

# JSU ROTC ALUMNI

## Chapter Newsletter

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December 2013

### President's Remarks



Greetings fellow Gamecock Battalion alumni - on behalf of the ROTC alumni board of directors I would like to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season. We would like to extend a special wish for safety and peace for our members serving away from home.

Following our annual alumni banquet, I had an opportunity to appoint

the board of directors for the year. Each of us is dedicated to providing support to both our fellow alumni as well as our ROTC chapter. Our contact information is available on the ROTC website: <http://www.jsu.edu/rotc/rotcalumni/chapterofficers.html>

I am extremely happy to have LTC (R) Joe Serviss returning as our Secretary/Treasurer and LTC (R) Bruce Pickette serving in the capacity of Immediate Past President. Our alumni board has been very fortunate to benefit from their institutional knowledge, guidance, and dedication. Former JSU PMS LTC Richard White and LTC (R) Dave Bowles have also agreed to return to serve on the board; their previous board experience provides a solid base for our operations. Our new members bring a wealth of military and civilian experience. COL (now CW2) Ed Friar is a member of the class of '81, LTC (R) John Hopson is a member of the class of '88, LTC David Crenshaw is a class of '91, CPT(P) Anthony Whitley is a member of the class of '92, and CPT Sandy Hunter is a member of the class of '04.

For this year, I would like to accomplish the following:

- Increase our endowment from \$31,000 to \$50,000
- Raise the amount of the chapter operating fund from \$2,000 to \$5,000
- Double the number of alumni who attend the annual homecoming banquet
- Create a pool of company grade and field grade mentors (all branches and components) to provide

mentorship to our cadets (based on branch and component), with a strong desire for the relationships to last through the cadets' military career

- Successfully compete for alumni chapter of the year
- Garner more participation in the alumni chapter and expand leadership nominations to include a first and second vice president

As you might suspect, achieving any of these goals will be impossible without your time, talent, and financial support.

### Chapter Operating Fund

Unlike the endowment, which exists only to support scholarships, the chapter-operating fund provides the alumni board with the resources to pay for the annual alumni banquet deposit, printing and postage costs, and to provide support to chapter requests for assistance. Recently, the chapter requested assistance totaling \$3,000 to support Ranger Challenge team needs. Based on a thorough review of the current fund total and projected needs for the remainder of the year, the board determined that we could safely provide \$1,000 to support the chapter's request. A portion of these funds comes from the JSU telephone campaign, where the university removes a small percentage of the donated amount as a service fee. Checks made out to the JSU Foundation with "for fund 4510" written at the bottom allow 100 percent of the donated amount to reach the chapter-operating fund.

Please send checks to JSU Foundation, Rock House, 700 Pelham Rd. N., Jacksonville, AL 36265

### Silent auction items needed

In an effort to increase our chapter-operating fund, we are considering holding a silent auction at the annual banquet. To be successful, we need your help. If you have a relationship with a company willing to donate items for our silent auction or have items that may be of interest, please let me know. During a recent discussion, items such as hotel free-night vouchers, foursomes at golf courses (such as Robert Trent Jones), access to a timeshare property that would otherwise go unused, all came up as items that may be of interest to our members and could generate bids during the auction.

## Update from Major Paul J. Thiessen

An amazing end to an amazing semester! Thanks to all who came out during homecoming. Our Cadets had a blast and we are looking forward to doing it even better next year. If you are paying any attention to Gamecock football you know our team is destroying the competition and we couldn't be more proud. At the Battalion we are making huge gains as well! Our MSIIIs, under the leadership of CPT Sawdy and MSG Corley, have achieved an end of semester Army Physical Fitness Test class average of 282. This is a great indicator of the quality of Cadets we are blessed to have and postures the Battalion to be extremely competitive at camp this summer. Our seniors have received their branch accessions and we are pleased to announce that nearly all of them received their branch of choice with five selected for active duty and the remainder Army Guard or Reserve. The five active selections are branched Military Police, Quartermaster, Air Defense Artillery, Transportation and Military Intelligence branch detailed to Chemical Corps. If we have any Alumni out there in those branches keep an eye out for them, they are all high quality and will be huge benefit to any organization. Additionally, congratulations are in order for our five newly commissioned Second Lieutenants. That's a great start for the commissioning year and puts us well on our glide path to achieve our mission to produce 17 officers this year.

Our Ranger Challenge team is getting at it over the Christmas Break. While the other 51 university teams are getting fat and happy on break our team continues to train hard. Our

team is well postured to compete at Camp Blanding, Florida in late January. They are conducting miles of foot marches, building proficiency with their newly purchased zodiac boat, the one-rope bridge, trauma lane, basic rifle marksmanship and more. We expect impressive results and will keep you posted on their future achievements. As always, on behalf of the Cadets and Staff, thank for all of your support, grants, donations and purchases they are really making a difference in improving the program. If you are in the area stop-by Rowe Hall we would love to see your and if you have any questions contact us we are here to help. For updates make sure you friend us on Facebook [@Gamecock Battalion3](#). Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Go Gamecocks!



## Alumni of the Year Nominations

Anyone may make nominations for Military Alumnus of the Year. Nominations are due no later than the end of June and include a biographical sketch and photograph. The nominee:

- Must be a graduate of JSU,
- Must be an officer on active duty or an active Guardsman or Reservist,
- Must join or be a member of the JSU Alumni Association,
- Must play an active role in promoting the university,
- Must have shown outstanding military achievement, and,
- Must be available to attend Homecoming to receive the award.

Selection is through consensus of the Chapter's board.

## Annual Alumni Banquet



The annual alumni banquet occurs on the Friday night of homecoming weekend beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Cole Library. Once the university announces the homecoming date, we will send an update. We

would really love to see you at the banquet! Come and renew old friendships, make new ones or just come and meet the cadets. You are part of a very proud heritage and your story is important.

We look forward to seeing you.

## **ROTC Endowment Fund**

Past President, Cliff Lanham, reached out to members in 2008 to initiate the endowment fund. The endowment fund established to provide scholarships to ROTC cadets had an initial target of \$25,000, with a final goal of \$100,000. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the endowment stands at \$31,000, which allows us to support an award that represents 5 percent of the trailing 12-quarter market value average which is about \$1,500. I am asking your help to increase the endowment to \$50,000, which would allow us to support awards totaling up to \$2,500; after matching by the JSU Foundation, our award grows to \$5,000. As mentioned in the original endowment letter on the ROTC website, a check made out to the JSU Foundation with "for ROTC Endowment" written at the bottom, would allow these tax deductible funds to provide critical support for our cadets. As you may already know, JSU now ranks as the sixth most expensive four-year public university in the state, with annual in-state tuition of \$8,790 and the largest percentage increase in tuition costs in the state since 2012, according to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Abstract1314/Fees/Index.htm>

The cadets need our support in order complete their degrees and serve their country.

## **Updated contact information needed**

As printing costs continue to rise, we plan to distribute information electronically in the future. Although we have good e-mail addresses for a large number of our members, we do not have e-mail addresses for everyone. For our members who are still serving and have provided a .mil e-mail address, we have experienced issues with spam filters and filters that strip e-mail attachments; if you have an alternate e-mail and are willing to share, please send your updated or alternate e-mail address to [alumni@jsu.edu](mailto:alumni@jsu.edu).



## **Fall 2013 Commissioning Ceremony**

Congratulations to our newest Second Lieutenants! The commissioning ceremony was well attended and BG Brian C. Harris provided the lieutenants with his thoughts and insights on how to be a successful leader. During the commissioning ceremony on December 13, the following received commissions:

**2LT JACOB L. BRIGHTWELL**  
Air Defense Artillery, Active Duty

**2LT JOSEPH M. BURNETT**  
Medical Service Corps, Army Reserves

**2LT JONATHAN C. FARMER**  
Ordnance Corps, National Guard

**2LT SARAH E. RENFORTH**  
Air Defense Artillery, Active Duty

**2LT HIKEEM L. THOMAS**  
Military Intelligence, Army Reserves

We are looking forward to an exciting year for our chapter and need your help to be successful in our efforts to provide unmatched support to the ROTC Chapter. If I can be of service to you throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks in advance for your help!  
Chuck



## Fall Awards Program

Since 2003, our scholarship program in conjunction with matching funds from the JSU Alumni Association has provided over \$188,000 in scholarships to deserving cadets. Thanks to the continued generosity of our scholarship sponsors, we presented the following scholarships during the Fall Awards Program:

Anniston Elks Lodge #189 ROTC Scholarships

**Cadets William Benefield and Dalton Murphy**

Captain Donnie R. Belser Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Chad Alan Boyer**

Second Lieutenant Matthew A. Blount Memorial ROTC Scholarships

**Cadets Amanda Wells and Christopher Hobbs**

James and Ethel Boozer ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Misha Dantzler**

Captain Kyle A. Comfort Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Chelsea Jones**

Elite Letterman's Club ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Dominique Stewart**

Fort McClellan Credit Union ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Kimberly Stiles**

Colonel James (Jim) T. Heathcock Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Isiah Burgin**

Loy Scott Lee Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Sarah Pugh**

First Lieutenant Grady E. McBride III Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Joshua Garrett**

Captain Jerry W. McNabb Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Joseph Burnett**

Captain Richard C. Miller Memorial ROTC Scholarship (Hanks)

**Cadet Evan Prince**

Captain Richard C. Miller Memorial ROTC Scholarship (Heathcock)

**Cadet Craig Dobbs**

Captain Richard C. Miller Memorial ROTC Scholarship (Welch)

**Cadet Matthew P. Baker**

Northeast Alabama Military Officers Association (MOAA) ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Desmond Clay**

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Savage Memorial ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Dayton Grissam**

Dewey E. Tate ROTC Scholarship

**Cadet Jonathan Farmer**

Major Dwayne Williams Memorial ROTC Scholarships

**Cadets Emerald Padgett and Russell Dean**



### JSU ROTC ALUMNI CHAPTER

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road North

Jacksonville, AL 36265

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