


5-2016

UNI ROTC Panther Battalion Newsletter, May 2016

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Military Science.

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May 2016

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARMY ROTC AT UNI



ROTC CELEBRATES

100 YEARS OF

SERVICE TO OUR

NATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA



UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

PMS Corner



What an incredible year for UNI and UD ROTC, our program and Cadets have excelled in every measure of performance. We began the year with a winning female Ranger Challenge Team from UD who out-performed all teams from Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. Then in the Spring semester we celebrated our 30 Year anniversary as a host program in conjunction with ROTC's 100 Year anniversary serving our nation. Our Anniversary Ball served as the kick-off of these milestones with over 187 in attendance with alumni from the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and today.

We hosted renowned leaders from around the United States. BG (Retired) Clara Adams-Ender, the Army's first African-American general officer gave a memorable speech on positive attitude and overcoming barriers through hard work and discussed veterans issues. She was accompanied by the Honorable Delbert L. Spurlock Jr, former Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs). The Honorable Spurlock spoke about being involved in the political process and ensuring our nation is committed to taking care of our veterans. Our Cadets also met with other senior leaders as part of their capstone, article enclosed in this newsletter.

We commissioned 15 outstanding lieutenants this Spring between UNI and UD, and expect to commission two more this summer. We have a total of 33 Cadets heading to Fort Knox this summer, 26 attending Cadet Leader Course (formerly Advance Camp / LDAC) and seven Cadets attending the Cadet Initial Entry Training (formerly Basic Course / LTC). We wish them well and know they will set new standards for leadership this summer.

We say farewell to three great Cadre; MAJ Matt Parrino, CPT Dan Nesdahl, and MSG James Dyer as well as our on-campus Iowa National Guard recruiter, SFC Bryan Swift. We welcome CPT Nick Shaffer to our team.



MAJ Matt Parrino has served as our freshman and junior instructor for military science the past two years. Matt has served as the program's operations officer responsible for planning all major training events.

He is also the lead planner for combined field training exercises for all ROTC programs in Iowa and Nebraska. Matthew will relocate to another position within the Iowa National Guard this summer.



CPT Dan Nesdahl has been the sophomore and freshman instructor for military science the past three years in addition to processing all

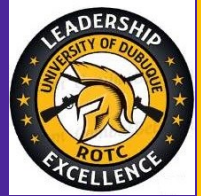
logistics for the ROTC program. Dan is moving to Fort Stewart, GA where he will oversee the training of Reserve and National Guard Army units.



MSG James Dyer has been the junior, sophomore, and freshman instructor for military science the past three years. MSG Dyer has served as the senior enlisted adviser for the program and is a great example of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps to the Cadets. He and his wife, Misty, are moving to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he will oversee training at the Infantry School.



University of Northern Iowa ROTC Cadet Capstone Leadership Development Exercise



The Seniors of University of Northern Iowa Army ROTC program conducted their capstone leadership exercise April 1st through 7th. The exercise began with the Combined Leadership Development Exercise (CLDX) at Camp Dodge where the MSIVs interacted, planned, and networked with peers from all Task Force schools. The UNI Cadets had a leader engagement with former 1st Armored Division Commander Major General (Retired) William Nash who commanded the first US peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. MG (Ret) Nash shared his leadership philosophy and engaged Cadets in discussions ranging from ethical conduct, dealing with stress and fear in combat, and leading Soldiers. The Cadets attended Elizabeth Becker's lecture on Cambodia and unintended consequences of military engagement. Elizabeth Becker is an author, Washington Post reporter, and renowned journalist who studied Cambodia, Khmer Rouge, and testified in Khmer Rouge tribunals. University of Dubuque Cadets had a leader engagement with the US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District Commander, COL Craig Baumgartner. The culminating event was at the Iowa Veterans Museum where Cadets completed a Virtual Staff Ride of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, viewed the Vietnam exhibit with an in-depth view of the 50 year anniversary of the war, and engaged with a panel of Vietnam Veterans. Each of the Vietnam Veteran's led a group of Cadets through the exhibit and shared their experiences. The event was a memorable experience for the Cadets and a great opportunity to recognize our Veterans



MG (R) William Nash with UNI MSIV Cadets



Vietnam Veterans Panel Discussion and tour of the
Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum

UNI ROTC 30th Anniversary/Army ROTC 100th Anniversary

UNI ROTC celebrated its 30th birthday as a host program this year along with the 100th anniversary of Army ROTC. The main celebration took place at the Panther Battalion's Military Ball which was held on February 27 in the Maucker Student Union Ball Room. 188 cadets, cadre, alumni, and supporters attended the event. In 1986, the Panther Battalion split off from the University of Iowa ROTC program to establish its own Cadet Battalion. The program has commissioned 498 officers for the active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. The Panther Battalion also hosted a fun run on April 23 to celebrate a century of ROTC producing officers. 50 cadets from UNI ROTC, Waterloo East High School Junior ROTC, and Waterloo West High School Air Force Junior ROTC completed the 5-kilometer fun run.



ROTC Color Guard Leading the Homecoming Parade, 2007



Waterloo East High School JROTC Color Guard at the Panther Battalion's 2016 Military Ball

Cadet Leadership Development Exercise



This year's Cadet Leadership Development Exercise (CLDX) was held on 31MAR16 to 03APR16 at Camp Dodge, Iowa. This training event consisted of over 300 cadets representing every ROTC Program in Iowa and some in Nebraska. This event had the feel of a 72 hour deployment cycle which stressed future leaders in a training environment and tactical scenarios. During the cycle they had to build teams with other programs to accomplish a common goal. Cadets left the training with a wealth of knowledge and experiences from working with and leading their peers. The cadets will rely heavily on this experience as most of them depart for Fort Knox, Kentucky this summer to attend Cadet Leader Course (CLC).



Field Training at Camp Dodge during the TF Dodge CLDX

2016 Spring Commissioning



The Panther Battalion commissioned four new officers at their spring commissioning ceremony held on May 7 in Seerley Hall. All four of the new officers will serve in the Iowa Army National Guard. 2nd Lieutenants Tyler Christy (B.A. Criminology) and Christopher McIntyre (B.A. Social Science Education) commissioned into the Infantry branch. 2nd Lieutenant Jacob Johnson (B.A. Movement and Exercise Science) commissioned into the Medical Service Corps. Finally, 2nd Lieutenant Dustin Smith (B.A. Technology Education) commissioned into the Transportation Corps. 2nd Lieutenant Smith will also serve on campus this summer as a Gold Bar Recruiter to assist the Panther Battalion in its summer recruiting efforts. Together, these four officers bring the total number of commissioned officers through the program to 498 and all are part of the “Centennial Class” of ROTC graduates nationwide.



(Left to right) 2nd Lieutenants Tyler Christy, Christopher McIntyre, Dustin Smith, and Jacob Johnson at their commencement ceremony

UNI Cadet Summer Training

UNI ROTC cadets will have a busy summer ahead of them with 9 UNI cadets attending a Cadet Summer Training course. Cadets Timothy Logemann, Nicole Duschen, Joshua Mixdorf, Jayme Edmund, Cody Nolan, Curtis Ege, and Trey Roosa will attend the 30-day Cadet Leader Course held at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The purpose of the course is to hone their leadership skills prior to their last year in the program. Likewise, Cadet Colin Johnson will attend the course and commission as an officer in the Iowa National Guard upon completion. Also, after the Cadet Leader Course, Cadet Jayme Edmund will serve as a history intern for the Army. The UNI cadets will work alongside cadets from ROTC programs across the nation as they go through the training and return in the fall to plan and conduct Panther Battalion's cadet training.

Freshman Cadet Jack Rollison will also head to Fort Knox before traveling to the country of Peru as part of ROTC's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program. Cadet Rollison will spend 3 weeks in country partnering with the Peruvian Military for a service project. Upon return to the U.S., Cadet Rollison will attend the 28-day Cadet Initial Entry Training at Fort Knox before returning to UNI for his sophomore year.

Cadre Farewells Continued:



SFC Bryan Swift has served as the Iowa National Guard On-campus recruiter since June 2013. He has been instrumental in bringing in National Guard Soldiers to the program, allowing UNI to be a leader in the 3rd ROTC Brigade for Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty scholarships. He served as the main liaison with all National Guard offices and helped bring in training resources and promotional items. SFC Swift also taught the Military Survival Skills class. SFC Swift will move to Oelwein and continue to serve as a National Guard recruiter in several NE Iowa high schools.

Alumni News and Upcoming Events

This year was marked with several anniversaries the 30th UNI ROTC, 100 years of Cadet Command and the first year of the UNI ROTC Alumni Program. We held an event tied to the military ball which saw several Alumni and their families come back to tour the west gym, meet current cadets and cadre. We are planning to have an open house this coming fall on the Friday before the homecoming game and then have a tailgate at the game for all alumni and supporters of the ROTC Program. Dates are 30 September (Open House) and 01 October 2016 (Tailgate). More information will be emailed out and posted on Facebook. If you are not receiving emails please contact debra.ackerson@uni.edu or find the UNI ROTC Alumni Page on Facebook.



For more information on upcoming events and other Panther Battalion news, please contact us at:

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Panther Battalion Spring Semester in Review

