



FALL 2015

ARMY ROTC

'FIGHTING ILLINI'

BATTALION BUGLE

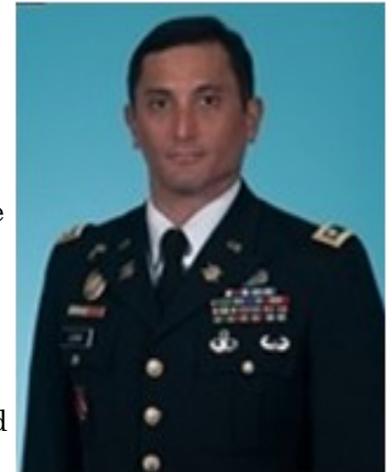
Battalion Bugle December 2015; Issue No.6

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PMS Corner

This past semester has gone by hard and fast, and the Fighting Illini Battalion certainly had many accomplishments and great moments to reflect upon. The Cadet Chain of Command did a great job planning and leading a variety of events, including: the weekly leadership labs, the fall leadership development exercise, Ranger challenge, physical readiness training, the dining-in, combat water survival and other events. While the upperclassmen planned and executed the training, Cadets at all levels had the opportunity to develop their leadership, followership, and learn about the Army's renowned processes for planning and executing training events. I can confidently say that every Cadet in the Battalion learned valuable lessons about themselves, and will be better Officers or citizen leaders based on experiences this semester.



LTC Christopher Leung

Not every plan or event this semester went exactly according to plan. There were mistakes, oversights and there was always room for improvement. This is good, because many of these mistakes and problems were crucible events where Cadet planners and leaders were able to assess, and get feedback on their actions to improve planning and processes in the future. I challenge all Cadets to push the limit on our actions, training and development, so we can maximize the value of our limited training time together. This means everybody does their part, and subordinate leaders take ownership for their cadets and ensure they are prepared with the right knowledge, equipment and mindset for every training event. It is of paramount importance for us to constantly assess and carefully plan our activities so every Cadet from the brand new MS1s to the seasoned MS4s can develop experiences and grown as leaders while training together.

This coming semester we all have much to look forward to. We will conduct a combined leadership development exercise with other schools in our regional task force (Eastern Illinois University, and Illinois State University).

Join us at the
"University of
Illinois Army
ROTC"
Facebook page
for more
current
updates and
photos!



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PMS Corner

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We will continue to challenge every Cadet in the Battalion through PRT, military science classes and weekly labs. In April, the annual ROTC Hall of Fame celebration will bring our distinguished ROTC alumni back to campus to recognize the greatest accomplishments by the most successful graduates from this program. I have no doubt that there are Cadets in the Battalion today who will someday reach the same levels of greatness and will come back to campus to be recognized as ROTC Hall of Fame honorees years from now. In addition to the Hall of Fame, this semester we will also recognize the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps. ROTC has been producing the most competent, dedicated and successful Officers in the world for over 100 years, and celebrating this great legacy will be a tremendous honor.

To the Cadets in the Battalion, I hope you all have a great winter break. Please take some time to rest and relax so you can be recharged and ready to re-attack your academics, physical fitness and leadership when you return next semester. I am very proud of this Battalion and the dedication and motivation of the Cadets here. You can be great but you have to believe in yourself, it is up to you, and always keep your eye on the prize of earning that gold Lieutenant bar. The Cadre and I, as always, stand ready to help and guide you along the way.

LTC Christopher M. Leung

Illini 6

A Note from the SMI

Cadets, Alumni, and Friends of the Illini Battalion,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Cadets for their hard work and dedication to the program over this past semester. The vast majority of Cadets are meeting and many exceeding the standards the Army has set for them. This summer we said goodbye to two of our Cadre. LTC Eric Stetson officially retire after 24 years of service and CPT Jason Nachowicz left the Army after almost a decade of service. We wish them well and many successes in their future endeavors.

I would also like to highlight Mr. Rob Reid, the supply technician for our program, was recognized by U.S. Army Cadet Command as the Supply Tech of the Year for 2015. Mr. Reid spends countless hours developing the Cadets on logistical operations in addition to his daily duties. We would also like to welcome MSG Jeffrey Price to the program and at the same time congratulate him on his selection to attend the Sergeant Major Academy next year. For the next six months we will be fortunate to have two SMI's assigned here at the same time. To the Alumni, Stay in touch. We are always interested in hearing from you. Visit when you can the Cadets want to see you. Have a incredible holiday season!



MSG Jason Staub

Illini 7

The Cadet Voice

How my expectations for ROTC are different from reality.

My view of the ROTC and the military has changed drastically as my exposure to the program progressed. Being that the only first-hand experience I have ever had related to the United States Army and ROTC was the “Call of Duty” videogame as well as useful tools like internet and movies, I am bound to draw incorrect, and superficial opinions about the organizations overall. I imagine when people think that ROTC, especially at a big ten school like the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, revolves around getting yelled at, cleaning entire barracks with a toothbrush, and allowing only followership skills to develop. These are all fallacies. The amount, we as Army ROTC Cadets accomplish before the day even begins on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday is indubitably more than nearly all of the students on campus. Things like physical training (PT), labs, leadership challenges, etc. have truly opened my eyes to what I am capable of accomplishing as a leader in training. I never knew how strong I can get when associating myself with a team that is constantly motivated to achieve greatness.



Cadet Pincsak

Additionally, I think one of my favorite components of ROTC would have to be the assignment of battle buddies. I believe this is the best aspect of ROTC since you can start a lasting friendship with the “Battle Buddy” status. Having a Battle Buddy can form a stronger bond than many other types of relationships. It is every Battle Buddy’s responsibility to watch out for their teammate as well as the battalion as a whole. With this in mind, another aspect of ROTC I enjoy is the plethora of activities to choose from when attempting to get involved. There are events like Ranger Buddy, color guard, Ranger Challenge, and rifle team. I hope to participate in as many teams and events as possible to receive the full experience of ROTC.

Finally, not only have I used ROTC for improving my mind and body, but all the skills I have and will develop over time are transferable both intrinsically via character and explicitly via a resume. ROTC is one of the most fruitful and adventurous endeavors I have ever embarked on in my life. I joined this program wanting to become a better leader, an improved athlete, and a more productive human being; luckily, I have earned more than I asked for. I originally sought knowledge and knowledge alone. Today, I can say I have found a family and myself by pushing it to the limit with minimal excuses.

Pincsak, Alexander (MS 1)



Class Participation for MS II Cadets

Most of us probably remember receiving a course syllabus or two which contained reference to “class participation” as part of our overall course grade. This past fall semester, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC MS II class experienced class participation in a somewhat different way. They had the opportunity to interact with and learn from a variety of senior officers who generously offered their time to participate in the classroom.

The Cadets of today will face an ever-changing battlefield and leadership environment as the officers of tomorrow. To provide the advantage of multiple perspectives on the range of topics which feed Cadet development as leaders; classroom guests from our alumni ranks, the university community, and our higher headquarters shared their insight with the Cadets, answered questions, and brought some questions for the Cadets themselves to answer and to provide their own insight.

Among the guest officers were:



COL Andy Morgado, an Armor officer and current commander of 3rd ROTC Brigade. He commissioned in 1994 as Distinguished Military Graduate from the Lehigh University ROTC program and previously served as Professor of Military Science at Siena College. In twenty years of Army service, he has three deployments to Iraq; two tours in South Korea; and served in a variety of command and staff positions in the continental U.S. He commanded the 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, deploying to combat in Iraq in 2011.



LTC Clay Kuetemeyer, an Infantry officer and **1993 Fighting Illini Army ROTC graduate**, is currently Deputy Command Inspector General of the Illinois National Guard. His experience includes deployment to Afghanistan with the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) and Poland's 17th Mechanized Brigade. His assignments include: Platoon Leader, Company Command, Brigade Operations Officer, Deputy G3 JFHQ-IL, and Command of 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment.



MAJ (P) Tim Newman, an Engineer and Logistics officer in the Illinois Army National Guard who works for the **University of Illinois** as Director of Facilities in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His military experience includes multiple deployments in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in positions ranging from Engineer Platoon Leader to Sustainment Brigade Support Operations Officer. He is an Eagle Scout and the current President of the National Guard Association of Illinois.

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Class Participation for MS II Cadets

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These officers provided the benefit of their experiences, triumphs, troubles, and some detailed personal stories. In doing so, they put a face and more concrete meaning to many lessons, concepts and actions Cadets learn about in the classroom, labs and field exercise environments. COL Morgado, LTC Kuetemeyer, and MAJ (P) Newman gave new life to what their experience and education taught them and much of what our Cadets are learning now. The potential relationships and connections which can benefit everyone involved are an added bonus.

The Fighting Illini Battalion can draw from a strong heritage and record of accomplishments of its alumni and those from the community who provide us support. The officers mentioned in this article are just a recent sampling of guests who share with and assist our Cadets. We are grateful to all the others who visit us at the Armory, contribute in the classrooms, provide financial support, spread the word about the benefits of Army ROTC, and attend our special events.

Any alumni or other reader of this newsletter willing to provide similar or other forms of assistance in the development of our future officers are encouraged to contact us. We know the advantages you have to offer, consider you a valued resource we seek to re-connect with going forward, and are confident your involvement will help make the whole greater than the sum of its parts. We look forward to hearing from you and working to find the opportunities to help you help our future leaders along their journey. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. We can't wait to hear from you.

CPT Dave Tanner

MS2 Instructor



MS3's Excel in Summer Development and Training

Each year, thousands of Cadets travel to new places to gain military experience in numerous assignments and training opportunities. 2015 was an exceptional year for the raising junior Army ROTC class as three cadets excelled in these unique opportunities.

Cadet Tyler Cordry, had the opportunity to attend the Sabalauski Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, Kentucky during the months of July and August. Along with the difficult physical requirements each member was required to pass, Cadet Cordry also learned how to conduct air assault operations, operate with air assault rotary wing aircraft, the basics of pathfinder operations, and aircraft safety. Later in the course, he learned sling load operations, including how to prepare and inspect cargo, and was selected to attach a sling load to a Blackhawk helicopter. During the final phase, Cadet Cordry learned how to tie several knots, tie a Swiss Seat, and how to navigate down a rappel tower. Even going to graduation was a test as the class had to complete a 12-mile ruck march prior to receiving their wings.

Cadet Cordry felt the training was valuable even if he doesn't get the opportunity to serve with an Air Assault unit, "My time at the Air Assault School was extremely useful. Although as a Cadet in ROTC I may never work with an air assault unit, the real utility of training comes from the experience. I learned a lot in a short period of time and had my mettle tested. I came back to the battalion with a new confidence and new set of competencies. In the event I get assigned to an Air Assault Unit, the content of this training will be indispensable, but the experience of the training has already proved crucial to my development as a leader."



CDT Cordry proud to be an "Army Illini"

Cadet Morgan Cross traveled to Fort Jackson, South Carolina to attend the 10-week 42A Human Resources Specialist Course as part of her Advanced Individual Training (AIT). She graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate, with the highest academic award in her cycle. 42A AIT allows Soldiers to learn the processes of maintaining emergency notification data, creating and processing casualty reports, as well as overseeing all strength management and strength distribution actions.



CDT Cross (center) at AIT with fellow Soldiers

For a 5-week span of AIT, Cadet Cross was the Student Platoon Sergeant, a position where she oversaw the actions and accountability of 41 peer-Soldiers. She coordinated and managed a myriad of details, platoon-level training, as well as lead her platoon through a 4-day field training exercise. Her hard work did not go unnoticed. At graduation, she was awarded an Army Achievement Award and two Certificates of Achievement for being the Distinguished Honor Graduate, an Ironman Soldier, and the Student Platoon Sergeant of the Cycle.

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MS3's Excel in Summer Development and Training

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Cadet Samuel Eickstedt travelled the furthest as he participated in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program in Romania. This cadet summer training opportunity provided an opportunity for U.S. cadets to train with an ally outside of the United States in return for assisting Romanian military cadets learn to speak better English.

The CULP requires a candidate to fill out an online application and then get selected from an Order of Merit List of those who applied. Once selected for a specific country, the cadet has to volunteer to spend three weeks in Romania after an eight-day train-up period at Fort Knox. The majority of the time was spent in Sibiu, Romania but the group was able to travel to some of the more historic sites on the weekends.

Cadet Eickstedt claimed CULP helped in opening his eyes to another culture that he knew very little about beforehand: "One of the most interesting aspects of the trip was the interactions and friendships our team made with the Romanian cadets. Our mission over there was to help the Romanian cadets improve their conversational English and we did so through frequent conversations about anything and everything. Before the trip, I had no idea what to expect from our Romanian counterparts and was surprised at just how much we had in common. They could have fit in well right here at the University of Illinois and we all made fast friends with each other. While they may live tens of thousands of miles away, we shared a ton of common experiences and outlooks on life. The Romanian cadets were very excited to show us around their country, they took us on weekend trips to places like Bran Castle, supposedly the childhood home of Vlad the Impaler, and Peles Castle where we stood in the drawing room where Romania's decision to stay neutral in World War 1 took place. They also let us attend one of their field training exercises for a day where we got to see how they trained militarily. We got a lot of really great experiences there which included firing blanks out of AK-47's and the Romanian equivalent of the RPK and getting to run through their grenade training course."



Mr. Eric Ashworth
MS3 Instructor



Cadets Take the Oath and Receive a Standing Ovation at Salute to Veterans Game

The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets and Cadre participated in several events during the university's Salute to Veterans as part of the activities for Dad's Weekend and the Fighting Illini football game against Ohio State on November 14, 2015. During the second quarter of the football game, eleven Cadets received a loud and enthusiastic standing ovation from the crowd of over 55,000 upon reciting the oath of loyalty, officially contracting with the U.S. Army.



Cadets reciting the Oath given by LTC Christopher Leung (not in the picture on the right) Professor of Military Science at Memorial Stadium 14 NOV 2015.

Television coverage of the game on ABC/ESPN, and broadcast by American Forces Network, included scrolling photos of Illini Army ROTC alumni and Cadets displaying University of Illinois colors and logos. Cadets supported additional activities during the day's events, including providing the Color Guard for opening the game, their usual Cadet Push-Up Crew, and a new fundraising initiative this year working a concession venue at Memorial Stadium. The effort and involvement of these Cadets in such events support the Cadet battalion operations, individual and team development as leaders, recruiting and retention goals, and overall engagement with the public at local, state and national levels.



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Cadets Take the Oath and Receive a Standing Ovation at Salute to Veterans Game

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Pictured (L to R) are, Cadets Chung, Kerasotes, Bell, Ives, Lee, Farrell, Freeze, Kusinski, Rachesky, Choi, and Brown.

Other Salute to Veterans events which included Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets and cadre support were an Illinois Army National Guard fan interaction station, a surprise family homecoming for a deployed Marine, and a display of a 100 yard long American Flag at halftime. Additional Salute to Veterans events were a skydive team's jump into the stadium carrying the American Flag and a U.S. Air Force C-130 flyover to open the game. The support on display for our veterans and Cadets that day was inspiring and motivating. It was a day the Cadets in-volved, and many others in attendance, will long remember.



More photos and video coverage of the events are available on the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc>



A Blast from the Past, Mrs. Kathy Martinez (nee Kathy Pearl)

It was a routine fall Friday afternoon around the armory. Most of the Cadre were grading assignments, and preparing lessons for the following week. I was busy in my office toiling away on my computer. As I worked, I overheard a conversation from Mr. Ostwinkle's office as I often do. I could tell right away this conversation wasn't the usual chitchat with Cadets about typical matters involving administrative requirements, paperwork or the dreaded CCIMS! The conversation took a turn and really caught my attention when I heard a lady's voice tell Mr. Ostwinkle that she was just passing through campus, and wanted to stop by since she used to work for Army ROTC. I always think it's great when our legacy members, both alumni and Cadre stop by, but I was shocked when I heard the lady say she had been a secretary for the Army ROTC from 1952-1954!

My curiosity bested me at this point, and I scrambled from my chair to meet our visitor. As I entered Mr. Ostwinkle's office, I found standing before me Ms. Kathy Martinez. I proceeded to excuse my interruption, and to introduce myself. I introduced myself as the "PMS," and I could tell right away the title didn't immediately resonate with Ms. Martinez. So, I proceeded to explain that I was in charge of the ROTC program. Apparently in the 1950's the PMS was commonly known as the "Commandant," which is why she didn't immediately recognize the title. Ms. Martinez later told me I appeared far too young to be the Commandant. Although very flattered, I feel her perceptions may be a matter of perspective since she was a very young lady in the early 1950s. Also, being Friday, I was wearing a collared university shirt instead of a uniform, further adding to the confusion.

I was very curious about Ms. Martinez and wanted to know more about her experiences and time here with Army ROTC. I wanted to know about the Cadre, Cadets, the armory, campus, and life in general in the 1950s. What a tremendous and rare opportunity this was to learn about our past, and to chat with the 1952 version of Ms. Emily Brown! Ms. Martinez was a very good sport and willing to talk about her experiences, so I took a few notes as she described what she recalled from over 63 years ago! I was fascinated, and decided then, I would write a short article about Ms. Martinez to share with the world.



Kathy Martinez in the Armory 2015



Kathy Pearl at her desk in the Armory 1952

The program was much larger in 1952 with hundreds of Cadets, and a much larger Cadre which included four Lieutenant Colonels, several Majors, six to seven Captains and a few Lieutenants. Ms. Martinez's job included tracking Cadet files, typing memos, record keeping, handling mail and operating a mimeograph copier. Ms. Martinez recalled that the Cadre were almost all World War II veterans, who predominately served in either Europe or North Africa. In 1952 it was only 7 years after the war, so most of the Cadre ranging from 30 to 50 in age were combat veterans. What an honor it is for us to study, teach and learn in the footsteps of so many veterans and Cadets from our nation's distinguished history.

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A Blast from the Past, Mrs. Kathy Martinez (nee Kathy Pearl)

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I can only imagine the classroom discussions which took place over the years in these hallowed walls about leadership, fitness, military service and academics. Perhaps 63 years from now, people will notice that all the Cadre here today in 2015 were veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, and comment about how old we look compared to the new class of 2078 Cadre!

The armory was much the same back then as it is today, of course it has developed a little more character and wear in the past 63 years, but the layout was essentially the same except for a few temporary walls and partitions which have since been removed. In fact, if you'll notice the picture of Ms. Martinez sitting at her desk in 1952, you can see that the arrangement of radiator pipes corresponds exactly to the spot across the room from SSG Willenborg's desk! I asked Ms. Martinez to stop by to recreate the picture by the radiator pipes the next time she is in town. All the radiator pipes will be ripped out as a part of the Armory renovation in fall 2016, and that history will be lost. The Armory had a dirt floor back then. I can imagine the Cadets of the day drilling on the dusty dirt floor as depicted in the historic pictures in our Army ROTC hallway. Ms. Martinez clearly recalls the sound of Cadets drilling, echoing through the armory halls. The current library was a supply room which was manned by two Sergeants named Bruno and Genet, and in the fall, cadets would line up in the office to receive their issue of books and uniforms in big packages tagged with size numbers.



Kathy Pearl running to her office in the Armory
1952

The Cadre of the day included some interesting characters. Notably, there was a Lieutenant Colonel from the 1st Cavalry Division who was always quite fond of his own appearance in uniform, and was known to stroll the halls of the Armory with his topcoat over his shoulders, proudly carrying a swagger-stick. I wasn't exactly sure what a swagger-stick was, but the modern miracle of Google quickly assuaged my curiosity. There was a Sergeant Major in charge of gunnery, assigned at the time, and during lunch hour he would sometimes allow Ms. Martinez to come down to the rifle range (where the current rock wall is located) where he taught her to fire a rifle and a .45 caliber pistol, using live ammunition. Women were not represented in ROTC at the time, in fact Ms. Martinez stated that there were no women in the program except for secretaries, and the idea of having female Cadets wasn't even considered. That is in very stark contrast to where we are today, and shows we have come a long way as a society. I was very proud to share with her that our Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet O'Neil is a female. There were a few minorities represented in the Battalion at the time, and they were all very well accepted.

The life on a university campus was similar in some ways and very different in others. Kams on Daniel Street was a staple back then too, and Wright Street contained an assortment of bars, but not as dense as it is today. A beer cost about 25 cents back then, you could get

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A Blast from the Past, Mrs. Kathy Martinez (nee Kathy Pearl)

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a shrimp cocktail for one dollar, and Newman Hall was a popular spot for lunch much as it is today. Popular activities included fraternity panty raids waged on sororities, military balls, going to see performances at Star Course. Ms. Martinez recalls seeing Stan Kenton, Nat King Cole, and some other top performers of the day. Dances were common, and having dinner at one of the many steak houses was a popular tradition. Back in the 1950's, a lot of students in both fraternities and student housing, slept outdoors on open porches while wrapped in thick comforters. So the next time a student wants to complain about the residence halls, remember that at least you are inside where it's warm! Partying until the early hours was not as common back then and residence halls, particularly women's housing, would lock the doors at 10PM, and you would be locked out, having to ring the bell until someone let you in. Of course I know that UIUC Cadets now are usually too busy studying or too tired from tough work-outs to party!



Cadet Delbert McGee aka "Fibber" with Kathy Pearl at a military ball

Ms. Martinez met and married a Cadet from the program, Stan Martinez. They moved to France where he completed the two years of service required by the ROTC. After World War II, there were many Army posts across France and Germany, but differing opinions on national policy led to France's withdrawal from NATO, and the subsequent closing of US bases in France. Ms. Martinez and her husband left military service and moved to Grosse Pointe, Michigan where he pursued a banking career with National Bank of Detroit. In 1980, they moved to Westport, Connecticut. After not having worked in an office since her job at the armory, she decided to try doing some secretarial temp work in New York City. This led to a job as Executive Assistant to the Chairman and CEO of Equitable Life Assurance Company, now known as AXA Financial. Stan Martinez passed away in August 2013, but Ms. Martinez still resides in Westport today and travels frequently to see friends and family across the country.

Thank you so much Ms. Kathy Martinez for stopping by and for sharing some of your story with us. It was a real honor to meet you and I hope our paths cross again someday. You are of course always welcome to visit your Army ROTC family here at the UIUC Armory!

By

LTC Christopher Leung

Professor of Military Science

Army ROTC Cadets Highlighted in Campus News


INSIDE ILLINOIS
NEWS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF AT ILLINOIS

This week's top news from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Nov. 12, 2015



Veterans honored in campus ceremony

Cadet Lt. Col. Erin O'Neil, the cadet battalion commander, stands at attention in front of a formation of cadets gathered during the U. of I.'s Tri-Service ROTC Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at the indoor track of the Armory building.

Upcoming Events/Alumni Affairs

The upcoming Spring 2016 opportunities to reconnect with the Battalion and fellow Alumni.

- 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony – Huff Hall and the Armory Building, April 8th, 2016
- Dining Out (Army ROTC Ball), April 8th, 2016

We are continuing to develop our Alumni rosters and photo compilations. If you have any information about previous alumni please contact us at (217)244-1407

Additionally, our Alumni outreach would benefit greatly if an individual was willing to accept the role as Coordinator for Alumni Relations. If any of our Alumni are willing and eager to step into this role, we all would greatly appreciate the dedication and its positive impact on the program.



This years Inductees will be announced in the upcoming winter newsletter.

We would love to share photos of training in years past in our upcoming editions. If you have old photos you would like to share in future newsletters, please email us at staub@illinois.edu

Contributing to the “Fighting Illini”

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 on the quality of development and 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 would be honored to receive your gift and earmark 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 earmarked clubs and projects are the Rifle Team, Ruck Club, Dining-In/Out, Ranger Challenge, Ranger Buddy, or you may also contribute to the general fund.



Platoon Level Donor: \$150



Company Level Donor: \$250



Battalion Level Donor: \$500



Brigade Level Donor: \$1500



Division Level Donor: \$5000

Contact the “Fighting Illini” Cadre

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THE FIGHTING ILLINI BATTALION
FORGING STRONG LEADERS SINCE 1868