



# BATTALION BUGLE

FIGHTING ILLINI



## 2nd ANNUAL HALL OF FAME

recognizing excellence among us!

**A distinguished heritage** was truly understood this October as we recognized seven of our alumni who have distinguished themselves through their contributions to the program, military, or community at large. As campus and community joined in recognizing the efforts of these alumni, it brings to light the impact our Illini have as a result of their initial leadership experience here on campus. We were truly honored to have this opportunity, and our Cadets continue to develop a more complete understanding of the rich traditions and legacy that stems from being a “Fighting Illini.”



Four inductees at the Hall of Fame

- Secretary Sam Skinner—1960
- The Honorable Thomas J. Homer—1970
- MG (Ret.) Michael Symanski—1970
- BG (Ret.) Melvin Goers—1940
- BG (Ret.) Jack Kotter—1961
- COL (Ret.) Andrew Barr—1923
- COL (Ret.) Debbie Olson Read—1973



## PROGRAM VISION

forge a legacy

**Transitioning and development.** As the operating environment our officers encounter becomes more and more complex, we in ROTC are molding our strategies to best prepare our Cadets. While we continue to focus on leader development, we are also incorporating more problem solving, adaptability, and critical and creative thinking

into our field problems. In the past we were taught the simple tactics of planning, movement to the objective, and attack. Now, Cadets are working through ethical dilemmas and constant injects to test critical thinking. It is a truly exciting process to watch the Cadets develop through the program as we wait in anticipation to see how they will carry on the legacy of our alumni!



Cadets receive the infamous “butcher block” training prior to an attack practical exercise

**Inside:  
Alumni Appreciation  
Meet Our Cadets  
Fall Wrap-up**



# WORDS FROM ALUMNI

## LTC (Ret.) ANTHONY WIRTH—1988



Fellow Illini,  
It was truly my honor to be your guest speaker at the “Fighting Illini” Battalion Dining In on 10DEC. It is quite evident our “Illini” heritage is in outstanding hands with both our Cadets & Cadre.

I appreciate the opportunity to share and reiterate a few of my comments from the Dining In. As I shared

with all present, these are “Wirthisms” I have obtained throughout my 24(+) year military career, & continue to utilize & add to in my second career with Caterpillar.

### -“If you’re comfortable...you’re probably wrong.”

If you find yourself comfortable behind your desk on the computer, then you need to go make yourself uncomfortable. Go to the Arms Room, Motor Pool, under the vehicle, inside the turret...embrace, “Go, See, Act.” Obtain those competencies which are best learned hands-on vs. the book.

-“I have learned from PVTs, Generals, CEO’s, welders, & everyone in between.” “Learning & Labor,” our Illini Motto, never ends. Some “Nuggets of Knowledge” you will put in your right hand pocket, telling yourself, “I’ll use that someday.” Other Nuggets, you will put in your left hand pocket with, “I won’t use/do that someday.”

-“Field Manual 101-Common Sense, trust your gut.” You all are at one of the top rated universities in the United States with a hand-picked Cadre by our Army leadership. You came to this Officer-producing institution with demonstrated intelligence & intuitiveness. Continue to utilize those skills as an Army Officer or in corporate America.

-“What’s the Standard? The System? Who’s in Charge?” If you can answer all 3 of these questions, regardless of the task & mission, you’re 90% there.

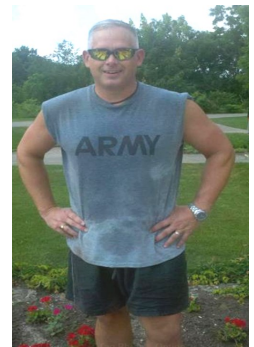
-“Don’t be the person/leader you believe people want you to be, be you.” You all have/will be trained to lead, and be technically & tactically proficient; “Be you” in executing those skill sets.

-“Mama’s Watch’n; a leader is on display 24/7.” Ask yourself & your Soldiers, “Would you talk or display that behavior if your mother was standing beside you?” If the answer is “no,” then you have answered the question if the language or conduct was/is appropriate.

In closing, you all are in a journey to become a leader of our nation’s military, the “Profession of Arms.” It is serious business. You will be called upon to live and operate in locations most Americans have never seen nor experienced. It may be a humanitarian, combat, or relief mission. No other profession places the level of trust and responsibility, or holds to a higher standard, than we do of our Officers. You will be handed our Nation’s greatest resource; oversee, care for, & lead the sons & daughters of our country. Take this mission seriously, but don’t take yourself too seriously. Learn, lead from the front, not only meet the standard, but set the standard in everything you do.

I wish you all the best. We are/you are part of something very special. You are Cadets at the University of Illinois and will become United States Army Officers via the Reserve Officer Training Corps, University of Illinois. A long and standing tradition is in your care....care for it well. Enjoy the ride, it’s your turn!!!

Anthony A. Wirth  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)  
United States Army  
’88, BA; ’98, MA; University of Illinois



*LTC (Ret.) Wirth served as an APMS at the University while earning his Masters in Management ’96-’98. He is currently the Global Operations Manager for Caterpillar Global Supply Network Division, leading five Caterpillar Procurement Service Centers (Poland, Panama, China, India, & Peoria, IL)*

## THEN & NOW



2001 Ranger Challenge—  
Lake of the Ozarks, MO

**A bowl of grog from the most recent dining-in. It really turned out to be more of a casserole than an drink.**



## Join our Facebook group!

Want to stay current on what the Battalion is doing and reconnect with other alumni? Join the “University of Illinois Army ROTC Alum” group!





# meet the Cadets

## c/Kaush Kancharla

c/Battalion Commander

**Selected Branch:** Active Component  
Armor

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
“Congrats Chung!” Choi: “Sir, I am  
Choi, not Chung.”

**Commonly heard around the Bn:**  
“Did you ever pass this down the  
chain?”

## c/Jack Sullivan

c/Command Sergeant Major

**Selected Branch:** Active Component  
Military Intelligence

**Most Memorable Moment:** Kicking it  
at the score table with the other MSIVs  
while the BN conducted night land nav

**Commonly heard around the Bn:**  
“Walking wasn’t part of the PT plan!”

MS4



MS4



## c/Dennis Koranda

TAC

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
The wave of relief when I  
realized the Hall of Fame  
ceremony was finally over.

**Commonly heard in the Bn:**

“Joes?” (in reference to the  
“fine” dining and bar location)



MS4

## c/Katie Villagomez

TAC

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
Involvement w/InterVarsity led  
me to pick up a bible for the first  
time. I never saw that one com-  
ing, but I’m glad I did.

**Commonly heard around the  
Bn:** “Where are the rest of the  
4s?”



MS4

## c/Richard Matthews

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
The semester as a whole; the  
MS3 class has been super  
accepting and I’ve made lots  
of great friends.

**Commonly heard around the Bn:** “Ranger that, Cadingus”

MS3



MS3



## c/Bryan Strah

**Most Memorable Moment:** (While  
chewing out an MS1 for not saluting a  
Marine MAJ...) MS1  
responds with, “I didn’t think we  
saluted Marines.”

**Commonly heard around the Bn:**  
“Another FRAGO, huh? BOHICA!”

## c/Corey Maisch

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
c/Eikstedt being crowned the  
Swiss seat tying champion at  
the fall FTX

**Commonly heard around  
the Bn:** \*silence\*



MS2

## c/Tyler Cordry

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
Butchering my “blue falcon”  
speech at dining-in

**Commonly heard around  
the Bn:** “I could be sleeping  
right now.”



MS2

## c/Andrew Carrion

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
c/O’Neil shot a wrong panic  
azimuth at FTX and got us lost  
in the woods

**Commonly heard around the  
Bn:** “I can handle it. I’m the  
most ultra-high speed super-  
hooah Cadet in the Bn.”

MS1



MS1



## c/Sybel Sanchez

**Most Memorable Moment:**  
Shooting a rifle for the first time at  
FTX

**Commonly heard around the Bn:**  
\*\*giggles, giggles\*\*



**Cadets know how to have fun even when it comes to PT. *Halloween Campus Run***



## 2ND ANNUAL WARRIOR FITNESS GAMES

**Mark your calendars!** WFG 2015 is coming! Four person teams; elite, scaled, & adaptive divisions; 30 teams total.

**Saturday, May 2nd**

This is a fundraiser event! Proceeds benefit the tax exempt 501C-3 Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education and the ROTC Battalion!



## INFLUENCING FROM AFAR

**recognizing alumni contributions**

Thanks to a generous contribution from CPT (P) Jerrauld Ma, class of 2005, the Ranger Challenge team was able to purchase team shirts, which they continue to wear with pride every Wednesday at formation.



Your donations continue to impact the lives of our current generation of future officers and we are grateful for your support. For those wishing to support any of the Cadet or Battalion ventures through financial means, we would be honored to receive your gift and earmark it to your favorite project or club of choice. Visit <http://www.giving.illinois.edu> for the University link or email us directly.



## "Restore Old Glory" Campaign

**Reestablishing traditions**

Illini Alumni, Cadets, and friends of the Battalion! You may have heard we are starting a campaign to raise the flag once again above the Armory building. For over 45 years, the flag-pole at the south entrance of the Armory building has been unused, at first for unknown reasons and more recently due to its inoperable state. The flag pole which sits on the roof of the main entrance to the Armory, was established in 1926 when the building's exterior offices were finished. It is our department's property and responsibility. It is time to rectify this situation and make things right, and in doing so we will honor our Armory, those who have served in it, and those serving today. It is only proper the US Flag be flown day and night over this special place of learning, work and training. At the back of this newsletter you will find an advertisement for this operation and we want all to have the opportunity to say that they had a part in putting our Flag back up on this building. Contributions can be sent to the UIUC Foundation earmarked to the "Army ROTC Alumni Fund" with designation: "Restore Old Glory." We need to raise 25k to restore the pole, install lighting and safety features, and maintain its operation. We anticipate raising the first flag in over 45 years in late March, early April, and we will provide an announcement for this historic event. In the meantime spread the word far and wide for this worthy cause!



## FROM THE COMMANDER'S VANTAGE POINT

Fighting Illini Family!

Congratulations are in order to the Battalion for another memorable semester of learning, training and leading on multiple levels. A memory I will carry with me, probably forever, will be that of two Cadets who overcame their fears of water and heights to pass the Combat Water Survival Test. Both these Cadets, a freshman and a senior, when about to slip under the water exhausted and sputtering pool water, managed to control their fear, not panic, and eventually make it to the edge of the pool—exhausted but triumphant! They set the example for us all in how to deal with adversity and fear and push through to accomplish the mission. That is what we as leaders do; we overcome adversity and fear, solve problems and lead from the front! We tried some new things this year such as independent leadership labs for MS4 Cadets, and new curriculum for MS3s and 4s, and we learned along the way. Our Army is always changing and evolving as a learning organization and our program is part of that process. No matter what changes in terms of Summer training or new requirements, what matters in the end is our ability to be flexible and continue learning how to lead. We prepare our Cadets for leadership in uncertain and dynamic environments so they will be armed to lead, win, and actually "thrive in uncertainty!" Thanks and Happy Holidays!

ILLINI!  
LTC Eric W. Stetson

**Send address and email updates to CPT Jason Nachowicz at [nachowcz@illinois.edu](mailto:nachowcz@illinois.edu)**