



# Battalion Bugle

Battalion Bugle February 2013; Issue No.2

In This Issue;

Welcome Back Recent Events	1
PMS Corner SMI Corner	2
The Cadet Voice	3
Cadet Activities	5
Alumni	5
Upcoming Events	6
Contact	6

Welcome Back

GREETINGS!

Welcome back to another addition of the *Fighting Illini* Battalion Bugle. In this issue we have some very exciting content.

Our Cadets discuss some of the positive changes they've seen in our program this year, and we'll discuss some of the exciting training events we have planned for the semester.

Additionally in honor of the 40th anniversary of females being allowed in the ROTC program we have an article from our first female Cadet Battalion Commander LTC(R) Christine Wolframmm McGuffey a December 1976 graduate of the *Fighting Illini* Battalion.

Since the *Bugle's* mission and resolve has been modified we are going to be trying out some new things. We'd greatly appreciate critiques, suggestions, reviews, and questions related to the *Bugle*. You can contact us at [fightingilliniarmyrotc1@gmail.com](mailto:fightingilliniarmyrotc1@gmail.com)

Recent Events

In the interim between our last publication and this newest addition, The *Fighting Illini* Battalion saw some exciting events and the Cadets noticed a change for the better.

The Cadets finished off the fall semester strong. The Battalion celebrated the end of the semester with a memorable and enjoyable dining-in where we were honored to have COL Fred Allen a 1987 UIUC graduate and the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard as our Guest of Honor.

The Battalion took a more active role in community service in December. The Cadets raised more than 100 pounds of food before the Dining-In. It was donated to families of National Guard Soldiers in need as well as the "Salt and Light" Organization. The Battalion also sent a care package to one of our deployed Alumnus (pictured here on the left) and look to do so again for other Alumnus deployed across the globe.

Five Cadets, the largest December commissioning in recent years, commissioned as Second Lieutenants on December 22nd.



(Above) LTC Eric Stetson and 2LT Nicholas Abell

(Below) Cadets at the Grog during the Fall 2012 Dining In



The Cadets then enjoyed a well deserved Winter Break. They returned on January 14th ready to start the new semester. This semester, the MSI/II's are focused on developing their leadership abilities and domain knowledge while the MSIII's are training hard to be prepared for LDAC 2013. We're looking forward to an semester of tough, valuable training.

## PMS Corner

Greetings to all Cadets, Parents, Alumni, and Friends of the 'Fighting Illini' Battalion!

We are off to a strong start in the Spring Semester, my first Spring here on campus, and I am looking forward to all this semester has to offer and upcoming events. First, since our last Newsletter we commissioned five in our ranks as Second Lieutenants! Congratulations to 2LTs Lopez, Abell, Gillespie, Langan and Hossfeld! We wish you all the best as you head off to BOLC-B and to take charge of America's sons and daughters – Lead from the Front! Thanks to the returning alumni officers who came back to assist in the commissioning ceremony. Our Cadets finished the semester strong, rallying together for a memorable 'Dining In' and a final day of combat skills squad competition – Congrats to 1st Squad, 1st Platoon taking first place and leading by example and teamwork! I am especially proud of our Cadets food-drive operation at Christmas to benefit National Guard as well as area families in need! And finally, I want to say thanks again to Cadre, Cadets, Alumni and University faculty and leadership for their insights, wisdom, and patience during the Fall Semester.

Due to the efforts of Cadets and Faculty, this Spring Semester we are reaching out to more Alumni than ever before to share with them the actions of this battalion and what we have planned for the future. We are pleased to bring into our community a number of new University officials and faculty who have expressed an interest in our program and support for our Cadets. In particular I want to thank the Director and staff of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts for their warm welcome to our Cadets and Cadre for the "Black Watch" concert. I also want to thank Mr. Mark Newman as well for his personal

interest in our service members and their families and his support of the three ROTC programs here on campus.

A few highlights so far this semester: At our first lab five Cadets stood tall and took the oath of enlistment, taking on the commitment to complete ROTC, commission as officers, and serve the Nation- congratulations to Cadets Gray, Kancharla, Spyrtos, O'Neil and Shoemaker. MS4 Cadet Kelly McDowell was nominated for and will be awarded the Viola Koenigsberg Award, an award presented to the top female cadet amongst all ROTC Cadets at the university. Three of our Rifle Team members, Cadets Andrew Mix, Insoo Kim, and Reave Wallis earned medals at a recent Washington University Shooting Match. Coming up we have events in conjunction with Black History and Women's History Month, MS4 Staff Ride, Bataan Memorial March in White Sands, N.M., the "Ranger Buddy" competition, "Honor's Day", Dining Out, two FTXs and all of the weekly training labs. Solid communication and teamwork will see us all through this semester and we will each come away smarter, stronger, tougher, and better prepared for the next challenge!

Cadets, there are great opportunities this Spring to train, learn, compete, and develop your resilience and confidence – seize them and excel. MS3s, you are approaching the LD for LDAC; train hard, ask questions, and practice your small unit leadership skills every chance you get. I look forward to seeing all of you excel this Spring and make a difference for your fellow Cadets and our Battalion as we continue our mission and continue to "Forge the Legacy!"

HOOAH! ILLINI!

Respectfully,

LTC Eric W. Stetson

## SMI Corner

To all Cadets, Alumni, and Friends of the Illini Battalion,

We have started the spring semester off at a quick time and by April will be at a full sprint. We have successfully transitioned the Cadet leadership switching the positions of all the senior Cadets with little turmoil. This reflects on the quality of Cadets we currently have in our program. This has given the Cadets a better perspective on one of the great aspects of American military and civilian institutions, the ability to transition authority and responsibility without violence or total chaos. The Cadre are continuing to enforce the standards of the program and mentoring the Cadets, allowing them to learn from the mistakes and take full credit for their actions whether good or bad. We continue to improve the quality of our teaching and training facilities, with ordering new furniture, gym equipment and budgeting in the much needed repairs to this historic armory building. One project we are working right now is our ability to reach out effectively and let all of our distinguished Alumni know; what our Cadets are doing today, what has changed, and what has remained the same. This newsletter is a start.

The Cadets have had many opportunities to gain new and valuable experiences so far this semester. From Rifle Club Matches, the Valor Club retreat in Iowa to participating in the Scots Guards band and Pipes and Drum of the Black Watch Performance at the Krannert Center on campus. It is extremely important for the future leaders of America's Army to gain an appreciation for the freedoms and expressions we so, selflessly dedicate ourselves too. I would like to thank Mr. Mike Ross, the director of the Krannert Center for the Performing

Arts for hosting the ROTC Cadets and Mr. A. Mark Neuman for graciously setting aside tickets for many of our Cadets to attend this performance. These two gentlemen exemplify citizenship and service to others.

We have a lot to look forward to during the rest of the semester. We have our Staff Ride, Dining Out, Field Training Exercises and numerous Leadership Labs. Get your tickets out and hold on if you chose to stand up, because this train is not stopping until this spring commissioning ceremony. I look forward to hearing from all of the alumni out there and being able to share your history with the Cadets today.



LTC Eric Stetson

Professor of Military Science

MSG Jason Staub

Senior Military Instructor

# The Cadet Voice

## CADET COMMANDER

*Cadet Pius Kim serves as the Cadet Battalion Commander this semester, his older brother Leo Kim commissioned from the Fighting Illini Battalion in 2010. Pius is Graduating in May with a BS in Economics, he will serve on active duty in the Corps of Engineers.*



To start off, I would like to say it's a great honor and privilege to represent the *Fighting Illini* Battalion as the Battalion Commander for the spring 2013 semester. Being selected as Battalion Commander was a surprise, but as future Officers we are trained to adapt and overcome.

The semester has just begun, and we've hit the ground running.

After initiating the semester with a "Town Hall" Lab, where standards and expectations were set, we've been working hard to prepare the Cadets for their upcoming Super Labs, FTX's, and for the MSIII's LDAC 2013. This is the first time in my four years in the Army ROTC program, where we've combined two Thursday Labs into one Super Lab on a Saturday. The concept behind the "Super Lab" is to extend and expand on the training that Cadets would receive during labs on Thursday and to maximize and utilize time efficiently in order to allow them to receive the best training possible.

In April, the MSIII's will go off to participate in a Joint FTX with the MSIII's from different universities, while the MSII's and MSI's also get the opportunity to expand and apply the knowledge and leadership they've acquired throughout the semester on their own FTX. Ultimately, these MSIIIs are getting ready to head out to LDAC during the summer and be evaluated on everything they've learned.

On top of that, the spring semester also features two of the most grueling events Cadets can participate in: the Bataan Memorial Death March and the Ranger Buddy competition. More can be read about these later in the Bugle.

We've got a very busy semester ahead of us; jam packed with a ton of exhilarating and beneficial training for the Cadets. I'm very excited to see how the rest of semester goes.

CDT Pius Kim,  
Spring Semester Cadet Battalion Commander

## SENIORS

*Senior Salvatore Filardi discusses our developing Alumni Program and his role in it. Sal is graduating in May with a BA in communications, he will serve on Active Duty as a Field Artillery Officer.*

The biggest improvement to the *Fighting Illini* Battalion is the current push to establish a strong network of Alumni. I was lucky enough to be assigned as the Public Relations Officer and given a great deal of autonomy in a field I truly enjoy. I hope to be able to use my experiences from my time as co-chairman of Alumni Relations in Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity for our Chapter House Dedication Ceremony to design a sustainable Alumni program with a Homecoming celebration.

In my short time in the military environment, I have heard that "The Army is a small place," countless times. I've also been fortunate enough to learn the value of a great mentor. The potential of this program is enormous. Students will be able to make connections with Officers in their desired branch or at their desired duty station to talk about the lessons only experience can teach. Alumni will be able to network with each other and rekindle their Illini Pride.

I certainly look forward to participating in the *Fighting Illini* Battalion Alumni program when I graduate in May.

*The potential of this program is enormous. Students will be able to make connections with Officers in their desired branch or at their desired duty station to talk about the lessons only experience can teach.*

## FRESHMEN

*Freshman Taylor Craig discusses his outlook on physical training.*



CDT Taylor Craig at the first lab of the new semester.

My favorite recent improvement to the program is the increased focus on run and fitness groups during PT instead of being grouped by squad.

In my eyes, this change allows for a greater level of physical improvement, as well as bonding, because run groups remain fairly constant. By sorting the Battalion by fitness groups, no one has to feel out-classed by their peers; everyone is able to work at a level where they can improve.

Working out with a squad can be a good bonding exercise, but divisions in a squad's physical readiness can really make a work out drag for everyone. I know from personal experience, that striving to run with Cadets who have been in the program for a few years, and have really worked on their fitness, can be intimidating and that running with Cadets of my own caliber has really allowed me to focus on improving as opposed to doing my best to keep up or catch up.

## The Cadet Voice



CDT Ofodile during the APFT

### JUNIORS

*Junior Jason Ofodile discusses some of the positive changes he has seen in the Fighting Illini Battalion .*

The *Fighting Illini* Battalion has seen a lot of positive changes. The first change I noticed was in our supply office. Mr. Reid not only does a superb job of managing and issuing equipment, he also helps Cadets learn about how to work with supply personnel once they become Commissioned Officers. The second change was the fact that we have reinstated separated MSIII and MSI/II companies to optimize training for all Cadets in the spring semester.

This optimization in leadership structure allows MSIII's to accomplish more focused training in preparation for LDAC while the MSI's and II's receive more responsibilities and leadership opportunities. As for the MSIII class, we look forward to working more closely with one another and honing our skills before LDAC.

Lastly, we have improved our PT program by incorporating some CrossFit in addition to the usual push-up, sit-up, and run routine. We incorporate CrossFit exercises into our regular PT sessions as well as the Tuesday/Thursday "Rock Club" workouts. This increases the efficiency and intensity of our physical training program and improves the end result of our APFT scores.

*"The PMS and MSIV's have worked extremely hard this year and have really focused on building our sense of organizational pride in the Fighting Illini Battalion."*

### SOPHOMORES

*Sophomore Dennis Koranda discusses the positive changes he's seen in the Fighting Illini Battalion this year.*

When I think what has set our Battalion apart this year, two things come to mind: improvement and leadership. These are things I've felt are noticeably better this year versus last year.

The MSIV's made it a priority to improve PT especially the c/CSM. He was very excited about the changes that were going to be made, and his enthusiasm gotten me excited for PT as well. This past semester's PT sessions were extremely beneficial. Not only did average scores go up across the board, but I actually found myself enjoying going to PT. Our PT program is just one of the many ways the program is improving.

The other big change this year was us receiving a new Professor of Military Science, LTC Stetson, as well as a new Senior Military Instructor, MSG Staub. On the day LTC Stetson took command of the Battal-



CDT Dennis Koranda at Leadership Lab.

ion, he showed us how much he personally cares about our wellbeing when he let us take a knee during his speech. LTC Stetson gives us his best and expects the same of us in return. This atmosphere has helped to improve the morale of the Cadets and generally improved our performance. The PMS and MSIV's have worked extremely hard this year and have really focused on building our sense of organizational pride in the *Fighting Illini* Battalion.

The Cadre and MSIV's have been able to maintain this level of intensity throughout the year. The staying power of their motivation and drive will reap long term benefits for our program.

## Ruck Club 2013

A very dedicated group of Cadets from the *Fighting Illini* Battalion will be having a very atypical Spring Break experience as have members of the *Fighting Illini* Battalion for the past few years.



They'll be travelling to White Sands Missile Range near Las Cruces, New Mexico to participate in the grueling 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March. The course snakes through paved roads, desert sand, and a mountain. Participants must conduct the march with rucksacks weighting at least 35 pounds.

The Bataan Memorial Death March commemorates the American and Filipino veterans of the Bataan Death March. The Bataan Death March occurred in 1942 following the defeat of the

combined American and Filipino armies by the Empire of Japan. The Death March was a forced march of about 70,000 U.S. and Filipino prisoners of war from the Bataan peninsula to POW camps. During the march, the prisoners were deprived of food and water. Many perished due to the elements as well as the harsh treatment of their guards.

Every year surviving veterans of the Death March attend the Bataan Memorial Death March giving the Cadets who attend the opportunity to



connect with a very distinguished group of veterans.

The *Fighting Illini* Battalion is training hard for this event. The Cadets are going on bi-weekly road marches ranging from 4-18 miles. The performance of our participants has improved every

year and the Cadets attending this year hope to continue that tradition.

The Bataan Memorial Death March tests each individual's physical and mental toughness. It also provides a great opportunity for Cadets to form stronger bonds with their peers.

Its an event every Cadet should consider participating in at least once.

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<https://facebook.com/uiuc.armyrotc>



## Ranger Buddy Competition 2013

Ranger Buddy 2013 will be held at Kansas University this year on the 20th of April. It's a grueling competition consisting of a 20k forced march, lanes focusing on testing the physical toughness and mental prowess of Cadets and a surprise distance buddy run in ACU's and LBV to finish off the day's competition.

Last year, over 100 teams from schools across the Brigade travelled to Kansas in order test their abilities. They rucked up and down steep hills, crawled and buddy rushed through mud and marsh, climbed up steep rock faces using ropes, and finally sprinted through the finish line.

Along the way, their Army knowledge in



areas such as calling for fire, mountaineering, OPOrDs, and first aid was tested. This year looks to top the events of last year by creating an even tougher, more intense competition in the foothills of Lawrence, Kansas.

The *Fighting Illini* Battalion is sending 5 buddy-teams to the competition this year, including one female team and one co-ed team.

The Cadets are preparing by conducting skills training every Tuesday and Thursday and by participating in grueling ruck runs every Friday.

Our teams plan to keep up their hard training regimen and to represent the *Fighting Illini* Battalion well in the competition.



## Alumni Corner:

### Alumnus Article:

*Below is an article from LTC(R) Tina Wolfframm McGuffey a 1976 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She served as the first female Cadet Battalion Commander of the Fighting Illini Battalion. 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of females being enrolled in the Army ROTC Program.*



LTC(R) Tina Wolfframm McGuffey is pictured with the Pershing Rifles in the 1974 edition of the *Illio*.

“There are some women who are physically, mentally and emotionally capable [of combat] and there are men who are not. The tests for entrance should be identical for both men and women, and as soon as there are some changes in the way that society views the role of a woman, that may be reality.” I spoke those words to a Daily Illini Reporter in September 1976. Now almost 40 years later, that reality is here.

I am Tina Wolfframm McGuffey, LTC (ret), the first female Illini Cadet Battalion Commander. I was among the first women to be able to participate in ROTC, joining as a freshman in 1973. There were three women in my class and one woman who was in the “trial class” joining in 1972. ROTC was much different then. The Vietnam War had just ended, the military was in drawdown phase, the draft had been eliminated and replaced with the All-Volunteer-Army. Huge changes were occurring and one of them was the decimation of the ROTC ranks. Land-grant schools like U of I no longer had mandatory ROTC and with the end of the draft and Vietnam War the need for ROTC deferments was gone. The Corps of Cadets whose enrollment was well over 250 in '71 was down to the low 70's. (It probably would have been even less but juniors and seniors had already been contracted and needed to fulfill their commitment.)

The Army scrambled to fully integrate women in ROTC. Our fatigues were totally different then men's and in fact women's

boots had smooth leather soles—no need for traction for ruck marching, rappelling, combat training, etc—women in the Army didn't do those things. In fact, “offensive training” was optional for women! Our PT test was also totally different: “girls” pushups on our knees; sit-ups; the shuttle run; run, dodge and jump; and a 1 mile run. It wasn't until my Advanced Course (or Captain's Career Course) in 1980 that the current APFT was initiated with the same events as men albeit with different standards.

Advanced Camp or Summer Camp as we called it was much different than your current LDAC. Camp was 6 weeks long at Ft. Riley, KS and it was run by the active duty units from that post. The focus of camp was training and weapons familiarization. We did rotate leadership positions and we were evaluated, but there was no stress about the evals because this was all about training. While at Camp, I remember the thrill of launching my first mortar round and firing the grenade launcher as well as tank training. We also pulled KP, peeling thousands of potatoes! Summer Camp also had a Cadet Club where the beer flowed freely two nights a week and on Saturday nights (we had weekends off).

Serving my country in the US Army was an incredible experience for me and ROTC helped mold me into the Officer I became. It is incredibly gratifying to hear from my son, an Infantry Officer, that women today are serving at the combat platoon level in Female Engagement Teams and that after the Secretary of the Defense announcement opening combat positions to women, women will truly have the same opportunities to meet the same standards and serve in any capacity based on their qualifications, not their gender.



### Spring 2013 Dining Out for Alumni

The leadership of the *Fighting Illini* Battalion is pleased to invite any interested Alumni to attend our Spring Dining Out.

It will be held Friday, April 12th, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in Urbana, Illinois. Dining Out coincides with Mom's Day weekend at the University of Illinois as well as the Honors Day Ceremony which occurs on April 13th, 2013.

Interested Alumni should reply no later than March 15th at:

**[uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com)**

## Goodbye Mr. Kraus:

Mr. Kent Kraus a longtime DA Civilian assigned to the Fighting Illini Battalion was transferred to Texas to continue to serve as a DA Civilian within Army ROTC. Kent worked at the Fighting Illini Battalion for the last 8 years and certainly left a positive impression on the Cadets and Cadre who have come through the program in his time here. In addition to Kent's own time here, his daughter, CPT Jennifer Kraus commissioned through the Fighting Illini Battalion in '06. Below is a goodbye note from Mr. Kraus:



Mr. and Mrs. Kraus

I remember Blazer Night, White Horse karaoke, Top Female in the Regiment, MIPS, video camera mounted on Kevlar, Halloween PT, my daughter's Commissioning/First Salute, "Unofficial" lunch at Murphy's, six years equals a Nursing degree for our most tenured Cadet, First labs and Honors Day, Dining In skits (Brokeback PT), daily darts game. "The exuberance of youth."

These are just some of the great memories I take with me as I depart the Fighting Illini Battalion. I want to

thank all the Cadets who have accepted the challenge of serving whether it is due to patriotism, scholarships, adventure or curiosity. You all make/made the program what it is and I'll cherish my time here always. Best of luck to each of you in whatever you choose to pursue!

To the many Cadre and Staff I have come to work with and know; thank for your tolerance of my "special" sense of humor. I am sure it can be very trying at times. I will miss you.

One thing I have learned in my 28 years of Army service is that we, Soldiers, don't really say farewell. Instead we just say so long until we are stationed together again. We'll catch up down the road. My road leads to San Antonio and there is always a meal and a cold one at the end of it.

So long,

Mr. Kraus

## Alumni News Blotter:

- Thanks to COL Fred Allen ('87) for serving as our Guest of Honor for the Fall 2012 Dining In
- Thanks to LTC (R) Tina Wolfram McGuffey ('76), LTC Robb Mitchell ('94), and 1LT Joseph Bower ('09) for contributing articles for inclusion in this and future editions of the Bugle.
- If you are interested in writing an article for the Bugle or the Cadets please contact uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com.
- To be added to our distribution list please email uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com

## Cadet Quote of the Quarter:

" This recruiting event makes me feel like a young Amish person on rumspringa" -MSII Daniel Wojtasik

## Upcoming Events:

Event:	Date:	Event:	Date:
MSIV Staff Ride	22 February	Illinois Marathon	26-28 April
Bataan Memorial Death March	14-19 March	Record APFT	29 April, 1 May
Spring Break	17-25 march	Final Exams	3-10 May
MSIII Combined FTX	4-7 April	Commissioning	13 May
Dining Out/Honors Day	12-13 April		
MSI/II FTX	19-21 April		

## Ways to connect with us...

Official Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/fightingilliniarmyrotc/>

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc>

Recruiting Info: [arotc@illinois.edu](mailto:arotc@illinois.edu), **217-244-1407**

Alumni Relations: [uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com)

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