

Clarkson Army ROTC

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Word from the CDT Battalion Commander: By: CDT McLaughlin

Hello family and friends of the Golden Knight Battalion. I would like to thank all the parents and friends that came to our Dining Out and to inform all of you that the pictures are posted on our website at www.clarkson.edu/armyrotc. The Dining Out took countless hours to plan and prepare for; I hope it was enjoyable for all. If you were at the Dining Out you might have already heard of all the good things that the cadets of the Golden Knight Battalion have accomplished this year but if not, I will inform you that we took 1st place at the ARMY Ten-Miler and won the 1st Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition. But that's in the past; we have big things planned for the Spring.

First off, if you didn't know it, the ARMY is growing in size by six maneuver brigades and two support brigades. To help fill these officer vacancies, the cadets of the Golden Knight Battalion are honing their recruiting skills. We are continuing to grow and do our part to help the ARMY as a whole.

Our next big event for the spring is the Joint FTX where we will be joining forces with Cornell University, Niagara University, and Syracuse University. During the FTX all the cadets will improve their day/ night land navigation, execute STX lanes (squad tactical exercises), and improve their understanding of OPORDS (operation orders). Best of all we will be spending one night out in the field.

After the FTX, our main focus goes towards finals and for the MS IV's, graduating. Upon graduation we will have 11 MS IV's commissioning; Katie Cavan (SP), Danny Cunningham (SP), Joseph Frego (CU), Andrew Gaffield (CU), Christopher Giovino (SLU), Kristie Hanley (CU), Zachary Lewis (CU), Michael McLaughlin (CU), Andrew Mills (SLU), Sean Regan (CU) and William Toft (CU). These 11 MS IV's will be 2LT's and will be headed back to LDAC (Leadership, Development and Assessment Course), and one will be headed to LTC (Leadership Training Course), the remainder will be headed to BOLC II (Basic Officer Leadership Course).

That's it for now, I hope you are all proud of your cadets for giving back to their country and joining ARMY ROTC. We are one of the top ROTC battalions in the country and will continue stay on top.

"From the Front"



Fort Drum Soldiers Visit CU: By CDT Regan

On February 29th, more than 100 Soldiers from Ft. Drum joined members of Clarkson Guard and the Golden Knight Battalion for “Soldier Appreciation Night” at Clarkson University’s Cheel Arena. The soldiers received free tickets to the Clarkson v. Princeton hockey game, as a token of appreciation for their service to our country. Following the game, refreshments were provided for all who attended. Cadet Ives commented that “Ft. Drum appreciation day was a great opportunity to meet Soldiers and show thanks for their service.” Cadets and cadre of the Golden Knight Battalion also manned two tables set up to let Soldiers learn about our Green to Gold program and opportunities in Army R.O.T.C. The evening turned out to be a great success.

ARMY DOMINATES AIR FORCE: By CDT Frego

After a hard 5-3 loss last year to the Air Force in the quest to win the coveted Boot, Army came back this year on February 24th and won the game by an unprecedented score of 15-4. This win clinched the Boot for the Army who will be receiving the boot back from the Air Force during the annual basketball game. This overwhelming victory was the result of the hard work that the participating cadets put in, to include 5:30am practices and fielding a ten man team for the Clarkson intramural A league. The team was lead by Junior Captain Jason Burgess and Coaches 2LT Dalton and MAJ Toth. Freshman Phillip Ables showed some suburb skill scoring over 5 goals, however the win was an entire team effort. The team consisted of: goaltender Kerry Mitchell; forwards Joe Frego, Andrew Mills, Nicholas Miles, Derrick Hairston, Bob Walsh, and Geoff Vantine; defensemen Jason Burgess, Mark Knoeller, Bobby Pouliot, Charles Brewer, Phil Ables, Chris Janaro and Geoff Smith.



Dual Dual: CDT Hanley

On February 8th, the SUNY Potsdam intramural department held the Dual Duel, co-sponsored and co-hosted by Army ROTC. The Dual Duel consisted of seven events, including big glove boxing, jousting, a bungee run, pedal go karts, and others, in which teams of two competed with several other teams for points. Over 80 people attended the event and had a great time. When the competition finished, the good times continued as everyone in attendance was welcomed to participate in all the events, many competing against their friends and teammates. While ROTC teams technically swept the board for points and placement (the winning team was MAJ Prayner and CPT Whitt), the title of winner was relinquished to three teams made up of SUNY Potsdam students. Overall, the event was a success, and it helped to increase the awareness of Army ROTC on the SUNY Potsdam campus.



Colton 10 Miler: By CDT Morphet

Despite freezing weather and fresh snow in the North Country, members from the Clarkson University Golden Knight Battalion have once again displayed their keen running enthusiasm at the 2008 Colton Winterfest 10 Miler in Colton, NY.

On Saturday, January 26, Clarkson University Seniors Joseph Frego and James Onley, Juniors Amanda Crosley, Jason Burgess and Tyler Weaver, Sophomore Dylan Morphet, as well as cadre LTC John Hinrichs, MAJ Scott Toth and CPT David Whitt joined over sixty other runners to run the legendary course.

Starting from the Colton-Pierrepont Elementary School, runners made their way through the scenic hills of Colton, reaching an elevation of over 700 feet from the starting location, and finished at the Colton Town Hall. Afterwards, cadets and cadre enjoyed both the warmth and refreshments at the award ceremony held at the school. Despite immense competition from some of the best runners in the North Country, top finishing in age group awards and trophies were presented to cadets Jason Burgess and Amanda Crosley as well as MAJ. Scott Toth and CPT. David Whitt. Jason Burgess was awarded another trophy for his 1:07:01 run time and fifth place overall finish. Cadets and cadre from the Battalion run the Colton Winterfest 10 Miler every year and strongly encourage others to join them.





Why Army ROTC: CDT Ables

It's not every day you get a call from someone asking if you'd like to go to college with a guaranteed job after four years and full tuition paid for. I joined the Army ROTC battalion at Clarkson University for three main reasons. The first, and most important reason, was to serve my country as an Officer of the United States Army. I feel it's very important to defend my rights and freedoms that have been protected for me by my ancestors. The second reason was a guaranteed job after four years; there aren't very many programs in the U.S. that guarantee you a job right out of college doing something you'll love and be proud to do. The third reason is an education free of debt, I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from the Army of \$160,000, all I need to do is pass my physical fitness test and maintain a grade point average of a 2.5 or better. The Army not only pays for my education it also pays me to learn which includes buying my books!

When I first got to Clarkson I was already far more prepared than all my peers. My mentor, who is a fourth year cadet and soon to be a second lieutenant, advised me on what I should do, where I should go, and even took me out to dinner to make sure I was squared away and ready to start my first year of school. Everyone in the battalion is friendly and cares about everything we do, especially if we're not staying in shape or falling behind in classes.

Another great thing about the Clarkson Army ROTC program is the experience and leadership of our cadre. Each one of my cadre care about me just as much as my parents do frequently asking me questions such as, how are your classes? Have you gotten a tutor in your weak subject? Are you going to all your classes? They even ask if we talk to our parents on a day to day basis.

The best advice I could give to one of my peers here at Clarkson or to an aspiring high school student is to check out the Clarkson Army ROTC program, so far it's been the best decision of my life!



Dining Out: By CDT Rourke

On February 16, 2008 the Army ROTC Golden Knight Battalion held its annual Dining Out event on the campus of SUNY Potsdam. Two hundred and fifteen people attended including Freshmen through Senior Cadets and their families, Alumni, Army Officers, and honored guests. The list of honored guests included the President of SUNY Potsdam, Dr. John Schwaller, Clarkson's Provost Dr. Thomas Young, and former Professor of Military Science and Clarkson Alum Lieutenant Colonel (retired) James Hassett. The event included a social hour where families, NCO's and officers had the chance to mingle. A humorous ceremony of the grog was held that combined unusual ingredients that were symbolic of the time spent in the North Country. Also a casual dinner accompanied by a pianist and free time to see some of the photographs and awards that cadets of the Battalion have earned.

The evening was highlighted by the guest speaker, First Lieutenant Justine Peters. She is a 2005 graduate of the Golden Knight Battalion and St. Lawrence University who recently returned from a tour in Iraq. Her remarks highlighted the fact that what she had learned while being a St Lawrence student and a part of the Golden Knight Battalion, as well as her subsequent training allowed her to successfully prepare a brand new platoon for their first time deployment taking control of truck drivers, fuel specialists, cooks, and medics to support the Army's ongoing mission in Iraq. She spoke of her 15 month deployment in Iraq where her unit manned one of largest Entry Control Points where they searched upwards of 1,000 Iraqi pedestrians and 150 Iraqi vehicles daily. The focus of her talk was that leadership is based on taking care of the soldiers you lead. She spoke of that leadership revolves around giving them the best training, and setting high standards while also taking care of soldiers and their families both in the Army and out.

The Cadet Battalion Commander took some time during the evening to recognize outstanding cadets who worked hard on the Ranger Challenge Team, the Army Ten Miler, and those cadets who have also recently joined the Battalion. Junior Cadet Michael Herman came forward with his parents, Francis and Majorie Herman, to take his oath as a contracted Army Cadet and intention to become an Army officer upon his graduation from college. A video of different Battalion events was shared with all present and copies were given out as gifts. The Junior Cadets graced the audience with the Cadet Creed and the Seniors attempted to sing the cadet song 'A Bar of Gold.' Senior Cadets walked away from their last Dining Out with a larger sense of responsibility, realizing college is almost over and their Army careers are just a few months from beginning. Underclassmen left the evening, excited about what lies ahead of them in the program and eager to get out into the Army.



Skiing In the North Country: By CDT Cavan



The Golden Knight Battalion (GKB) had their annual ski trip to Titus Mountain on Feb 2, 2008. Titus Mountain is located in the Adirondack region of Upstate NY. The mountain has an overall elevation of 1350 feet, a vertical drop of 1200 feet and 27 trails. Most of us in the GKB like the snowy weather Northern NY bring us every year because unlike many individuals, we know that once the snow starts to fall, its time to break out the skis and snow boards.

Over twenty family and friends of the GKB made the 45 min drive to Malone, NY. Our convoy was wrapped around the parking lot, stretching almost ¼ mile long, filled with skis, snow boards , cadets, friends and family, eager to get to the mountain. Once at the mountain, the experienced skiers went out to the harder trails, while the beginners started on the bunny slope. But that was soon too easy, especially for cadet Keyes who would go down the slope skiing backwards, waving to the rest of us trying to get our bearings.

Riding up on the different lifts, you were almost guaranteed to see someone you knew coming down the mountain. Many of us would make the mistake of shouting someone's name, having them look up, then fall on to the snow. But sometimes they would fall anyways, get up, look around to see if anyone saw...and most of the time, someone did, and there was usually a camera there to capture the event. Groups then began to form, and packs of us would be going down the mountain at the same time, racing one another to the bottom, and to the line for the lift.

The ski trip is always a great event each year. If you were unable to join us this year, the snow will be back again next year, and with it, we hope it brings you to the slopes with the Golden Knight Battalion Family.



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TRADOC Surgeon: CDT McTarnaghan

The media tends to portray mostly bad news about the war that our nation is engaged in, so attending Colonel Jeff Short's seminar here at Clarkson University revealed many positives that have gone overlooked.

The Army's medical scholarship program gave Colonel Short the incentive to join the military, and after graduation he was required to serve four years of service. His decision to join the Army to pay for medical school was not regretted as he still serves after completing his required commitment many years ago.

At the seminar, Col. Short spoke with pride of his experience overseas. He practiced in a tented hospital and treated detainees. The tented hospital hosted specialties ranging from dental and general surgeons to dermatologists and podiatrists. The doctors were on six month rotations, and in a rotation one doctor may have preformed up to 500 surgeries. In perspective, a doctor practicing in the U.S. usually sees 500 surgeries over a span of 2-3 years. In addition, some of the surgeries Col. Short preformed had never even been done before.

Col. Short mentioned few hardships and complaints when telling stories of the many Iraqis he treated, and spoke especially passionately about two young girls that he had helped. His enthusiasm illustrated his intention to help the detainees lacking medical attention. Colonel Jeff Short's seminar was an inspiring alternative to what we often hear on the evening news.



1LT Peters Class of '05, 2LT Kittle Class of '07, 1LT Beiniks Class '06