

The MILLINI



A publication from
THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



Message from the Professor of Military Science

by LTC Christopher M. Leung

I hope everyone is having a great summer! About half of the Fighting Illini Battalion Cadets are involved in Army training this summer. We have Cadets in various training programs including: Cadet Initial Entry Training, Cadet Summer Training, professional internships, internships with foreign militaries, and Air Assault School. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall, with new knowledge and experience, as they prepare to attack a new semester.

The spring 2016 semester was challenging, fast paced and certainly provided some great leadership opportunities. We broke ground on some new training and development opportunities, while recognizing our legacy through the UIUC Hall of Fame and alumni outreach. We also saw nine Cadets earn their Presidential Commissions as Second Lieutenants, which was tremendously rewarding. Like General Perkins once said in a famous speech on Mission Command, that is “what we are for” - creating Officers. I offer a well-earned congratulations to our new Lieutenants: Blaha, Duggirala, Kim, Moore, O’Neil, Ripka, Topacio, Williams, and to Cadet Palmer, who will pin her rank later this summer. This is a great milestone for these Officers, and validation of their leadership and hard work over the years as ROTC Cadets. Thank you for all your hard work and sacrifice, and best of luck to you as you go off to your branch training, and to your units to take charge across the country and around the world.



For the spring 2016 semester, we rolled out a new lab operating concept, which was designed to force the Cadet leadership into a deliberate planning cycle for each lab. The MS IV Cadet leadership was given Commander's intent for each lab, which contained specific training objectives for each MS year, and had to develop and implement those plans on a recurring four-week cycle. As a part of the new lab concept, the MS III leadership was tasked to prepare their subordinates for labs by leading them through Troop Leading Procedures and training on basic skills prior to each lab. Labs were treated like mini Battalion mobilizations with a defined mission, which was briefed as an operations order at the start of each lab. This minimized time spent on basic instruction and maximized the effectiveness of our collective training time. This training empowered Cadets at all levels to exercise their leadership over subordinates by ensuring teams, squads and platoons were prepared for labs.



On the Front Cover: UIUC Army ROTC Cadre and May 2016 Commissioned Officers stop for a photo on the main quad (top). The bottom photo shows the Ranger Challenge team preparing for the competition by running up the UIUC Arboretum Hill.

Message from the Professor of Military Science (continued)

As most of you may know, I will not be returning as the Professor of Military Science in the fall. I have been selected for Battalion Command, and will be taking my new post as the base commander of Camp Buehring, the forward US staging base in northwestern Kuwait (near the Iraqi border). I will also serve as the Brigade Special Troops Battalion Commander. LTC Randy Smith has been identified as my replacement and will arrive to campus in early August. I have spent several hours on Skype discussing the detachment with LTC Smith, and I'm very pleased to know that the detachment is in excellent hands; I know the Cadets will all continue to thrive under LTC Smith's leadership. I would like to wish the Fighting Illini Cadets and Cadre the very best. It has been a true honor for me to be here; working with the Fighting Illini Battalion was an exceptionally rewarding experience, beyond anything I could have imagined.

In closing, remember that we cannot achieve high goals if we don't set and enforce high expectations for both ourselves and our teammates. There is clearly tremendous talent in the Cadet Battalion, so go forth and be great! I'm really looking forward to seeing how you all shape the Army and the world in the years and decades to come. Take great care, be safe, stay focused and look out for each other. Keep in touch, and let me know if there is ever anything I can do for you. So, farewell, and as we say in Airborne units, "I'll see you on the drop-zone!"

LTC Christopher Leung (Illini 6) – signing out of the net.



Cadet Battalion Commander, Dylan Blaha, presents LTC Christopher Leung with a plaque from all of the MS-IV cadets to thank him for his leadership in their development. Appropriately, the presentation occurred after a four-mile run.

Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by MSG Jeffery Price

Although I only had little over a semester to serve as a Senior Military Instructor for the Fighting Illini Battalion, I wanted to take this time to thank each Cadet for their hard work and dedication, which made this battalion the best it could be.

Shortly, I head to Fort Knox to support Cadet Summer Training and then I depart for the Sergeants Major Academy. However, I will always remember the time I served here at the University of Illinois. After all, Army training posts don't normally use golf carts to teach tactical convoy operations. The MS-IVs planned this great training event, while the MS-IIIs executed the mission with the determination of a regular Army unit. Supervising this type of training makes me feel excited about the quality of our future leaders.

I depart knowing the Cadet battalion is in great shape for the upcoming year. The Army has assigned MSG Bruce Hutcherson, Jr. to take my place. He arrives in late June, which gives him plenty of time to prepare for the fall semester. He is another field artillery NCO, so I know you will be in good hands. Although you will have a new PMS, all the class instructors return and the reputation of the Cadets is impressive. Continue to strive for



Cadets executing a herringbone formation of vehicles due to activity along the route of march during one of the spring military science labs. MSG Price was key to coordinating assets for this operation.



excellence - I wish you the best in your military career.

Go Rockets!



ARMY ROTC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside this issue:

Message from the Professor of Military Science	1-2
Message from the Senior Military instructor	3
The Return of The <i>Millini</i> —Embracing our History by Reconstituting The Millini	5-6
MS I Class updates	7
MS II Class updates	8
MS III Class updates	9-11
MS IV Class updates	12-13
Cadet Event Storyboards	14-19
Alumni Highlights—Charles Finn	20-22
Alumni Highlights—Marlene Flood	23-24
Alumni Highlights—Support to Current Cadets	25-26
Scabbard & Blade	27
The Store	28
Donation Opportunities and Contacting the UIUC Army ROTC	29

The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion
Forging Strong Leaders Since 1868

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Fighting Illini Battalion

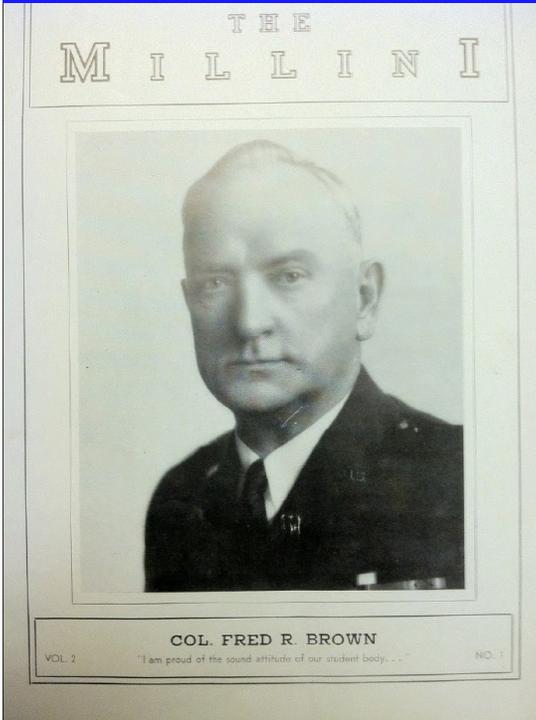


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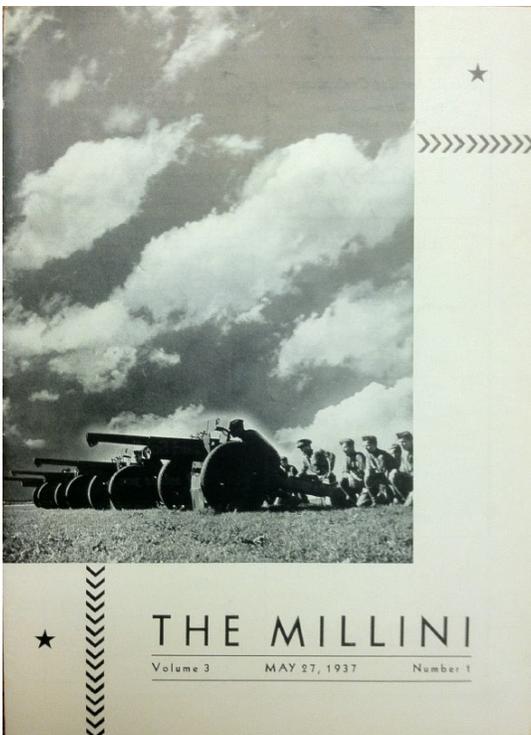
THE RETURN OF THE MILLINI

Embracing Our History

by LTC Christopher M. Leung & Mr. Eric Ashworth



Covers of two of the *Millini* published just prior to World War II. The first (above) was dedicated to Colonel Fred Brown, who was the Commandant from 1933-1940. The second (below) highlighted some of the artillery training that occurred on campus in 1937.



Some of you may have noticed that this edition of our Fighting Illini Battalion newsletter bears the title “*Millini*,” which is a departure from the title you may know from the recent past: “The Bugle.” This current edition of the newsletter is titled the *Millini*, in honor of the historic title of our newsletter which dates back to the 1930s, and very likely long before. We know this, because in the deep recesses of the Army ROTC vault, and in forgotten drawers and crevices around the armory (as well as by alumni donations), we have been able to recover several copies of *Millini* newsletters from years past. For history buffs, the content of these historic newsletters provide a fascinating view into our past which is an important part of our legacy, and provides captivating context to what we do today.



Armory construction nearing completion in 1913.

We obtained several *Millini* newsletters from the 1930’s in pristine condition, which are kept in the PMS office I invite students, alumni and friends of the program to peruse the collection. These articles from long ago include many pictures in black and white from a different era where Cadets trained and led much like they do today. There are articles about training, Marksmanship, the Military Council, Pershing Rifles, the Phalanx, Scabbard and Blade, Pi Tau Pi Sigma, Alpha Tau Sigma, Tau Nu Tau,

THE RETURN OF THE MILLINI

Embracing Our History

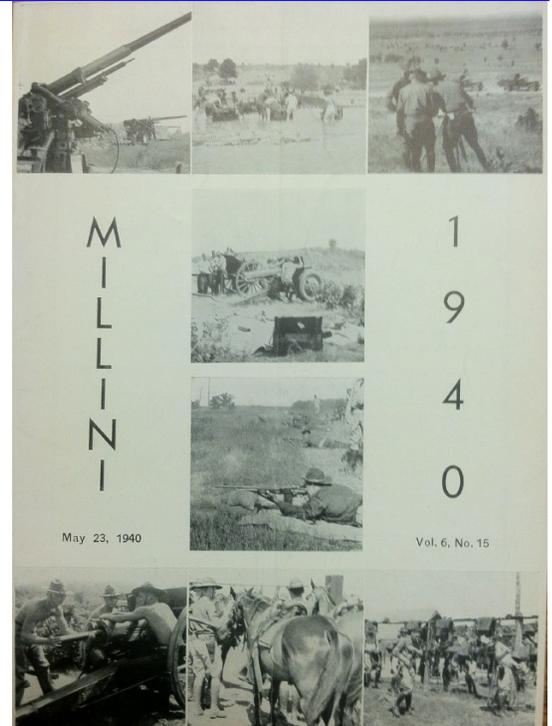
the Polo Team, Military Day, Caisson club, branches, as well as advertisement pages for Follette’s on Green, Associated Military Stores, Inman Hotel, Bailey & Himes athletic store, The Co-Op, Katsinas “Air Conditioned” Café, and others.

We believe the *Millini* title started in 1931, and was printed until at least 1956. We are not sure why or when the name changed because some of those details are lost to history. If any alumni have any insight, or stories from the past, please come forward and let us know. The Fighting Illini ROTC program has such a long and distinguished history, which far exceeds what most schools can claim. It is of utmost importance that we remain astute custodians of our history, both now and into the future. In 70 years, a student or Cadre member may come across this publication and marvel at the pages containing stories about the lives and training of Cadets in the Army ROTC program today.

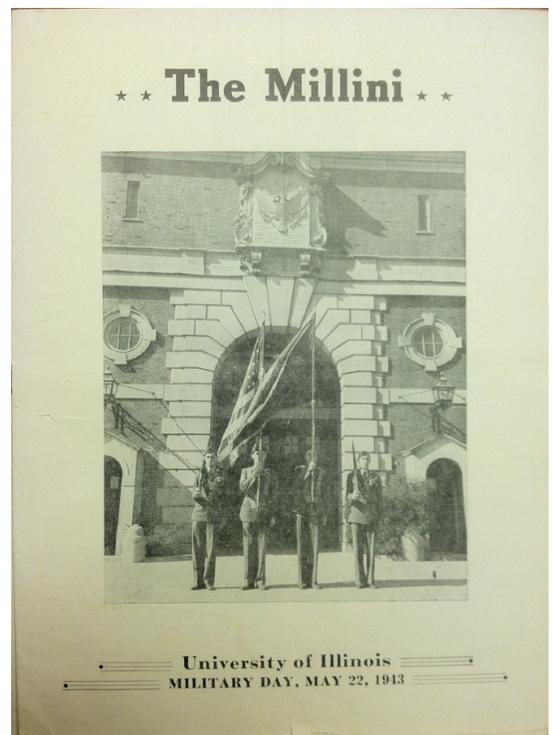
The Millini started publication in 1931 for Military Day each May. The publication contained messages, the Military Day program, photos and lists of awards received by ROTC affiliated organizations.



An aerial view of the Armory Building, photographed on 13 May 1935.



As the United States prepared for World War II, so did the ROTC Cadets from the University of Illinois. Here are two covers of the *Millini* that visually depict the training that was occurring in the Cadet battalion. Many UIUC Cadets served; sadly, several alumni would never return.



MS I Class Updates

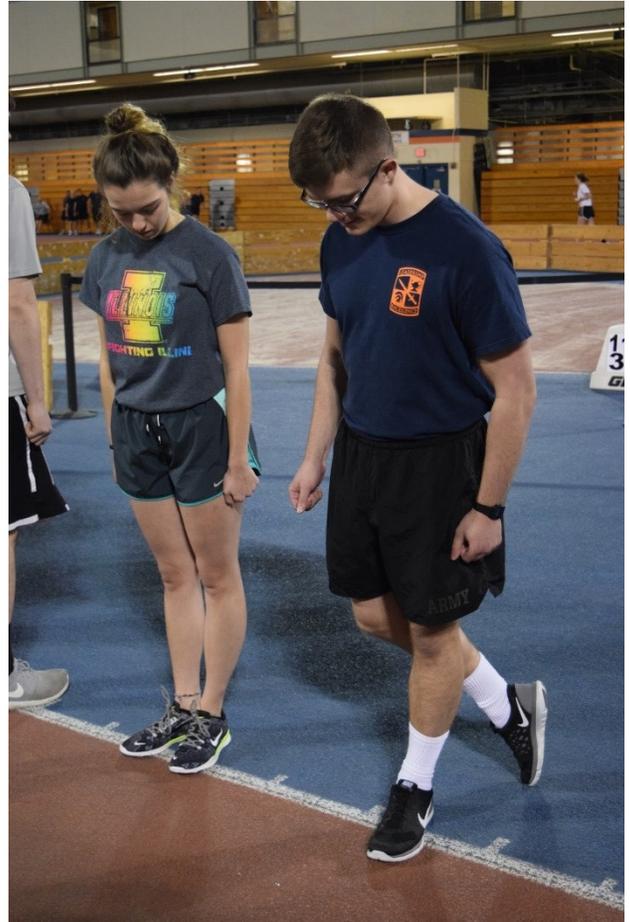
How ROTC Impacted My Life

A Cadet Voice from the Military Science I Class

by Abigail Rundblom

When I walked into the Armory at 0545 on a cold January morning for my first day of physical training, I was not entirely sure what to expect. I was both excited and nervous. Fortunately, I was accustomed to waking up before daylight even considered breaking the horizon, due to 0400 shifts milking cows at UIUC Dairy. I realized quickly I was with an extraordinary group of individuals, whose commitment and dedication surpassed that of any other group of college students I have ever met. Both inspired and humbled, I knew I was where I was supposed to be. I grew up with a strong sense of pride for the military and this country, which I greatly attribute to my grandfather, who is a retired Major General.

Like many worthwhile endeavors, ROTC has challenged my physical and mental limits. Despite having an existing shoulder condition, I am determined to earn my Presidential Commission through ROTC. I view my shoulder issue as a temporary inconvenience that strengthened my resolve and tolerance for discomfort. I am grateful for the immeasurable support I received from Cadre and fellow Cadets. During my short time in ROTC, I have gained a more powerful sense of purpose, as well as many skills in leadership I am able to apply to every aspect of my life.



Cadet Abigail Rundblom learns how to execute a proper facing movement from Cadet Nick Freeze.

MS II Class Updates

What Army ROTC Means to Me A Cadet Voice from the Military Science II Class *by Jonathan Jurevis*



Cadet Jonathan Jurevis assists Cadet Ben Guo with Medical procedures during a spring semester Military Science lab..

My life has had its fair share of experiences; within the past year alone, my time in Army ROTC has consequently transformed these experiences into the leadership qualities I possess today. Recently, I reflected on some of the ways I have grown as a leader in our society, as well as a potential leader in the United States Army. During my short time in this ROTC program, I have learned a lot more about self-awareness and adaptive leadership. It is not every day that we stop to think about how far we have come and where we could be heading, based on a few key decisions.

With that in mind, everyone knows that the military stresses discipline, but how often does one hear that they care about your potential too? This last year, I learned that being self-aware helps us realize how great we can be if we put a little extra work into the things we do. During a horse race, an equestrian only wins by the head of his race horse. It's a slim margin that separates oneself from the ordinary and makes them extraordinary. The ROTC environment has helped mold some of the leadership qualities I have today. I wake up early in the morning to strengthen my body and attend leadership laboratories and field training exercises to strengthen my mind; I have learned that a leader must adapt to any situation and lead by example. Unfortunately, failure can occur during any of these activities. Captain David Tanner, an Assistant Professor of Military Science, always reminds me to "make sure getting it wrong is just your first step towards getting it right." This adaptive leadership quality is what helps separate leaders on and off the battlefield.

My favorite aspect of ROTC is that our program trains us to become leaders of tomorrow. Whether I am going to retire in the Army or in a civilian career, I know that I will be a professional leader, because of the leadership qualities I earned from ROTC. Lastly, through all of the changes in my life, or perhaps because of them, I have maintained and acquired a unique personality and solid set of values. This year, the UIUC Army ROTC program tested my personality and values, which developed me as both a professional and leader. I thank my teachers and my mentors in Cadet Command who took time out of their lives to guide me on the right path towards becoming a professional leader in our society.



Cadet Jonathan Jurevis competes with other UIUC cadets during a spring Army Physical Fitness Test at the Armory.

MS III Class Updates

Why I Contracted into the Army ROTC Program An interview with Current Military Science III Students by Eric L. Ashworth (MS-III Instructor)

One of the more exciting times during each semester is receiving news from our Brigade Headquarters that one of our cadets was approved to contract into the U. S. Army by the contracting board. This excitement is justified, since every Cadet does not earn this opportunity; contracting helps Cadets realize that they have overcome the biggest obstacle along their way to serving in the Army as a military officer. Over the past few years, many of our current MS-III Cadets contracted; the other day, I interviewed them regarding their desire to serve as an Army Officer. Here are some of their responses:

Many of the Cadets view serving as an officer in the Army as part of a greater, life-long plan. **Cadet Jason Marshall**, a Graphic Design major, is confident that serving as an officer will stabilize his future. “Having the credentials of a military leader sets yourself above the competition when transferring into the civilian world. It lets employers know you have what it takes to lead in the world’s finest organization, the U.S. Army.”

Others believe the skills they develop in the Army will assist them in reaching their career goals. **Cadet Clay Huston**, a Business Management major, desires to be an aviator and stated, “... serving in the Army enables me to do what I want to do.... and provides me a chance to go right into aviator training. Outside of Army ROTC, I would most likely not be afforded a similar opportunity due to a lack of experience.”

One common theme is that patriotic values remain high with some of the young adults studying here at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Cadet Corey Maisch**, an Engineering major, grew up in a military family and heard the call to serve. “I look forward to the obligation to serve because of the opportunities the Army offers [and] I was ready to be a part of something bigger than myself and make my country proud.”

Of course, the Army offers financial benefits as well. **Cadet Jun Lee**, an Environmental Science major and aspiring dentist, believes, “The ROTC program has many outstanding qualities that make it an excellent way for someone to pay their way through college and prepare themselves for life and a career.” Cadet Lee received a National Guard scholarship and hopes to use the National Guard grant to help pay for dental school.



Cadet Jun Lee presents his tactical plan to Cadet Luis Pantoja during a spring military science lab.

MS III Class Updates

Why I Contracted into the Army ROTC Program? (continued)

Several Cadets sought financial support to attend college. **Cadet Anthony Earll**, a Finance major, liked the idea of serving in the armed forces and wanted to help his parents pay for his college education. “Ever since I was young, I wanted to serve in the armed forces Since my parents did not have a lot of money, it was either find enough scholarships for me to go to school or attend a community college for a few years and then transfer. Army ROTC afforded me the chance to serve as an officer while helping to pay my college expenses.” **Cadet Nicholas Freeze**, a Business Administration major, thinks one of the benefits of becoming an Army officer is that it pays for a college degree. “I knew going to college that I would have to pay for it myself and that I would be unable to do so with just a part time job. The Army offered me a way to not only pay for my schooling expenses, but all of my financial needs, thus allowing for me to focus on my studies Also with my military science courses, I have been instructed, challenged and given opportunities to not simply learn about the profession, but live it.”

Others come from a tradition of service to their country. **Cadet Samuel Eickstedt**, an Economics major, learned about many of the benefits of military service from his father, who served in the Air Force for 11 years. “It felt natural to serve as well and Army ROTC allows me to do so as an officer I also joined ROTC because of the leadership opportunities. It is sometimes hard to push yourself to find new experiences that will help to expand yourself as a person and as a leader but ROTC has definitely given me the push I needed to become a more mature and well-rounded person.”

Cadet Courtney Thompson, an Elementary Education major, experienced a similar childhood, since she also comes from a military family and respects those who have served before her. “I contracted into Army ROTC because I felt like all I was doing was going to class and not getting anywhere.... Becoming an officer through the ROTC Program gives me the chance to serve those who have given so much for me throughout my life.”

Cadet Paul Genchanok, an Economics major, saw Army ROTC as a means to deal with multiple life questions, including spiritual well-being. “My primary motivation to join ROTC was to improve and discipline myself so to feel more fulfilled. I specifically joined the Army because I perceived it to be the most challenging and traditional branch I found out that I became more industrious, disciplined, and able to express my ambition through my actions. I’ve experienced hardship and success outside of academics I contracted believing God called to me to join the Army, and it is a calling I have followed.” This past semester, Cadet Genchanok earned the Sergeant York Award, which is presented annually to the Cadet whose dedication and efforts supports the Cadet Battalion the most.



Cadets Corey Maisch and Courtney Thompson are two of the cadets that recite the Oath given by LTC Christopher Leung at the University of Minnesota vs University of Illinois baseball game. Also participating and photographed are Cadets Ben Guo, Alex Tkaczky, Bernard Kusinski, and Erin O’Neil.

MS III Class Updates

Why I Contracted into the Army ROTC Program? (continued)

Cadet Tyler Cordry, an Atmospheric Sciences major, chose Army ROTC because, “I wanted to do something bigger and better than a desk job. Joining ROTC and contracting would give me the opportunity to lead as an officer; [it’s] just the challenge I was looking for.” Once he was accepted to UIUC, he could have been an officer in the Navy or Air Force, but chose the physical demands of the Army ROTC Department. “I’ve always been the scrawniest kid on the field, court, track— you name it. People wrote me off because I was skinny. I wanted to show them how wrong they were. That I could be scrawny and still be the toughest guy in the group.... I couldn’t think of any greater profession to tell someone than, ‘I’m an officer in the United States Army.’” Cadet Cordry, a junior, consistently earns a 300 score on his Army Physical Fitness Test, is currently the Ranger Challenge Commander, and served as the spring 2016 Cadet Company First Sergeant.



Cadet Tyler Cordry leads a team of cadets through a tactical exercise during one of the military science labs.

The Army ROTC Program is blessed with several outstanding Illinois National Guard Soldiers who want to remain in the National Guard as an officer. **Cadet Cole Murray**, an Engineering major, “... wanted to develop my leadership potential to become an exceptional officer and then develop other good leaders in my unit.” **Cadet Jonathan Rodriguez**, an Architecture major, expressed a similar passion. “I had a desire to do more with my life, so I enlisted in the Illinois National Guard.... However, I still wanted to advance myself even further, so I decided to enroll within the Army ROTC program in the hopes of becoming an officer once I graduated. Although ROTC requires both time and commitment, there isn’t a challenge I haven’t liked and I feel proud when I overcome them.”

Cadet Luis Pantoja, a Psychology major, was an Army Reserve military police Soldier who felt he could do more. “After graduating from high school, I enlisted in the Army Reserves. After seven years as a military police enlisted member, I wanted to step up to the next level by becoming an officer.... An Army officer carries a lot of responsibilities that only those who are dedicated are willing to accept. I am ready to take on these responsibilities.”

This is why I love my job! These fine young Americans have accepted the calling to serve in the armed forces; all of them are on track to commission as second lieutenants upon graduation. Our country is in good hands and the University of Illinois should be proud to provide quality junior leaders to lead our Army into the future.

MS IV Class Update

The Path to Leadership **A Perspective From the Cadet Battalion Commander** *by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Dylan Blaha*

Although my military career has been brief, I constantly acknowledge, without hesitation, that I am extremely fortunate. This spring semester, I served as Cadet Battalion Commander of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Army ROTC Fighting Illini Battalion. Additionally, I earned the honor of Distinguished Military Graduate and became a member of the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society.

This program transformed me into a confident, knowledgeable leader, determined to live the Army Values and always display strong moral character. I benefitted from a cast of wise mentors, including Captain Jason Nachowicz and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Leung, who taught me how to lead properly.

Prior to joining the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), however, my life seemed destined for a much different path. Throughout grade school, I did not believe I possessed the necessary qualities of a leader. I was a shy, overweight boy who preferred playing *Pokemon* and reading fantasy novels to physical activity and social interaction. However, high school brought major change: I lost weight, competed in varsity sports, served as both a News Editor and Head Editor of our school newspaper, and participated in the National Honor Society. Additionally, I graduated from Lemont High School in the Top 10% of my class. Although I became more involved and accomplished several accolades, my leadership remained unproven.

In May 2012, following my freshman year as a Nursing major at Illinois State University, I dropped out of college, due to financial constraints. During my time at ISU, I failed to seek leadership opportunities.

On December 19, 2012, I enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard as a 68W, Combat Medic. Ten months later, on September 20, 2013, I returned home from Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and Advanced Individual Training (AIT, specifically Combat Medic school) at Fort Sam Houston, TX.

A month prior to graduating AIT, I reenrolled in college, this time at UIUC. I overheard a group of medics-to-be discussing ROTC, and my interest immediately peaked. I began to consider becoming an Army Officer – a leader of Soldiers.

Upon moving to Urbana, I visited the ROTC office to discuss contracting on my first day of school. From there, the rest is history. Not only did I swear into the program on my first day, but I also earned a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship from the National Guard by semester's end. Captain Nachowicz, my military science instructor during my first two years, taught me invaluable lessons about the Army, as well as myself. He constantly placed the needs of his subordinates above his own, showing me the true meaning of selfless service.



Cadet Dylan Blaha inspects the Cadets under his command prior to the start of a tactical exercise during one of the military science super labs.

MS IV Class Update

The Path to Leadership (continued)

Prior to my senior year, UIUC received a new Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Leung. A veteran from the Special Operations community, LTC Leung challenged me to seek improvements in every facet of an operation. There was never a dull moment, and for that I am thankful.

I improved several key leadership traits while participating in Army ROTC, including presence, character and intellect. These leadership attributes will help me establish and build unit motivation and trust throughout my Army career.

Increasing my physical fitness and knowledge helped to establish my presence as a leader within the Fighting Illini Battalion. I never scored a 300 on an Army Physical Fitness Test prior to enrolling, but I have since accomplished this feat. Additionally, my growing confidence allowed me to succeed in several key leadership positions during my junior and senior years, including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer and Battalion Commander.

Since my youth, I have always held a sound understanding of right and wrong. However, Army ROTC developed my character in ways I could never imagine. Captain Nachowicz taught me to always respect others, especially subordinates, even if the same respect was not shown in return. Because of him, I hold both the Army Values and Warrior Ethos in the highest regard and strive to live them every day.

Captain Nachowicz and Lieutenant Colonel Leung both increased my technical and tactical proficiency and contributed greatly to my wealth of Army knowledge. While I learned key concepts at BCT and AIT, I learned far more in the ROTC program. These lessons will prove invaluable when I commission and assume responsibility for an entire platoon of Soldiers.

I joined the Army in 2012 to receive an education. In return for my service, however, I have received much more. I stand ready to lead Soldiers into battle, to protect the interests of this great country, and to give the ultimate sacrifice, if necessary.

Thank you, United States Army, for everything you gave me thus far. Now it's time for me to return the favor.

In May 2016, 2LT Blaha graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology and commissioned into the Illinois Army National Guard as a medical service corps officer. He currently serves as a Gold Bar Recruiter for Fighting Illini Army ROTC, until he leaves for the Basic Officer's Leadership Course (BOLC) in late August. He intends to pursue an advanced degree in medicine or a professional science master's degree from UIUC.



2LT Dylan Blaha receives his first salute from SSG Lee Nelson after commissioning into the U.S. Army.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Convoy Operations Lab

On 18 Feb 2016, The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted a mounted convoy operations lab at the UIUC golf course in Champaign Illinois. The scenario based lab consisted of reconnaissance, mounted patrolling, radio / reporting procedures, reacting to enemy contact, disabled vehicle drills and a key leader engagement. Cadets learned about convoy operations and exercised leadership while negotiating 4 different convoy based scenarios.



Cart paths designated as convoy routes (4 concurrent scenarios)



The golf course provided 25 golf carts, enabling the entire Battalion to roll concurrently on different lanes



Fighting Illini Cadets execute a herringbone vehicle formation



Cadets in convoy maintaining 360 degree security



Fighting Illini Battalion



Super Lab: Platoon Attack

Summary: On March 12th, 2016, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted a culminating Leadership Lab that was a 4-hour event and covered all skills the Cadets have learned up to this point in the school year. The Cadets challenged their leadership abilities and critical thinking skills through tactical movements, reactions to contact, ambushes and attacks, and other small unit operations.



Above: Cadet Anthony Earll leads his platoon on a tactical road march.



Above: Cadet Jun Lee practices hand and arm signals in order to communicate and halt his element.



Above: Cadets learn how to manage actions on an objection and enemy prisoners of war.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Norwegian Foot March

On April 2, 2016, five Cadets from the Fighting Illini Battalion Ruck Club participated in the Purdue University's Boiler Battalion Norwegian Foot March in Lafayette, Indiana. Approximately 125 ROTC Cadets from Midwest universities loaded a 25 pound ruck on their backs in the hopes of earning the Norwegian Foot March Badge. All five Cadets from the UIUC Ruck Club earned the coveted Norwegian Foot March badge by completing the 18.6 mile course in under 4.5 hours.



Cadets Zimmer, Kezon, Toto, Lee, and Lamboley smile after completing the ruck.



Cadet Kezon crosses the finish line and is awarded the Norwegian Foot March Badge and Boiler Battalion Coin.



Cadet Zimmer and Cadet Lamboley finish the grueling 18.6 miles as a battle buddy pair.



At the end of the grueling 18.6 miles, each Cadet earned the coveted Norwegian Foot March Purdue-sponsored T-shirt.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Combat Water Survival Training

Summary: The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted Combat Water Survival Training on April 3rd, 2016. The CWST consists of a diagnostic swim test, the removal of all tactical gear from one's body while immersed in water, and a 15m swim wearing a tactical vest and holding a rubber rifle above the water. The Cadets also received a class on how to create flotation devices out of the Army Combat Uniform. These tests are designed to challenge the Cadets and build confidence in their ability to maneuver in water.



Above: Cadet Sushruth Pattaker swims while holding the rubber rifle above the water.



Above: Cadet Kurt Kuzur waits on the edge of the pool to jump in and remove his gear.



Above: Cadet Brandon Ortiz demonstrates how to float using his ACU pants.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Hall of Fame

Summary: On April 8th, 2016, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC had the distinct honor of inducting five new members to the Army ROTC Hall of Fame. Inductees are chosen based on leadership excellence in both their military and civilian careers and have carried themselves in an honorable manner representing the University and the U.S. Army. Many are nominated by previous inductees and are chosen through an open board process consisting of previous Hall of Fame inductees and Department of Military Science Cadre. This year's inductees are Brigadier General Robert Upp (postumous), Mr. Phillips Talbot (postumous), Mr. Phillip Goldstick, Mr. Thomas Martin, and Mr. William Takakoshi.



Left: Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Leung congratulates Mr. Thomas Martin on receiving the Hall of Fame Medallion.



Right: Lieutenant Colonel Leung and Provost Feser stand with Mr. Phillip Goldstick after receiving his Hall of Fame Medallion.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Spring Dining Out Ceremony

Summary: On April 8th, 2016, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion gathered with friends, family, and alumni to celebrate the achievements of this Spring semester, share memories, and participate in long-time traditions during a formal dinner and award ceremony.



Above: LTC (R) Tina McGuffey, CPT Sean Martin, LTC Clayton Kuetemeyer, COL (R) Debbie Read and LTC (R) Rick Read, all alumni from the University of Illinois return to celebrate and share their experiences with current Cadets.



Above: Amanda Palmer, a senior Cadet in Army ROTC, helps to create the traditional "grog." She adds "Equal" artificial sweetener to represent equal opportunity in the officer corps.



Above: Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Leung awards Cadet Abby Brown with the Hazelton award and medal. It is presented to the first year Army Cadet who has demonstrated excellent military basic course skills through the year.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Ranger Buddy

Summary: From April 8-10, 2016, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC sent six Cadets to participate in the 18th annual Ranger Buddy Competition hosted by Kansas University Army ROTC. The competition consists of a 15k ruck march with a 35lb pack, six lanes requiring the buddy teams to be proficient in various soldiering skills, such as land navigation, grenade employment, and different knots, and an unknown distance run.



Above: Cadets Kathrine Kezon and Nicole Levar after they have finished their 15k ruck march in 2 hours and 17 minutes.



Above: Cadets Grayson Becker and Edgar Gamino practice first aid on a casualty in preparation for the soldiering skills lanes.



Above: Cadet Kathrine Kezon practices the proper steps of employing and throwing a hand grenade.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Honors Day Ceremony

Summary: On April 11, 2016, Cadets from all three ROTC Programs gather together at Foellinger Auditorium on the south end of the Main Quad to award and congratulate Cadets and Midshipmen for their outstanding achievements in leadership, academics, physical fitness, community service, and exceptional aptitude for Military Science.



Above: Cadet Andrew Jacobs is awarded the National Sojourners, Wayne W. Greenwood/Jesse B. Thomas Chapters Award by Professor of Air Force Aerospace Studies Lieutenant Colonel Shane T. Sullivan.

Below: Cadet Erin O'Neil is awarded the Department of the Army Distinguished Military Graduate Award by Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Christopher M. Leung.



Above: Cadet Dylan Blaha is awarded the University Gold Medal Award consisting of an engraved saber, presented to him by Professor Thomas H. Teper, Chairman of the Military Education Council.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Combined Leadership Development Exercise

Summary: From 14 to 17 April, The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion in conjunction with Eastern Illinois University and Illinois State University conducted a Combined Leadership Development Exercise at Army National Guard Training base at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. This training exercise provided a unique planning experience for the seniors in the Military Science Class IV, who coordinated the event with Cadets from all three schools. The CLDX was designed to challenge Cadets in the Military Science Classes I-III on military tactics, leadership abilities with unknown peers, and critical thinking through Key Leader Engagements where Cadets role-played various scenarios to develop communications, diplomacy and negotiation skills.



Above: Cadet Kimball from EIU briefs the other Observer, Trainer, Mentors (OTMs) about the training area and upcoming missions for the CFTX.



Above: Cadet Murray from UIUC learns how to communicate and interact with a villager who has lost his home and is seeking help from the Cadets.



Above: The Cadets from all three schools are separated into mixed platoons and practice route clearing and tactical road march movements.



Fighting Illini Battalion



JROTC 100 Year Anniversary 5k

Summary: On April 23rd, 2016, the “Fighting Illini” Army ROTC Program hosted the JROTC Centennial Commemorative 5k Guinness Book of World Records attempt for Danville High School’s JROTC Program. The 5k was to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of ROTC. Since this 5k was happening all over the United States and throughout many ROTC Programs, the “Fighting Illini” Army ROTC and Danville High School JROTC contributed 130 Cadets to try to break the world record of the most people running in a 5k at the same time.



Above: Professor of Military Science, LTC Christopher Leung, leads the Junior and Senior ROTC Cadets through the U of I campus on the 5k run.



Above: Danville High School JROTC Cadets and “Fighting Illini” Army ROTC Cadets pose for a photo outside of the Armory Building.



Left: LTC Scott Boyd, an Army Chaplain, hands out water and snacks to Cadets at the hydration station.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Battle of Tippecanoe Staff Ride

Summary: On April 23rd, 2016, the Military Science Senior Class conducted their culminating event for their class on Battle Analysis. The Cadets, led by Mr. Eric Ashworth and two other Cadre members, visited and discussed the Battle of Tippecanoe near Lafayette, Indiana. Each Cadet researched a specific event, a significant character from the battle and briefed their knowledge as they walked through the battle site. This exercise enhanced the MSIV Cadets' abilities to visualize the events as they happened, as well as their understanding of the battle. In addition to the Battle Analysis of the Battle of Tippecanoe, the Cadets and Cadre had the opportunity to visit with an alumni, COL (R) Debbie Read and her husband LTC (R) Rick Read.



Right: The MSIV Class & Cadre visiting Prophet's Rock.

Left: The MSIV Class with Cadre and alumni Col. (R) Debbie Read at the "Battle Monument" at the Battle of Tippecanoe Battleground



Fighting Illini Battalion



Contracting Ceremony

Summary: On May 1st, 2016, the "Fighting Illini" Army ROTC Program had the distinct honor and privilege to be able to have seven Cadets say their contracting oath between innings at the University of Illinois Men's Baseball game against the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers. The U of I players also wore blue and orange camouflage jerseys as a salute to service members. The jerseys were auctioned off and were able to raise \$6,000 for a local charity.



Left: Cadets line up behind home plate, raise their right hand and say their oath to symbolize their commitment to the U.S. Army.

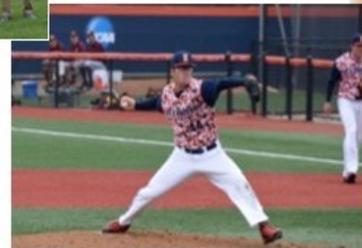


Left: Cadets and Professor of Military Science, LTC Christopher Leung pose for a picture during the U of I Men's Baseball game.

Right: Head Coach Dan Hartleb congratulates and thanks Cadet Clay Huston on his commitment to the Army ROTC Program and his service in the military.



Right: Freshman, Quinten Sefcik, wearing his blue and orange camouflage jersey in memory of military service members.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Cadet Memories from the UIUC Class of 1955

by *CPT Charles E. Finn*

Army Reserve Armor Officer

The University of Illinois was a different school in the fall of 1951, when I arrived in Champaign during Fraternity Rush week. At the time, the total enrollment of the school was around 18,000 students; a great number of them were former military members who served during World War II. It was quite a change, even then, for a young lad who came from Gibson City High School (estimated population: 300) – a massive cultural change.

It was a wartime atmosphere. The Korean Conflict raged in full blast, in its second year. Because of the wartime footing, all underclassmen were required to take two years of ROTC (either Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force), with an option to apply for the Advanced ROTC Program afterwards. Upon completion of this program, these leaders served an eight-year commitment, with two years of active service; advanced Cadets with a larger scholarship were obligated to serve at least five years on active duty.

When I enrolled in ROTC during fall registration, I chose the Army and selected the Armor Branch; at the time, Army ROTC had the largest numbers out of any of the branches. The combat branches (infantry, armor and artillery) each possessed their own, separate Battalion; there was a formal formation once per week, and military science classes met three days a week. Both noncommissioned and commissioned officers (all veterans of World War II) served as instructors.

The freshmen always received the most challenging class schedules. In those days, a higher percentage of students flunked out of school; if you did not immediately apply yourself to the classroom, failure was expected. The ROTC class sessions were interesting from the beginning, when we learned about the basic structure and organization of the current US Army. After the first semester, we began to discuss weapons and tactical studies.

I'm still amazed that I made it through my first semester; due to my lack of knowledge and judgement, I overloaded myself with tough courses, including College Algebra, Economics 101, Accounting, Rhetoric, and Military Science. Additionally, I gained entry into one of the University's prestigious fraternities, Sigma Pi (located adjacent to the ice rink and across the street from the Armory).



Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Leung, the current Professor of Military Science and Battalion Commander for Fighting Illini Army ROTC, with Mr. Charles Finn in Champaign, IL. Finn graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1955 and commissioned into the US Army as an Armor Officer, prior to his successful career in private business.

Cadet Memories from the UIUC Class of 1955 (continued)

I also volunteered to be a freshman football manager for the team; I continued this job the next three years and became a Varsity Senior Manager, where I also received a varsity letter. Four years of football experience as part of a Big Ten team taught me many life lessons about dealing with different players and personalities, learning from wins and losses, and leading college students.

The 1951-52 academic year was a tremendous learning experience for myself as a Cadet, fraternity pledge, student, and young football manager of varsity football. I'd like to point out that this year was the greatest in Illinois athletic history. Illinois won eight of eleven Big Ten Men's athletic titles, a record the school shares with only Michigan. The football team won the Rose Bowl and received a share of the National Title, while the basketball team reached the Final Four and finished in third place in the NCAA.

The Army ROTC Commandant, Colonel Frank Leakey, commanded the largest group of Cadets in history. The Military Council, the governing body to the Army Corps, consisted of senior Cadets from each branch and several members from honorary groups. During my senior year, the council was led by Cadet Colonel Richard Rayburn, the Brigade Commander of the Army ROTC.

For the Army, the honorary groups included Scabbard & Blade, Phalanx & Pershing Rifles. Founded at UIUC in 1909, Scabbard and Blade was a Military Honor Society dedicated to community-military affairs. In late 2015, UIUC Army ROTC re-established their Scabbard and Blade Honor Society, after around forty years of dormancy. Pershing Rifles, founded in 1931, gave honorary memberships to Cadets and Midshipmen from all three branches, based on leadership, scholarship, and ability. Phalanx, a military national honor society, selected advanced ROTC members, based on recommendations from Army Unit Directors of various Army branches.

Other honor organizations included Alpha Rho Tau, The Society of American Military Engineers and Zeta Sigma Alpha. I was a member of Zeta Sigma Alpha, which promoted leadership amongst advanced Armor Cadets.

The Military Ball was one of the most widely promoted dances during the school year. The Military Council invited all the branches to join in the festivities. The Ball always featured a top dance band of the era, such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billy May, Claude Thornhill and Ralph Flanigan, and selected a Queen each year.

Prior to my senior year (summer of 1954), I attended summer training at Fort Knox, KY. This consisted of nine weeks of tank and infantry training; I had to know both jobs, since a combat tanker with a damaged or disabled tank is essentially an infantryman. I lost ten pounds during that summer, which was the hottest summer on record in Kentucky.



Cadet Charlie Finn smiles for the camera (center, bottom row). At one point during the Korean War, UIUC Cadre informed all Cadets to "be prepared to" immediately commission (all Sophomores and above) as 2nd Lieutenants to fill Officer shortages and combat positions in Korea.

Cadet Memories from the UIUC Class of 1955 (continued)

I still remember the first time I experienced a tank fire a 90 mm round. After one dinner during our first week, an officer took us to a tank firing range, where we watched 17 M48 medium tanks fire simultaneously. They fired at targets 2500 yards down range – it was quite a show. The demonstration concluded with an Air Force F80 that dive bombed and dropped a napalm device, which left only devastation it left in its wake.

This summer experience gave me a new admiration and respect for the combat veterans who instructed at our Army ROTC program. To keep combat tanks operational, Armor personnel needed to become some of the hardest working and brave people in the world. During the summer, we learned about many major tank battles from WWII; the Americans possessed excellent tanks that improved vastly as the war progressed, but many models did not measure up to certain German tanks.

I met Cadets from many Big Ten schools, as well as from the Southwest and Pacific Coast. During the weekend of July Fourth, we received a two-day pass; to escape the heat and humidity, four of us rented a small suite and slept for many hours, in addition to eating a couple hearty meals.

I proudly acknowledge that all twelve members of my fraternity pledge class advanced in ROTC and received commissions in either the Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force and served honorably following graduation.

I met the love of my life, Blanche, at my Fraternity brother's wedding in June 1953. We married in August of 1954 and have been together ever since. She has been the greatest mate a man could have, as well as a fantastic mother and wife.

I write this memoir with great and sincere pride, as both a University of Illinois graduate and a commissioned Armor Officer from Fighting Illini Army ROTC.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

UIUC AROTC Cadre Conduct Casualty Notifications in 1969

by Mrs. Marlene Flood

Over the years, UIUC Cadre touched the lives of many Cadets. In some cases, they aided the local community in times of crisis by conducting casualty notifications. On April 7, 1969, during the Vietnam conflict, AROTC Cadre were called upon to notify families of fallen service members. The family of Corporal Michael Flood (a US Army combat medic) serves as one example. The following article by Michael's sister details the tremendous loss, yet shows the small amount of peace that Captain Meredith and Major Lally, from the Fighting Illini ROTC Battalion, brought this grieving family.



On July 6, 1969, Major Lally from UIUC Army ROTC presented our family with several badges that Michael earned, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. From left to right: Major Lally, Flood family: Dan, Marlene, Larry, Charlene, Harold and Kathy.

Today is the 47th Anniversary of the loss of my brother, "Doc" Michael H. Flood, a medic assigned to 3rd Platoon, B Company, 1/506 Infantry, 101st Airborne. On this day, April 4, which was Good Friday in 1969, he and his band of brothers were on a Reconnaissance mission in the Ashau Valley, near the Ho Chi Minh Trail. A Soldier from E Company (a recon unit) was shot by a sniper and fell to the ground.

Despite his Lieutenant's orders not to go, Michael ran to the Soldier's side to give him aide. He couldn't stand to sit there and do nothing while the man yelled for help. While my brother gave the Soldier medical attention, the sniper shot him, too. The Lieutenant heard the shot and ran to Mike's side, frantically trying to perform mouth-to-mouth after he reached him. "Doc" Michael Flood took his last breath as he laid in his Lieutenant's arms.

We received notification on April 7 that Michael was missing in action; three days later, on April 10th, they informed us he was killed in action. We received correspondence from both the 101st Airborne and the Department of Defense, regarding the manner of his death. Unfortunately, their explanations were not the same (one said land mine, the other small arms fire). It took 43 years to obtain the facts from that day.

I remember the notification day as though it were yesterday. I was 12 years old and it was Easter vacation (spring break). On Monday, April 7, 1969, I finished my chores and went for a bike ride. While riding through the barnyard, I saw our local Cumberland County Sheriff, as well as another man in uniform, talking

UIUC AROTC Cadre Conduct Casualty Notifications in 1969 (continued)

to my Dad. I thought nothing of it, except that it must be a routine visit. When I returned from my bike ride, the men were still talking to my father; my older brother even joined him. I walked into the house and turned on *I Love Lucy*.

My dad entered through the kitchen door and called my mother's name; I could tell by his tone that something was wrong. I ran into the kitchen and held onto the back of a chair as my mother approached the back door. "Mike's missing in action!" my Dad said. My mother fell apart and began hitting him in the chest, screaming. "No! No! I just knew something was wrong! He can't be missing!" She repeated that statement over and over again. I couldn't stand to watch it any longer and took off on my bike to the elderly neighbors a quarter of a mile north of us. I cried the entire way. The last thing I remember from that day was telling my neighbor the news and hopping on the bike again. That night, we received a telegram that confirmed his MIA status. My father told me later that the Soldier that came with the Sheriff was from the University of Illinois ROTC.

Back then, the Army relied on the Commanding General of the 5th Army at Fort Sheridan to make notifications and ensure families received all the medals earned during the service of the fallen. They passed this responsibility to the UIUC Army ROTC. On July 6, 1969, Major Lally presented our family with the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Medical Badge, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Sharp Shooter Badges with Rifle and Automatic Rifle Bars for M-14, M-16, Bayonet and Hand Grenade. This act brought a new wave of tears, but also made us proud of Mike's service and accomplishments. On Oct. 14, 1969, Captain Richard L. Meredith arrived to present our family with the Silver Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm. This was another sad, yet proud, moment for our family. Major Lally promised to return for any subsequent presentations; however, he deployed again to Vietnam prior to the last meeting.

These men from UIUC did what no one else wanted to do. It takes a strong and compassionate person to be able to face a family with grave news; it was equally impressive that they continued to be there for us and presented medals to honor a beloved son and brother. These men did so with a somber attitude, as they honored the fallen, yet felt deep compassion for our saddened and shocked family.

After investigation, Marlene found that CPT Richard L. Meredith died on Dec. 11, 2014, at the age of 74. He retired as a Colonel and lived in Winchester, Oregon.



On Oct. 14, 1969, Captain Richard L. Meredith of Fighting Illini Army ROTC presented our family with several of Michael's awards, including the Silver Star and Air Medal. From left to right: Kathy, Harold, Marlene, CPT Meredith, Dan, Larry, and Charlene.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Illini Alumni Continue to Support the Cadet Battalion by Mr. Eric Ashworth, Cadre Sponsor for Alumni Outreach

Coming from a small ROTC Program, I was impressed at the level of support commissioned officers from the Fighting Illini Battalion provided to the current Army ROTC Cadets. It seemed like most events we executed during the spring semester had a connection to our proud alumni. Although it is difficult to thank everyone for their contributions, here is a summary of the events made possible, in part, by the support of former Cadets:

Dining-Out: 14 former Cadets and the spouses joined us for the annual Dining-Out, held during the Army ROTC Alumni weekend. This number allowed us to place at least one alumnus at each table. These honored guests heard first-hand from Cadets about the adventures of the current Cadet Battalion, while also enjoying a willing audience for their war-stories about their own military service and past Cadet Battalion experiences.

Hall of Fame: The Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame honored five new inductees this year (see storyboard on page 16), with 17 additional alums attending the ceremony. For those who have yet to see the new Hall of Fame display, there are now 27 plaques honoring the accomplishments of former Illinois Army ROTC cadets on the east wall of the Army ROTC entrance into the Armory Building. Most of these members gained this honor thanks to alumni providing the required details to get these great Americans through the nomination process.



On April 8, 2016, the Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame had five new members added to their ranks. Two of these inductees were able to be present at the ceremony. Pictured here is Mr. Thomas Martin and Mr. Phillip Goldstick after the battalion posted their photo and citation onto the wall near the Army entrance of the Armory. From left to right: MSG Jason Staub, Mr. Thomas Martin, Mr. Phillip Goldstick, and LTC Christopher Leung.

Although no alumnus directly participated in the **Ranger Buddy** competition in April, we did receive over \$840 to support the three two-person teams we sent this year. Since this event is not sponsored by Cadet Command, each team must raise their own funds to cover lodging, transportation, registration fees and food. Thank you to all who assisted these Cadets in raising these funds.

On Saturday, 9 April, the **Tri-Service Honor's Day** Award Ceremony took place. This year 34 awards were presented to Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets. We know that many of these awards would not be possible without the scholarship and funding behind these awards that alumni provide to this and other events.

On Saturday, 23 April, the Senior Class Cadets held their annual **Staff Ride** to study the Battle of Tippecanoe. (see storyboard on page 19). Once again, alumni helped make this learning event more enjoyable by attending and accompanying us to dinner afterwards.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Illini Alumni Continue to Support the Cadet Battalion (continued)

These are just a few events where our alumni supported the Cadet Battalion. To see more photos of some of these events, please visit and “Like” our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc/>.



Colonel (R) Deborah Read and her husband, Rick, joined the MS IV Cadets during their Staff Ride to the Battle of Tippecanoe.

For those that are new alumni, we always encourage new ideas for events that allow former and current Cadets to interact. The strength of the UIUC Army ROTC program comes from alumni, in addition to cadre and Cadets. If you want to be added to our growing list of supporters, or wish to expand your involvement, please forward us your ideas at (217)-244-1407 or arotc@illinois.edu.

For example, here is a good news story reported by one of our alumni in April. **LTC Bradford Grane, LTC Jeff Barta, LTC Edgar Jiminez and LTC Kris Howell** were selected for battalion command in FY17. Congratulations Fighting Illini!

Looking ahead to the Fall 2016 semester, here are some of the events we could use your support:

- Guest Speaker for the Cadet Orientation Program. On 15 August, we will welcome the newest members in the Fighting Illini Battalion as new freshmen attend the first of three days of ROTC classes that provides them a better understanding of what occurs in their Army ROTC classes and labs. Each year a guest speaker provides initial remarks to the Cadets and their parents.
- Ranger Challenge Team: Each year the Army ROTC Department sends one or more teams up to Camp Marseilles to participate in the Brigade Competition.
- Scabbard and Blade: This renewed Military Honor Society and Senior Society still needs funding to meet all the charter fees.
- Host for the Homecoming Football Tailgate. A new social event in effort to connect alumni with Cadets.
- Guest Speaker for any Military Science class. Each year, alumni speak to specific military science classes on their experience. If you would like to speak to current Cadets, please let us know the topic so that we can coordinate for you to be a guest speaker in one or more of our classes.

We appreciate all you do. This personal and financial support does not go unnoticed. You play a significant role in the continued development of junior officers for our Army. For that, we cannot thank you enough.



Fighting Illini Battalion Alumni at the Dining-Out (L to R): LTC (R) McGuffey, CPT Martin, LTC Kuetemeyer, COL (R) Read and Mr. Thomas Martin.

Scabbard and Blade

The Return of Scabbard and Blade

After Nearly Forty Years, Fighting Illini BN Re-establishes Historic Honor Society

by 2LT Dylan Blaha, Gold Bar Recruiter

On December 7, 2015, four Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets signed a charter that re-established a historic honor society at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). The new company (A Company, 22nd Regiment) becomes the first military honor society at the University since the 1970s.

Scabbard and Blade, the oldest and largest honorary organization for advanced course students in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), was founded in the spring of 1905 by five Cadets in the University of Wisconsin Corps of Cadets. The first Scabbard and Blade company at UIUC began during the spring of 1909; at the time, UIUC became the sixth school in the nation with this society.

Prior to the abolition of the Student Army Training Corps in 1919, Scabbard and Blade was the first and only military organization on campus. Even after the transition to ROTC, the society held a key position in the military sector at the University of Illinois.

The organization survived at the University until sometime in the 1970s, when records of the society become non-existent. Now, after around forty years, the Senior Program and Honor Society return to UIUC.



During the spring 2016 Dining Out, four senior Cadets (from left to right: Dylan Blaha, Paul Kim, Erin O'Neil, and William Ripka) received admission to the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society for their outstanding achievements both academically and in ROTC.



The signed Scabbard and Blade charter for A Co, 22nd Regiment at UIUC.

This year, the Scabbard and Blade Senior Program began under the leadership of Captain Tyler Cordry, the future (fall 2016) Cadet Battalion Commander. Additionally, Cadets Nicholas Freeze, Corey Maisch, and Samuel Chung served as the Company First Lieutenant, Company Second Lieutenant, and Company First Sergeant, respectively. Major Aaron Johnson acted as the Cadre Advisor for the organization.

Furthermore, four recent graduates that commissioned were inducted in the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society during this past spring semester. Cadets Dylan Blaha, Paul Kim, Erin O'Neil and William Ripka all graduated with honors for placing in the Top 20% of the organization. In addition, the first three Cadets received recognition as Distinguished Military Graduates, for placing in the Top 10% of Army ROTC Cadets from around the country.

THE STORE

We received several requests from our alumni about making clothing and similar items available for purchase. As requested, here is the *Fighting Illini Army ROTC Store*.

“The Store” provides an opportunity to fulfill the requests of alumni, assist in marketing our program through our supporters, while giving the Cadets a fundraising resource.

A portion of the price (\$3-5) of each item will be allocated to supporting Cadet training, development, and related activities. All funding will be used for cadet activities.

S/S t \$ 12.00



L/S t \$ 15.00



Crew \$ 20.00



Hood \$ 25.00



5015 polo \$ 35.00

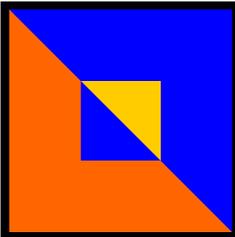


5091 polo \$ 35.00



If interested in purchasing any of these items, fill out an order form by going to the following website: teshurt.com/uiucrotc You will pay and receive your order straight from the vendor. If you have questions, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your support, and we welcome suggestions for future products. We will continue to refine this effort as we receive orders. Watch for updates in future Millini editions.



Support The Fighting Illini Battalion

University of Illinois
Foundation

Recruiting, Donations
Visits, Expertise

Much of what we accomplish in the Fighting Illini program to develop our Cadets' leadership and Army knowledge is not funded by the Army. Donations from Alumni directly impact and make it possible for the program to continue to provide the quality of development and the strong esprit de corps of the Battalion. We are thankful for the support of our Alumni to the development of these young leaders.

For those wishing to support any of the Cadet ventures through financial means, we currently have five levels of financial support. If you are willing to contribute at one of these levels, please earmark your gift it to your favorite event or club of choice.

Visit <http://www.giving.illinois.edu/> for the certified University link or call us at 217-244-1407. Some of our more popular clubs and projects aided by alumni in the past are the Rifle Team, Ruck Club, Annual Dining-In/Out, Ranger Challenge Team, the Ranger Buddy Competition, and the Norwegian Ruck March. You may also contribute to the general fund. Whatever your choice, 100% of donations go to support Cadet activities.

	Platoon Level Donor: \$100
	Company Level Donor: \$250
	Battalion Level Donor: \$500
	Brigade Level Donor: \$1000
	Division Level Donor: \$2500

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ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

The Illinois Army National Guard, a proud sponsor of *the Millini*, wishes the best for each cadet of the Fighting Illini Battalion.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
"Fighting Illini Battalion"



ARMY ROTC

