

CLEVELAND ROTC

Wolfpack Newsletter!

For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack
-Law for the Wolves Rudyard Kipling

SCHOOLS IN THE PACK:

Baldwin Wallace University
Case Western University
Cleveland State University
John Carroll University
Notre Dame College
Ursuline College



Issue 4 • 2018

PITHY POINTS

Hail



This quarter we welcome our new PMS (Professor of Military Science)! He was born in Queens, New York and raised in Alexandria, Virginia.

LTC Brian A. Ferguson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery from Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1999 where he

received a BA in Political Science. He also holds a MA in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University and is currently working on a MA in Higher Education Administration through the University of Louisville.

His favorite hobby is sailing followed by being outdoors, touring and studying history. He and his beautiful wife have five children. He is always seeking adventure, and finding it in the Army.

He enjoys his job for the extensive travel opportunities and to work with a diverse group of people and cultures. He is looking forward to providing experiences for personal growth, character building, and leadership.

... I'm very excited to be here and become part of the Wolfpack legacy. Everyone has been very welcoming and I look forward to working with those here now. I also welcome the opportunity to connect the present with our alumni.

LTC Johnson and I had a great transition period before I headed to Fort Knox at the end of the summer. I wish him, Natalie and their kids all the best as they transition to their next adventure in Idaho.

For those receiving this letter, please come by for a visit to any of our classes, leadership labs, physical training, or just to visit the office. Our doors are always open and we appreciate your support.

Farewell



This is my final newsletter as the PMS for the Wolfpack. There is too much to say in a short space, especially one titled "pithy points," so I will say only two things. First, quite simply but most sincerely - THANKS! Thanks to the Cadets who are the program- who work hard, and provide the inspiration for old soldiers that enjoy watching them join our profession. ROTC exists for you. Thanks to the friends of the program, on campus and off, your support has real impact on the leadership opportunities and growth for all members of the Wolfpack. Thanks to the cadre, your commitment and competence is unmatched, and it has been a personal and professional joy for me to be a part of your lives for the past four years. Thanks to all of you for letting me be a part of the Wolfpack!.

Secondly, I welcome LTC Brian Ferguson and his family. Over the weeks of our transition, I am refreshed to know that an intelligent, caring, and competent person of character will lead the Wolfpack. May you and your family enjoy Cleveland (it really is a hidden gem) and the ROTC life- it is a fast, but fun ride- savor it. I can't wait to see the new heights and ground the Wolfpack will quickly conquer.

To close, please remember that the "strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." Each of you matters, and you matter more when part of a great unit. It was great to run with the Wolfpack and it was a privilege to serve this great team. Wolf Up!

WOLFPACK CORNER

2LT JARED VIDIKA ON HIS MS4 YEAR

Balancing a varsity sport, 19 credit hours, and a key role in the program made for a stressful MS 4 year. I now look back at all of it and I would not change a single thing. The two positions I held (Company Commander / Battalion Commander) gave me valuable experience and allowed me to grow as a future lieutenant. Managing to play four years of soccer in college will always be something I cherish. My last year of classes gave me valuable insight that I can put into my toolbox and instilled confidence that I can excel academically.

The extracurricular events this year is where I had some of the most fun. I realized that there is so much more that goes into events like the Mountain Man Memorial March and Hymers Challenge as an MS 4. It was interesting to me and incredible to see a plan we made as a class executed. There was also an element of trying to develop the incoming class to fill our shoes. Deciding which cadets would be successful in positions for their senior year



afforded me an opportunity to become stronger in my analytical skills. Being an MS 4 was fun and I am confident the incoming MS 4 class will do great things.

Now that I have commissioned, I will be heading to Virginia for Transportation BOLC. While at first I was not thrilled with my branch choice, I have now become very excited about it. There are many opportunities and exciting aspects that I look forward to. My first duty station will be Fort Bragg and I could not be happier about it. That is a great place to learn as a fresh Lieutenant. My entire ROTC experience has been great and I am ready to serve this great nation.

CDT ANNA THOMSEN ON HER MS3 YEAR

The focus of MSIII year is preparing for summer's Advance Camp in Fort Knox, KY. Every MSIII in ROTC in the country attends a month long training and evaluation course to judge leadership abilities. During our fall & spring semester weekly Leadership Labs, we rotated through squad leader, Platoon Leader & Platoon Sergeant positions. These labs teach the underclassmen what to expect in the upcoming years & introduce them to tactics & the planning process. The difference between MSII year & MSIII year is the huge step in becoming a leader for the underclassmen. You lead PT, teach tactics & communicate information up & down the chain of command. It's a great learning experience as your class must work together to ensure everyone is getting the information, as well as working together as a squad to succeed.

The advice I can offer to rising underclassmen is to be as involved as you can in ROTC activities, as well as on campus. I was fortunate to participate in the Army 10-Miler in Washington DC, the Ranger Challenge Team & Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN. I had the opportunity to interact with Cadets/Cadre. You can take these experience with you as you grow as a leader in



the Army. Outside clubs & teams can provide you with a different perspective as well. Being involved on CWRU's campus has helped me develop as a

leader. I encourage all underclassmen to participate in outside activities.

I've gained a lot through this program. That wouldn't have happened without the support of the cadre and seniors who have encouraged me throughout this year. MSIII year has been the most challenging year and the most rewarding. I learned much in our MSIII class on Tuesday mornings, taught by MAJ Jenkins, MAJ McGraw & MSG Achterberg. They focused on teaching us the tactical side for Leadership Labs, as well as preparing us to be a 2LT in the upcoming years. I've gained a lot of confidence through the successes and failures of this year and feel ready to take on Advance Camp this summer!

MS1 & MS2

MAJ ANDREW BISCHOFF



The MS1 (Freshmen) and MS2 (Sophomore) Cadets performed admirably this year. Each week we've watched them mature, build confidence, and develop their military bearing and professional appearance.

The MS1 Class impressed every Cadre member with their positive attitude and group cohesion. Remarkably, the MS1 Class has some of the most physically fit Cadets in the program. Three MS1 Cadets

scored on the extended physical fitness scale, the highest number of any military science class in our program. Cadets Andrew Wendell, Alejandro Reyes, and Anthony Haas all scored above 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test, an impressive feat for first year students.

Both the MS1 and MS2 Classes had a strong showing during the Hymer's Competition in March. The Hymer's Competition consists of series of grueling physical fitness events over 36 hours including strenuous physical training, stressed swimming, combative wrestling, a five-mile run, and culminating with a 13-mile overnight foot march with 50 pounds of gear. They accomplished this in 15 degree winter weather with little to no sleep. Special recognition should go to MS2 Cadets Jack Chimenti who placed second and John Selep who placed third.

Several MS2 Cadets volunteered to continue their military development this summer. Cadets Kevin Schleitwiler, Robert Call, and William Zidek are serving as summer camp opposing force role players at Ft. Knox, KY. This is demanding work that requires numerous long foot movements daily with full gear. Additionally, Cadet David Kullik was selected for Air Assault School at Ft. Campbell, KY in August following completion of his Basic Camp at Ft. Knox.

We're looking forward to the Fall Semester where we'll build on the momentum generated this year. We expect to build a competitive Ranger Challenge Team to compete against the best schools in the Brigade at Ft. Knox in November.



CDT ALEJANDRO REYES

College can be a difficult time as a freshman. Time management is a crucial to success. I've learned to embrace challenges & to overcome them. I'm glad Major Bischoff was there to take the MS1 under his wing. I loved the camaraderie we had at JFTX & FTX. Events like Hymers, Mountain Man Memorial March, and the joint Case Western Softball team exercise in the fall were all great team and skill builders.

Helping with Dinning Out was a fun time! Seeing everyone at the event & knowing we had pushed each other during the semester to be better was my favorite part of the event. I won an award & I owe that to my parents & family. They have always encouraged me to be the best at everything I do.

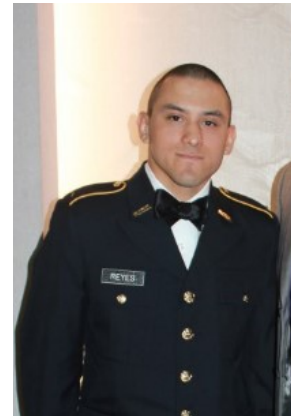
I led by having one of the highest PT scores & by treating our team with respect. My new friends feel more like family. We push each other to succeed when someone is struggling.

I believe the PT sessions were easy because I wrestle and my goal is to be in shape year round. New interests include running with friends, swimming & yoga. MMMM was by far one of the most fun events I did this year, we grew together and became closer as a unit.

This past MS year was fun & went by faster than if I wasn't in the ROTC program. I would like to thank Cadet Zachary Donner for taking me under their wing. We have become really close over the semester and for that I'm thankful

In high school I would show up at 5 am to workout before school even started! Staff there told to apply the same dedication that I have to wrestling to life & school and nothing will stand in my way.

My advice to the incoming class: work hard & give it your all. To the MS4s, keep it up as you go onto your careers and thank you for showing us how to act.



PERSHING RIFLES: P/R

by Cadet Erica Curtin

The National Society of Pershing Rifles is a military-oriented national fraternity named in honor of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. The purpose of the National Society of Pershing Rifles is to develop, to the highest degree possible, outstanding traits of leadership, military science, military bearing, and discipline within the framework of a military oriented, honorary fraternity.

Company M-1 in Cleveland, Ohio is made up of riflemen from John Carroll University, Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University and other local schools. Our company is made up of cadets who have shown a dedication in physical and tactical training, as well as disciplined military drill.

Company M-1 has represented The Pershing Rifles all over Cleveland including marching downtown in the Veterans Day parade, presenting the national colors at local colleges and other schools, and have been broadcast on national television presenting the colors for the **Cleveland Browns**. We have also been involved with the National Society and have had individuals

compete in drill competitions against riflemen from across the country. Most recently we attended the **National Convention of Pershing Rifles** held in Charlotte, SC where we were recognized by national staff for presenting the colors for the Browns.



Cadets below enjoy this year's Dining Out Awards Dinner at Landerhaven



ALUMNI

*Thank you John Lane ('82)
for your wisdom!*



At the Bridging Leadership Dinner with guest speaker John Lane ('82). John is co-owner of the Winking Lizard Taverns. He's a former U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot & discussed leadership from the perspective of both a successful business owner & a military officer.



2LT Ted Zoodsma stops by the ROTC house for a visit after his Afghan deployment and before ranger school!



COL Mary Jo Hogan and LTC Matthew Johnson at May 2018 Commissioning

**WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

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YEAR IN REVIEW, FALL '17 - SPRING '18

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- School of the Pack - Pershing Rifles FTX at Hinkley Park
- Gettysburg Staff Ride
- Support Cleveland Airshow - US Army Recruiting
- Saturday "Lab" Social at the MetroParks

OCTOBER

- Fall FTX
- Army 10 Miler in Washington DC
- AUSA Conference in Washington DC

NOVEMBER

- Bold Warrior, Brigade Ranger Challenge
- JCU Military Appreciation Football Game and Veterans Day
- Bridging Leadership Dinner program

DECEMBER

- Commissioning of Gino Lamantia and Michael Hubert
- 2LTs: Haas, Telaha and Lamantia from Hometown Recruiting Program & Gold Bar

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

- Pershing Rifles FTX

MARCH

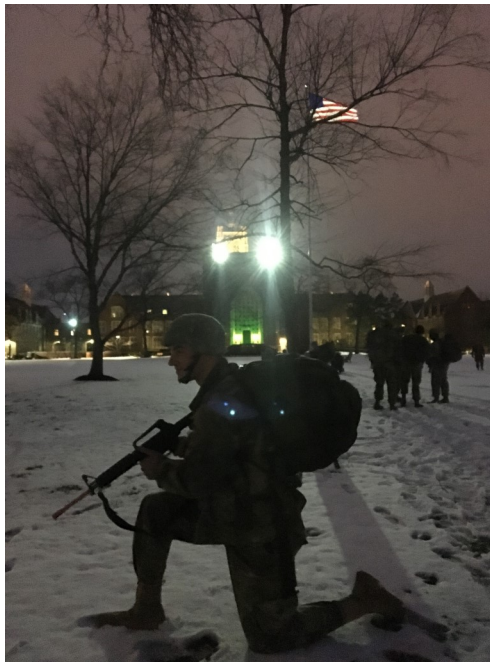
- Pershing Rifles National Convention in North Carolina
- Hymers Challenge

APRIL

- Dining Out - Military Ball and Awards Dinner
- Pershing Rifles FTX

MAY

- Commissioning!





Dining Out - Awards



Commissioned Cadets!

Award name / 2018 Winner (s)

82nd Airborne Division Association / Tucker Schmidt

American Veterans / Lucille Zaharko

AUSA / Jared Vidika

**Blood, Sweat and Tears /
Decklan Leary, Sean Morrissey, Zachary Donner & Gabriel Pecze**

Daughters of the American Revolution / John Pacalo

Distinguished Military Graduate / Michael Schmitz

**Department of the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps DMS
Samuel Joo, John Pacalo & Jared Vidika**

Iron Man - Woman / Zachary Donner & Anna Thomsen

Military Officers Association of America / Samuel Joo

National Sojourners Award / Cory Beam

**Reserve Officers Association / Anthony Haas, Kevin
Schleitweiler, Alexander Ciccarello & John Pacalo**

Sons of the American Revolution / David Kullik

Special Forces Association Best Ranger / Joseph Calandra

VFW / Gregory Henry

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry / Alexia Boling

USAA Spirit Award / Tyler Tagliarini

Military Order of the Purple Heart / George Brooks

**Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award / Alejandro
Reyes, Tucker Schmidt, Anna Thomsen & Michael Schmitz**

Professor of Military Science / Michael Schmitz & Jared Vidika

CPT Christopher Britton Memorial / Collin Brubaker

JULY/AUGUST 2018

**2LT Jacques Black, Finance Corps
Cleveland State University,
Bachelor of Arts, Marketing**

**2LT John Pacalo, Infantry
John Carroll University, Supply Chain Mgt.**

**2LT Brendan Reilly, Military Intelligence Corps
John Carroll University, Supply Chain Mgt.
International Business with Language & Culture**

MAY 2018

**2LT Samuel Joo, Army Nurse Corps
Case Western Reserve University,
Bachelor of Science, Nursing**

**2LT Rachel Mills, Ordnance Corps
John Carroll University, Communication,
Integrated Marketing Concentration**

**2LT Michael Schmitz, Aviation
John Carroll University, Accounting
Distinguished Military Graduate**

**2LT Jared Vidika, Transportation Corps
John Carroll University, Management**

**2LT Tipton Woodard, Military Intelligence Corps
John Carroll University, Political Science
Global & Foreign Area Studies, Catholic Studies**

JANUARY 2018

**2LT Gino Lamantia, Armor
John Carroll University,
Bachelor of Science, Economics**

**2LT Michael Hubert, Jr. Infantry
John Carroll University,
Bachelor of Science, Business Management**



We'd love to hear
from you...

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