've already completed three internships with David Weekley Homes, which gave me a strong foundation and confirmed that's the field I want to pursue. Long-term, I'd like to keep growing in the industry, take on leadership opportunities, and make a meaningful impact on teams."

For Jackie, the lessons of the Corps: discipline, resilience, humility, and service, are deeply tied to what she first experienced in the halls of Duchesne. She shares this advice for current students: "Don't be afraid to take on something that feels intimidating. Confidence comes with experience, not before it. Lean on your faith, your values, and the support of those around you because they'll carry you through the hard days. Most importantly, remember that leadership is about service, and the more you focus on lifting others up, the more you'll discover your own potential."

From Duchesne's classrooms to the fields of Texas A&M, Jackie is living proof of how the values of a Sacred Heart education prepare students not only for success but also for meaningful lives of leadership and service.