



Battalion Bugle

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Congratulations New 2LTs!

May 13th marked the first major milestone for 12 new graduates of the *Fighting Illini Battalion*. In two separate ceremonies, one "Army Only" and one Tri-Service, new Lieutenants were given their oaths of office and "pinned" with brand new bars of gold.

Johnson, Pius Kim, Jeff Li, Kelly McDowell, Sean Norris, Josh Oppenheim, Jon Seaman, Matt Stidham and Emily Wedge—Welcome to the US Army, Lieutenants!

The Honorable Thomas Lamont spoke at the Tri-Service ceremony and gave sage words of advise and encouragement to these new Lieutenants and Ensigns as they began their journeys in their respective services.

Let's give a great big "HOOAH" to Charles Coates, Sal Filardi, Russell Geschrey, Amber



(Above) Lieutenants and Ensigns take the Oath of Office at the Tri-Service commissioning

Recent Events

In the interim between our last publication and this newest addition, The *Fighting Illini* Battalion participated in abundant training events and had several celebrations.

The Cadets started off the spring semester at a sprint. We participated in two Field Training Exercises, three "Super" Labs, the annual Hazelton Competition, the KU Ranger Buddy Competition, The Bataan Memorial Death March, and a whirlwind Mom's Weekend that included a "Women In Service" discussion panel, the annual Dining-out and Honor's Day.

The newest names to be added to the famed "plaques" in our hallowed halls are: Erin O'Neil—Hazelton Competition winner, Emily Wedge—c/BC Fall Semester, Pius Kim—c/BC Spring Semester, Jon Seaman—c/CSM Fall Semester and Josh Oppenheim—c/CSM Spring Semester.

In addition to the above activity, we also found time to put together a marathon relay team for the 5th Annual Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon to round out the end of the year activities.

There were 12 new commissionees this May with two more scheduled for August. The Cadets have worked hard this semester for a well deserved Summer break.

(Below) Cadets during the Hazelton competition



Good luck to those Cadets headed to LDAC and other summer training and of course to those new Lieutenants headed off to BOLC.

GO ILLINI!



PMS Corner

Hello Fighting Illini – Cadets, Alumni and Family!

With the completion of the semester and commissioning of 12 Lieutenants on the 13th of May we are taking a short break and catching our breath before the summer semester, LDAC, LTC, CTLT and Airborne and Air Assault training for Cadets. Congratulations on Commissioning to 2LTs Kim, Seaman, Oppenheim, Buscher, Coates, Norris, McDowell, Stidham, Filardi, Wedge, Johnson and Li! These 2LTs are ready to serve and continue their professional education towards basic branch certification-Continue Mission!

Wow! What a packed Spring semester; Combined FTX for MS3s, MS4 Virtual Staff Ride, Bataan Death March Memorial, Ranger Buddy Competition, Honor's Day, MS1&2 FTX, Dining Out, two Saturday Super-Labs, numerous recruiting events including the Engineer Open House, the Illinois Marathon, and oh yes the Cadets had University classes also. Our MS3s led by example setting the standard during the Combined FTX with EIU and ISU testifying to their hard work and deliberate Cadre preparation and training to teach these Cadets how to operate tactically and think critically. The Cadet Commander and CSM teamed up to deliver a 5th place finish out of 60 teams in the Ranger Buddy competition – not too shabby! 12 Cadets participated in Bataan with 9 finishing all 26 .2 miles carrying 35 lbs on their backs and one of them in under 6 hours – a new record for the Illini. Our relay team captured 2nd place in its division in the Illinois Marathon. Our Cadets once again pitched in to

help the community by donating Reintegration Kits for deployed Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. And our MS 1 and 2s thrived during a separate FTX for them including LRC, Squad STX, Road March and Paint Ball competition – I especially enjoyed getting pelted about 10 times by Cadets during moving target training as I sprinted through the woods! Our Cadets were able to accomplish all of this only through perseverance, time management and teamwork – with some lessons learned along the way of course and that is what this is all about. I also want to thank the 8 Alumni who attended the Dining Out and highlight again three of them who were selected for Hall of Fame Induction on the 25th of October 2013. Congratulations to LTC Ret. Tina McGuffey, COL Ret. Michael S. McBride, and BG Ret. Patrick Rea! We will announce other selectees soon and are looking forward to the 25th and celebrating with as many alumni as possible on that day at the Hall of Fame Ceremony and Alumni BBQ!

This summer I encourage all Cadets and their Families, and Cadre to make sure to take a break and catch up with friends and Family even while there is training and work to be done. We must manage ourselves and take care of ourselves periodically recharging our batteries so we can continue the pursuit of Leadership and Excellence. I also want to remind everyone to be safe this summer and apply risk management to everything you do. As MSG Staub says, "Don't go swimming at night, alone, naked, with loaded guns, in unfamiliar murky water, after eating a big meal". But seriously, have a fun and safe summer, protect your opportunities with wise judgment and safe practices and come back in one piece ready to continue "Forging the Legacy"!

ILLINI!

SMI Corner

Alumni, Cadets, and Families,

First, I would like to thank all of the Cadets for their hard work, commitment to the program, and their own professional development this past semester. We accomplished all we had set out to do this spring. I would also like to thank all of the family members and distinguished guests for attending Dining Out. Without your support for our Cadets and the Battalion, Dining Out wouldn't have been successful!

Cadets: Over the summer, maintain the standards you enforced so well throughout this year. Remember, the first person we impose standards on is ourselves, then others around us! I know you all will have a great summer whether you are heading home or continuing your classes through the summer semester. Mitigate risks and be safe.

To the Alumni, we have been honored over the past several months to get to know more and more of you. Your stories and careers help add a lasting value to what this Battalion's primary mission is, develop Leaders! I look forward to meeting more Alumni in the fall and being able to assist in creating the link between you and the Cadets. To the all the newly commissioned 2LT's, I wish you well on your journey as a leader representing the American people. Always maintain a good compass heading legally, morally and ethically. Take care of your Soldiers and Families; because they are not just in the Army, they are the Army.

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, Pius graduated with a BS in Economics, he will serve on active duty in the Corps of Engineers.

This semester has been, by far, the most challenging, yet rewarding semester of my college/ ROTC career. It started off with a leadership change, where I found out a few days before the semester started that I was going to be the Battalion Commander.

The new semester also brought with it new training opportunities. I took part in the Bataan Memorial Death March for the first time, and I can easily say that this was the most physically challenging thing that I have ever done in my life. With that in mind, I don't regret it for a second because it was also one of the best experiences that I've had here in ROTC.

Since the semester began I also started training for the annual Ranger Buddy Competition hosted by Kansas University. About a week before the event I needed to switch partners due to unexpected events, but in the end I couldn't have asked for a better buddy to compete with. Cadet Seaman and I placed 5th overall out of 100+ male teams.

With all the ups and downs throughout the semester, I've gained valuable knowledge and experience to utilize once I commission and become an Officer in the U.S. Army. Finally, I'd like to thank all my peers and cadre. Because without their support, this semester could not have gone the way it did.



CDT Pius Kim,
Spring Semester Cadet
Battalion Commander

Because of ROTC I have been exposed to what being a leader is truly like.

CADET COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

The transition from your first years as a Cadet in Army ROTC to your final year as a MS IV is a transition few can be prepared for. Throughout your first few years as a Cadet it's a pretty cut and dry job; do what you are told, do it right, maybe, if you're a real go-getter, join a club to



CDT Joshua Oppenheim,
Spring Semester
Cadet Command Sergeant Major

make it better. My first task coming into MS IV year was creating a lab from, in my opinion, scratch about IMT and squad movement.

Being an MS IV, you really step into the responsibility role and you have to use your own judgment, innovation, and hard work to create an event and experience for the younger cadets. No one realizes, until they become an MSIV, everything that goes into things as simple as PT and Lab. Planning, rehearsals, coordination, supply requests, recons, more coordination, refining the plan, scrapping the entire plan because your boss doesn't like it, and coming up with a new plan. These are just a few of the things that go into all these events.

Personally, this last semester as CSM has been my most challenging time ever. Taking 22 credit hours, and taking on the role of CSM by keeping and holding the standard for the Battalion has left me sleepless many nights and struggling to keep the balance between school and ROTC. Having said that, I would not change it if I could go back. It has taught me invaluable lessons on time management and it has shown me that you can do anything if you really commit yourself to it.

FRESHMEN

Freshman Daniel Calero discusses his decision to join ROTC



Before joining ROTC, I was unsure whether or not it would be a good fit for me. Joining ROTC, almost a year ago, was one of the best decisions I have ever made. There have been so many benefits that I never would have had if it wasn't for ROTC. Being a part of ROTC allows you to have a different college experience. By that I mean learning to become a leader, staying in shape, and surrounding yourself with great people. Leadership training is essential not only in the military but also in the civilian sector. Corporate America does not hire people for their technical skills; they hire people for their leadership abilities. Because of ROTC I have been exposed to what being a leader is truly like. Most kids come to college and gain the "freshman 15" but ROTC has enabled me to stay in the best shape of my life. The people that surround you are the best parts of ROTC. I truly believe that in order to be successful in life one must surround himself or herself with people that are supportive of what you do and keep you motivated. I plan on keeping the friends I made this year, around for the rest of my life. I take a lot of pride when I get to tell people that I am a Cadet at the University of Illinois.

The Cadet Voice



CDT Brankin after Airborne School last summer

Junior Daniel Brankin discusses his feelings on LDAC

JUNIORS

As the school year draws to a close, I have mixed feelings about my inevitable LDAC experience. On one hand, the culmination of three years of training, the opportunity to prove myself and learn from other Cadets excites me. However, I can't help but feel a little unease. LDAC can make or break your national ranking, which then determines if you'll get the branch that you desire. The difference between an "Excellent" and a "Satisfactory" ranking could be determined in the split second decision made during the platoon operations, a missed task in the company level OPORD or even dealing with an uncooperative Cadet from another school. But, we MSIIIs have taken full advantage of the mentorship available to us from the current and prior MSIV classes. We've been given all the tools we need to succeed. Our PT sessions have prepared us physically, our Labs have taught us the fundamentals and we've been able to put it together over three years and six FTXs.

I also look forward to coming home from LDAC; as next year, it will be our turn to shape the *Illini Battalion* with our own unique experiences and to prepare the next class for their LDAC assessment. Already as a class, we have discussed ways to improve training and build upon ideas recently put in place. We know the Cadre will be supportive of our concepts, but it will be up to us to flesh

out the concepts into complete training plans.

The next six months brings a host of opportunities both exciting and intimidating but the MSIII class and I look forward to meeting these challenges head on and proudly representing our *Illini*, both past and present.

“LDAC can make or break your national ranking”

SOPHOMORES

Sophomore Andrew Swisher becoming an MSL III Cadet

I am really looking forward to assuming the formal leadership roles of an MSIII. As an MSII, observing the MSIII's during the course of this year has been very helpful and motivating. Right now, they are trying to perfect all of their skills in preparation for LDAC this summer. Some of these skills—briefing an OPORD, leading a STX lane, completing land navigation—are barely working knowledge for an MSII, so watching them complete these tasks with confidence and proficiency has been very motivating and has taught me a lot. Beyond these basic tasks, they have set the bar high with their great leadership, always leading from the front and by example.

Learning from them has been a great experience, and so I look toward my MSIII year with great anticipation. I am excited to finally hone everything



CDT Andrew Swisher at December's Dining-In.

that I have learned and to be formally evaluated. First and foremost, though, I am excited to develop as a leader and to apply everything that I have learned in the past two years to a structured environment that depends on effective leaders. I know that other MSII's share this feeling, and I am confident that our class will do a great job next year.

Senior's Final Word 2013

Senior Cadet Kelly McDowell discusses the Nursing Summer Training Program. CDT McDowell graduated this May with a BS in Nursing and will serve on active duty in the Nurse Corps



Typically, college students spend their summers laying out on beaches and perfecting their tans, but last summer I was privileged enough to do something much greater. Being a junior nursing student enrolled in the Army ROTC program, gave me the opportunity to participate in the Army Nursing Summer Training Program (NSTP). The NSTP is a paid, three-week internship that is designed to enhance clinical skills and

autonomy, in the hospital setting. All Cadets projected to commission into the Nursing Corps are eligible to attend. There are various Army hospitals throughout the United States and Germany, that introduce Cadets to the roles and responsibilities of an Army Nurse Corps Officer.

Last summer I was sent to BAMCC, which is a joint Army/Air Force hospital, located in San Antonio, Texas for my NSTP experience. I worked in a variety of clinical settings such as: medical-surgical, burn ICU,



ICU, ER, cardiac, and one-day surgery. I also had the chance to work the 12-hour night shift! I never thought it was possible to learn as much as I did, about myself and about nursing, last summer in Texas. I learned hands-on skills, performed various assess-

ments and treatments, and gained leadership qualities that have enhanced my overall success in both my college and ROTC careers. During my internship I was assigned to teach my floor about a topic of my choice that was prevalent and relevant to Army Nursing. The in-service project that I chose to present was fall prevention and ways to make the hospital setting safer for the staff and patients. My presentation helped to keep the staff informed of different ways to make their workplace more efficient and safe. Overall, the NSTP training experience was unlike anything that I have ever gotten the opportunity to be a part of and I would suggest it to anyone interested in seeking out a profession in the Army Nurse Corps.

Ranger Buddy Competition 2013

Ranger Buddy 2013 was held at Kansas University this year on the 20th of April. It was 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.

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. (UPDATE WITH MAJ HIBLES STORY BOARD



Alumni Corner:

About upcoming Alumni Events:

This year will mark the first annual "Hall of Fame" induction for distinguished Army ROTC Alumni. This year's event will occur in conjunction with Homecoming weekend and will mark 145th Anniversary of military training at the University of Illinois.

Here's a little history lesson for those of you that might not know: The University was founded as a Land Grant institution in 1867 and was required to offer "military training" for all male students at the University. In 1972 the first class of female Cadets joined our ranks. Since then, the University has commissioned thousands of new Lieutenants into the US Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

Memorial Stadium was dedicated to the hundreds of student-soldiers that fought in WWI and even our moniker "*Fighting Illini*" honors those students that fought and even gave their lives during the "War to End All Wars".

In memory of those students and the countless others that have volunteered to serve our Country, the University and the Army ROTC are starting a "Hall of Heroes/Fame" in the "new" Armory Building.

On October 25th of this year, the *Fighting Illini Battalion* will host an unveiling of the Hall of Fame and an Alumni Barbeque/Tailgate at the annual Homecoming football game.

Nominees for the Hall of Fame are:

If you are able to attend this first annual Alumni event, we have blocked off hotel rooms in the area for your use. Here is the information for those hotels:

Drury Inn: Thursday 24 Oct-27Oct
1 King (7 Rooms) or 2 Double (13 rooms)- \$163.95
(Group Number: 2177236) Cut off date: 24SEP

Wingate: Thursday 24 Oct
2 Queen/ 1 King (10 rooms each) - \$77.00/Thurs
Friday 25Oct - 27Oct
2 Queen/ 1 King (10 rooms each) - \$179.00
(Block Code: Army) Cut off date: 23 Sep 13

La Quinta:
Thursday 24 Oct
2 Queen/1King (10 rooms each) - \$69.00
Friday 25 Oct-27 Oct 13
2 Queen/1 King (10 rooms each) - \$145.00
(Confirm Code: 0553GRLPOB) Cut off date: 3 Oct 13

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to ask for Alumni support for additional funds to help offset the cost of the event as well as funds to give the Armory Building a "face-lift". Funds are acceptable in any amount and certain amounts will be considered "sponsors" of the ROTC program and mentioned in future newsletters.



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

