

The tradition continues...

The Queen's Guard Performs on a Screen Near You

BY JONELLE JOSEPH DC '00

Precision. Honor. Excellence. Those qualities have defined the Rutgers University Queens Guard for the past 50 years, and now they've been magnificently captured by The Queens Guard Alumni Association (QGAA) on its new web site (www.queensguard-rutgers.org), launched in September 2006. A rich combination of video, photos and narrative, the site provides a fascinating glimpse into the world of Rutgers' internationally acclaimed precision rifle drill team.

Created in 1957 as an extracurricular activity for the cadets of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC), The Queens Guard performed in the Inaugural Parades for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and gained worldwide stature through its performance at 16 major exhibitions across Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. While the group has not formally competed since 1993, it has continued to serve the university by performing at various ceremonial events.

In 2005, the Rutgers Alumni Association welcomed QGAA to its family as a special interest group. "It's important for us to ensure that our distinguished tradition does not disappear, that it remains relevant to new generations of students at Rutgers," says **Joseph Carlani RC '84**, QGAA president and QG alumnus who researched and drafted the web site content. "Through our web site, we're strengthening both the identity and enthusiasm of Queens Guard alumni."

Indeed, it's hard for most people to fully appreciate the acute precision and discipline required of drill team members as they swing and cradle their vintage Springfield rifles, fitted with 16-inch stainless steel bayonets. The QGAA web site

makes that awareness real thanks to its extensive photo gallery and compelling video footage drawn from actual Queens Guard competition over the years. Providing further historical perspective is the site's extensive narrative along with a press gallery offering up articles about the rifle drill

team from international newspapers to *The Daily Targum*.

"We wanted to create a site that brought to life the tradition of excellence, dedication and discipline for which The Queens Guard is so well known," explains **Claudio Burgos RC '89**, QG alumnus and owner of Visual ImpaX Design & Advertising, in Union, NJ, which designed and built the web site. "The technical solution we developed is not unlike what you'd find at sites for major corporations and educational institutions."

With The Queens Guard seeking to recapture its grandeur by hopefully competing once again, the group's web site provides a powerful platform. "It's really the link from our rich past to a bright future," declares Joe Carlani, "and a source of pride for everyone associated with Rutgers." 📷



The launch of the QGAA web site is just in time for a milestone event – the 50th anniversary of The Queens Guard in 2007. As part of the festivities, the precision drill team will be honored at this year's RAA Reunion.

For more information about the 50th anniversary celebration, please visit the QGAA web site at www.queensguard-rutgers.org