



Screaming THE BISON NEWS

ARMY ROTC Alumni Newsletter



Vol. 5/Fall 2005

Indiana University Alumni Association

IUB Pershing Rifles team hosts NATCON 2005

This past year has been exciting for Pershing Rifles Company A-3. We successfully initiated two pledge classes, hosted and participated in the National Convention of Pershing Rifles, and bid farewell to a number of distinguished graduates. The remaining riflemen have pledged to continue Company A-3's long tradition of excellence in this next year through participation in both NATCON 2006 in Washington, D.C., and on the National Headquarters staff.

Company A-3 gained 12 new members this past year through a rigorous six- to eight-week pledging process culminating in a 12-hour initiation night that encompassed all their knowledge of the Company A-3, military drill and ceremonies, and the society as a whole. These new members now serve as the backbone of the company.

While conducting pledge training, the active members of A-3 were planning for NATCON 2005, which took place April 6-10 in Bloomington; the drill competition was held in IU's Assembly Hall and included companies from across the country. IU placed second overall, receiving first place honors in Regulation Squad competition and the IDR Knockout. A-3 was given the "Best Company" award by the society in recognition of its repeated high performance at previous NATCONs and its planning and execution of NATCON 2005.

This year, for the first time in Pershing Rifles' history, the National Headquarters is not located in Lincoln, Neb. Instead, the NHQ staff has been dispersed throughout the nation in the hopes of better serving the society. I was selected as this year's G-4 national supply officer; I host and maintain the society's supply shop as well as outfit the member companies with their equipment. The G-4 position will most likely stay at IU, ensuring Company A-3's continued significance within Pershing Rifles.

— CDT John Donovan



Company A-3 executes a drill during NATCON 2005.

From the commander

Bison Battalion exceeds expectations

Dear Indiana University Army ROTC Alumni,

The Bison Battalion is still strong and doing great. We have approximately 100 cadets in the program and have exceeded our commission mission for the last two years. The Army has recently increased our mission, and we now are expected to produce 19 officers every year for the Army.

We have been very successful on and off campus over the past couple of years. Indiana University ROTC cadets made history by taking first place at IU Sing, being awarded the Most Memorable Moment, and winning the Rita Erickson Award. Our men's and women's Little 500 teams placed 17th and 18th, respectfully. The nine-man Ranger Challenge team finished fourth in 2003 and first in 2004 against 21 other teams within the brigade. In 2004, we fielded our first five-man Ranger Challenge team, and they placed second in their first competition. The Pershing Rifles team has placed second in the nation for the past two years, and they hosted the competition here at Indiana University in April 2005.

On behalf of all the cadre and cadets, we want to extend to each of you our appreciation for your service to our nation and continued support of the Bison Battalion at Indiana University.

— LTC Michael A. Scudder
Professor, Department of Military Science

Trial by fire: Becoming a cadet battalion commander

The position of the cadet battalion commander is, as I think many leadership positions can be, both highly rewarding and, at times, unforgiving. As the battalion commander, one becomes the single person ultimately responsible for the success or failure of planning and executing training as well as preparing the underclassmen for LDAC. It quickly becomes clear that a devoted and hard-working staff is your greatest asset; they are fundamental to your success as a leader. Fortunately, I was surrounded by people who were both capable and willing to go the extra 10 miles when I needed them to.

Interestingly, I found that the most rewarding aspects of being the battalion commander were also those that were most demanding. On an average day, I would spend between one and three hours in the office at the ROTC building, conducting meetings, planning and finalizing training events, or meeting with other cadets and/or cadre. In the evenings, I would spend an average of two to three hours answering e-mails to update the MSIV leadership on any new information that might affect our training schedule, or to the battalion as a whole, to address issues or concerns I had. All this had to be completed before I could tend to other academic course work.

As an MSIV, one is essentially running a business with more than 110 employees while also balancing the demands of



Ryan Brennan

school, work, and extracurricular involvement. In addition to every hour I spent working, there were as many as 15 other senior cadets working an equal amount of time on the tasks that I or the cadre had given to them.

It is a strange and startlingly fast role transition when becoming the battalion commander. Without any special training, I suddenly became a mentor, mediator, and confidant for my fellow cadets. Moreover, I inherited the responsibility

of always setting an example of respect and professionalism. More often than I ever anticipated, I found myself meeting with cadets to set up tutoring sessions, find financial aid resources, deal with scheduling difficulties, and address issues of dishonesty, good/bad conduct, and even depression and relationship concerns. As the battalion commander, I also found that I was often the first outlet for frustration and anger from both cadets and cadre, and I was expected to address each concern as quickly as possible. These were simultaneously the most demanding and most rewarding aspects of the job. All the time and effort, however, seemed like only minor inconveniences compared to knowing that someone had placed their trust in me to help them and lead them. It is something I would gladly do again.

I received my commission in May 2005 and am currently on educational delay while attending the Indiana University School of Medicine. As part of my commitment to the Army Medical Corps, I will attend Officer Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston next summer. After completing medical school, I will repay my scholarship commitment as an Army physician beginning in May 2009. Currently, I plan to pursue a medical specialty in cardiothoracic or trauma surgery and hope to someday serve in a Ranger or Special Forces unit.

— CDT Ryan Brennan
Cadet Battalion Commander, 2004–05

ROTC recruiting experience calls for creativity, teamwork

My experience this summer as a ROTC recruiter was both challenging and informative. I learned more about the ROTC program and what it takes to join than I had ever imagined.

We kicked off the month of June with freshman orientation at the Student Recreational Sports Center, where we showcased the ROTC program to incoming freshmen. Freshman orientation made me realize that recruiting is tougher than it looks, especially on such a liberal campus as Indiana University. Gaining the interest of students and their parents required the combined effort of an experienced recruiter and a friendly cadet. But with the combined creativity of a recently commissioned second lieutenant, cadre, and myself, we managed to reach out to a

number of Indiana University students.

My job introduced me not only to the recruiting aspect of the program, but also to the administrative side. The recruiting operations officer put me in charge of managing the lead database, a program designed to organize prospects and potential cadets. By mid-July, I had been assigned the largest and most important task of the summer: freshman mail-outs. Our goal was to reach all incoming freshmen who met certain academic standards and let them know what the ROTC program is about and what it has to offer. The job seemed endless, with 3,600 envelopes to stuff, seal, and affix with address labels. After two weeks, it proved unmanageable for just one person, so we did what any soldier would do in battle: we called for backup! We set up an assembly

line, and 10 people knocked out the job in less than four hours. I was grateful for the help and extremely relieved that the task was finally over.

The month of August began rather slowly, but I still found myself helping out in ways I never thought I could. The ROTC/National Guard coordinator often used my role as a cadet in the program to talk to students interested in ROTC and to answer any questions from a cadet/student perspective. I really enjoyed this part of the job and felt as though I was making a positive change in the way others viewed the ROTC program. This experience has taught me not only the basics of the ROTC program but also what makes a program such as this successful.

— CDT Jamie Lemon

Cadet tackles Leader Development and Assessment Course

The summer of 2005 brought many challenges. I first attended and completed Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Washington. I left almost one month after school ended and had little break between school and LDAC. After completion of LDAC, I then flew to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for DCLT, or Drill Cadet Leadership Training.

LDAC at Fort Lewis was just that. Although very light on the physical end of leadership, it was very demanding at times on the mental aspect. Being thrown into a group of 50 other cadets who are all there to outshine each other and return to their own school with a better grade than the next cadet sets up a very dynamic situation. Also, being thrown into teamwork situations with a group of

individuals that barely have the time to form a team and friendship also seems to undermine the true lesson. The mentally challenging part of camp this year for me was learning how little I truly knew about leading others. Sure, I could brief an OPORD, climb over walls, and solve problems, but the challenge was getting others to do it for you or with you.

My experience this summer at LDAC was a positive one. I don't believe that their grading system was completely fair; I often felt lucky that I got the grade I did. However, I do feel that at times I was challenged to step outside my comfort zone of leading, and that challenge alone taught me more than any four weeks of assessment and grading from outside observers could have.

— CDT Josh Lyons



Josh Lyons at LDAC

Lost touch with a friend or classmate?

Visit www.indiana.edu/~rotc/alumni/alumniprofiles.html to search the IU Army ROTC's online database of graduates, or visit the IU Alumni Association's online directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu.



Screaming Bison News

This newsletter is published annually by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Army ROTC Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For information about activities and membership, please call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail ialumni@indiana.edu.

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Ranger Challenge draws best of the best

Competing in the Ranger Challenge competition is one of the biggest highlights in my ROTC career. This will be my fourth and final competition this fall, and I am very excited to put all of the knowledge, discipline, and physical as well as mental toughness to the test as I take command of this year's team. Last fall, the IU Ranger Challenge team took first place at the competition, and I expect to not only repeat another victory, but to blow all the competition far away.

Being a member of this small team places cadets into the fast lane of ROTC, where they will gain advanced and extensive hands-on training that most other cadets never experience. Ranger Challenge team members are repeatedly put to the test in specific military tasks and drills, and they push their minds and bodies to the limit every day. ROTC Ranger Challenge cadets are consistently among the top 10 percent of their respective classes, and they set the example for all other cadets to follow. The elite few cadets who do earn their spot as a member of Ranger Challenge exemplify the best of the best among future Army officers, and they carry with them the highest standards of the American soldier.

— CDT Ryan McCormick



Alumni notebook

Because change is a constant in the armed services and in the world, the information in these alumni notes may have changed since submission.

Submitted in 2003

In August 2003, **Alan P. Blackwell**, BA'70, reported that he works at TransAmerica Reinsurance. He and his wife, Kathleen (Lemler), BA'69, MS'78, live in Waxhaw, N.C., a suburb of Charlotte. His address is ablackwell1@carolina.rr.com.

In September 2003, **Michael A. Lytle**, BA'73, reported that he was named a 2003 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award at Sam Houston State University. The award is presented to graduates who have made significant contributions to society. He is employed with Science Applications International Corp. in Arlington, Va., where he provides advisory and consulting services to government agencies as a senior researcher and subject-matter expert on law enforcement, counterterrorism, counternarcotics, and intelligence.

In August 2003, **Richard W. Jones**, BS'84, MPA'95, reported that he received the National Guard Bureau Environmental Stewardship Award for best environmental program in the Army National Guard.

In September 2003, Capt. **Brian K. Johnson**, BA'89, reported that he is a senior special agent teaching investigations and defensive tactics at the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. He previously was assigned to the U.S. Army in Japan. The Brunswick, Ga., resident can be reached at brian.k.johnson@dhs.gov.

In September 2003, **Janet Schreiber Ashley**, BS'90, OD'93, wrote, "After living in Georgia for eight years, I returned to Indiana and am busy raising my three daughters and working part-time as an optometrist in Huntington and Warsaw." She and her husband, Thomas, live in Huntington and can be reached at tashley@kconline.com.

Derek Mayfield, BGS'96, a captain for the U.S. Army, was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in December 2001. He was deployed in

February 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, commanding Charlie Co. 2-187 Infantry in Iraq.

In June 2003, **Adrienne R. Barker**, BA'02, of Wyncote, Pa., was commissioned in Iraq as an Army Signal Corps second lieutenant. She was stationed near the Baghdad airport and was reassigned as a tactical satellite platoon leader in late 2003

Submitted in 2004

David M. Medaris, BS'61, of Chandler, Ariz., played the lead — Dan Corbin, who kills his wife while honeymooning in the Catskills — in a 2004 community theater production of the three-act play *Catch Me If You Can*. Medaris sells real estate in Phoenix and can be reached at daveiu2728@msn.com.

In November 2004, **Stephen A. Peterson**, BA'70, MS'71, published *On Eagle's Wings* (AuthorHouse), his third book in two years. He writes, "The book pertains to my work with teens and young adults as a counselor in Oklahoma City."

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Leadership Training Camp prepares cadet for future

My summer training at LTC consisted of 28 days at Fort Knox, Ky. The purpose of this training was for me to get up to speed with my classmates in lieu of participating in the basic course as an MS1 and 2. I was well-prepared for this experience after being in ROTC during my MS 3 year prior to my attendance at LTC and was given information and materials to inform me of what to expect while I was there.

Upon arrival, I was not quite sure what to expect from the drill sergeants who were in charge of us for the first few days. They were strict, but that was necessary because they really started us off on the right foot. There were a number of push-ups involved during those days, including a number on the sizzling asphalt. After about four days, we were introduced to our squad tactical officers (STOs), newly commissioned second lieutenants to help guide us through the duration of camp. I was fortunate to have a much-squared-away STO who helped me anytime I had a question. Last, each squad was assigned CMT (coach, mentor, and teacher) for the FTX portion of the camp; these were either senior NCOs or majors with a multitude of experience. These individuals helped guide us

through our training throughout the month.

The training was all of the highest quality, and I am proud to say that I completed it without any hang-ups. My major fear was the heights that were involved with the rappelling and high-ropes course. I got through it, though, and felt much more confident about myself and my abilities. Probably my two favorite training activities we did were the single-rope bridge and the MOUT training with paintball guns. We also had training on an FLRC course, BRM, and Zodiac boats. I was fortunate enough to be the platoon leader on graduation day to lead my platoon through the ceremony. This was a great experience and an honor.

Overall, LTC helped me become a better cadet and showed me a clearer picture of what I need to improve before becoming



Cadets practice on obstacle courses at LTC.

ing an officer. It was the snapshot of the real army that I needed to be able to see how things run and how I do and will fit into that overall picture. I am much more confident in my military bearing and customs. I feel now that I am well-prepared to help lead the younger cadets in the ROTC battalion and that I am prepared to exceed at LDAC next summer.

— CDT Cody Griner

Alumni notebook

(continued from page 4)

He lives in Shawnee, Okla., and can be reached at indianapete2@aol.com.

Maxine C. Girard, BA'86, of Belleville, Ill., served in Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She is currently stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. Her address is maxine.girard@hq.transcom.mil.

Kathleen M. (Houff) Isaacson, BS'88, of Silver Spring, Md., left active duty in summer 2000 and is working on a PhD in European history at American University. She and her husband, Chris, who is stationed at the Pentagon, have two daughters, Libby and Ellen. Isaacson can be reached at ki6468@american.edu.

Maj. **Jeffrey S. Yarvis**, BA'88, earned a PhD in social work from the University of Georgia in May 2004. He moved to Heidelberg, Germany, to be senior behavioral health officer for the U.S. Army's 30th Medical Brigade.

Mitch A. Reid, BA'95, is an associate for Andrews Kurth, a law firm in Houston. He has practiced law since 2002.

Submitted in 2005

Donald D. St. Clair, BS'55, MS'63, EdD'67, has practiced law since retiring from teaching at the University of Toledo 12 years ago. For the last six years, he and his wife, Beverly, who is also an attorney,

have compared practices in criminal law in London and Paris. They plan to continue their research trips to Paris for at least two more summers, and they have formed an association with a barrister in Crown Office Chambers in London. The St. Clairs live in Sylvania, Ohio. Donald's address is stclairlaw@attglobal.net.

Guy O. Kornblum, BA'61, is the principal of the San Francisco law firm of Guy O. Kornblum & Associates. In July in Toronto, Ontario, he was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He lives in San Francisco.

In spring 2005, **Ronald J. Miller**, BS'61, began his 42nd year as a high-school football coach. He has coached at Bay Port High School in Green Bay, Wis., for the past five years.

George G. Martin Jr., BA'67, was featured in the "Flashback" column of the *Indianapolis Star* on April 16, 2005. To commemorate the 55th running of IU's Little 500, the *Star* published a 1967 photo showing Martin riding a high-wheel bicycle while Little 500 cyclists practice. The column reads, in part, "As president of the IU Student Foundation, which sponsors the Little 500 bicycle race, Martin was expected to appear at various weekend events aboard this high-wheeler. To get ready, he joined in practice sessions held for entries in the 1967 50-mile bicycle marathon." Today, Martin is an attorney.

He lives in Fort Wayne, Ind., with his wife, Jaesoon.

Stephen R. Pennell, BA'73, JD'76, a partner with the law firm of Stuart & Branigin in Lafayette, Ind., was awarded the Exceptional Performance Citation by DRI, the national organization of defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel. He also received the Fred H. Sievert Award for his accomplishments as president of the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana in 2004. He lives in West Lafayette, Ind.

Col. **Michael B. Newton**, BS'74, has been recommended for promotion to the rank of brigadier general, a one-star general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He is on a list of 14 Air Force Reserve colonels recommended for the promotion. President Bush signed the list, and Congress must now authorize the promotion, which could occur in December or January. The Air Force Reserve may have only 50 brigadier generals at any one time. Newton is commander of the Air Force reservists at Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base in Utah and the civilian director of contracting at Tooele Army Depot. He lives in Tooele, Utah.

Milos Puaca, BA'75, of Valparaiso, Ind., is a management strategist and management consultant with MP Consulting. His address is mikepuaca@yahoo.com.

In the spring, retired Lt. Col. **David R. Parks**, BA'78, of Glendale, Ariz., completed his first year as a school administrator. He writes, "I'm loving the job and the weather of Arizona." He can be reached at dparks772@aol.com.

Clifford M. Lippard, BA'88, retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in August 2004 after returning from a one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Errol A. Huffman, BA'89, served in Iraq as a military police captain and as a military adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority's Ministry of Justice. He is working on a book based on the journal he kept while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In July 2004, he returned to his job as business consultant with RPS Dining Services at IU Bloomington. Three months later, he married Elizabeth (Geistler), BS'98, an administrator for the Real Estate Certification Program. The Huffmans live in Ellettsville, Ind., and can be reached at errollhuffman@hotmail.com.

In November 2004, U.S. Army Major **Ariel E. Axelrod**, BA'91, returned from Iraq, where he served with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force — Arabian Peninsula. It was his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He teaches Army ROTC at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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