

Fall 2015

# Gateway Gazette

Fall Edition, Volume II





November 9, 2015

Dear Family and Friends of the Gateway Battalion,

Happy Thanksgiving! While you are home enjoying the company of loved ones this holiday season, we hope that you will continue to support the initiatives of the Gateway Battalion.

The Gateway Battalion continues its tradition of excellence in commissioning high caliber Army Officers. Over the last year alone, we have had cadets compete in a wide variety of events across the country. Last March, twelve cadets completed the Bataan Death March, a 26.2 mile event in the desert heat of White Sands, New Mexico. Nine cadets earned their German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge in Columbia, Missouri alongside cadets from surrounding schools and German soldiers. This fall, our Ranger Challenge team competed and placed well in the annual competition at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

These events provide opportunities for cadets to push themselves past their self-assessed limits while practical experience in both planning and peer leadership. We host a variety of events in addition to extracurricular training such as our annual Holiday Reception and Military Ball, where we celebrate military traditions as well as the accomplishments and dedication of all our cadets.

While we receive sufficient funding from Army ROTC and our universities to cover mandatory training, the unique opportunities like the ones described above require additional backing. We graciously ask you to contribute to our GoFundMe drive (<https://www.gofundme.com/gatewayROTC>) to facilitate the highest standards of leader development for years to come. We happily welcome donations of any size and are happy to answer any further questions.

Very Respectfully,

Matthew Brice  
CDT Battalion Commander

Thomas Sims  
CDT Executive Officer

Dustin Hesskamp  
CDT Fundraising Chair

The Gateway Battalion is proud to announce the recipients of scholarships for Fall Semester 2015. These Cadets have worked tirelessly to show their leadership abilities throughout this semester and have taken the Oath to become a future Army Officer.



Above: Cadets of the Gateway Battalion are sworn in by LTC Chad A. Callis and take the Oath of the Army Officer at a Saint Louis University Billikens basketball game on Sunday, November 15th, 2015.

#### **Four Year Scholarship Recipients:**

Cadet Haley Allen	Washington University
Cadet Abigail Chmiel	Washington University
Cadet Eric Feldhake	Washington University
Cadet Jaryd Huffman	Washington University
Cadet Eric Kibbey	Washington University
Cadet George Tharp	Washington University

#### **Three Year Scholarship Recipients:**

Cadet Hannah Bland	Lindenwood University
Cadet Conor Hammond	Washington University
Cadet Jack Kinplinger	Saint Louis University
Cadet Lauren Murray	Saint Louis University

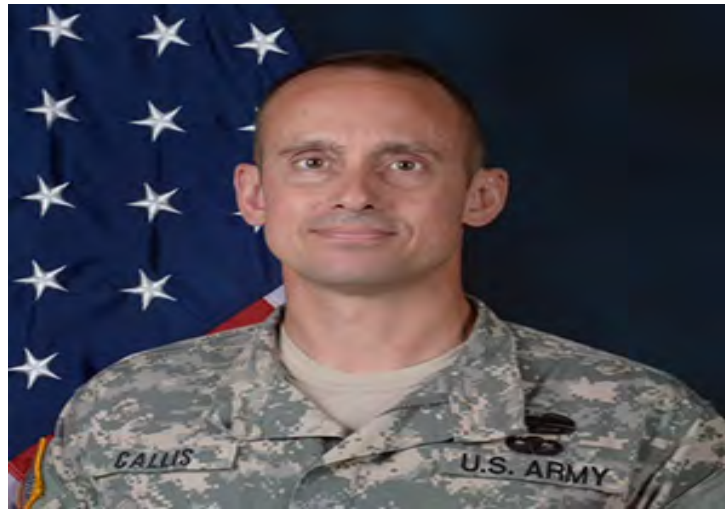
#### **Two Year Scholarship Recipients:**

Cadet Lucas Elberfeld	University of Missouri-Saint Louis
Cadet Keyana Mapp	Lindenwood University
Cadet Anissa Rodriguez	Missouri Baptist University
Cadet Justin Rujawitz	Fontbonne University

#### **National Guard/Green to Gold:**

Cadet Lily Aubuchon	Lindenwood University
Cadet Hannah Bland	Lindenwood University
Cadet Brady Hawkes	Lindenwood University
Cadet Elaine Houser	Washington University
Cadet Amanda Lofgren	Saint Louis University
Cadet Christian Power	Lindenwood University

# Message from the Professor of Military Science



Alumni, Cadets, and friends of the Gateway Detachment, welcome to the mid-year edition of the Gateway Gazette. Army ROTC is about developing leaders for life, and it's a team effort to accomplish this goal. As you will see on the following pages, that team consists of cadre, alumni, area Army partners, university organizations and leaders, as well as the Cadets themselves. The Gateway Detachment is fortunate to have a very talented group of Cadets who continue to amaze me with their determination to learn and grow.

Throughout the Fall Semester, our Cadets have excelled in a variety of areas. On a national level, nine Cadets (Haley Allen – WashU 2019, Eric Feldhake – WashU 2019, Steven Galbraith – UMSL 2017, Jaryd Huffman – WashU 2019, Eric Kibbey – WashU 2019, Lauren Murray – SLU 2018, Justin Rujawitz – Fontbonne 2017, Andrew Schad – SLU 2017, and George Tharp – SLU 2019) were selected for Cadet Command's Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP). They'll spend three weeks in a foreign country next summer, conducting a variety of missions with Army units, gaining valuable perspective on foreign cultures and how small unit leaders operate. The application period is still open for Project Global Officer, which is a Department of Defense initiative aimed at improving the language skills, regional expertise, and intercultural communication skills of future military officers. On the local level, our Cadets did a terrific job planning, coordinating, and conducting all of our leadership development activities throughout the semester. These included the Leadership Development Exercise which occurred at Ft. Leonard Wood, the leadership labs, and our extra-curricular competitions. On campus, our Cadets led their peers through participation in athletic teams, with members of varsity football, basketball, soccer, wrestling, swimming, volleyball, and dance teams in our ranks; including our own All-American Wrestler, Cadet Anissa Rodriguez (Missouri Baptist University – 2018). In their respective campus communities, our Cadets continued to make a difference as leaders within their fraternities and sororities, veterans associations, the Society of American Military Engineers, student government, and multiple other organizations. They also supported their schools by assisting at various WashU, SLU, and Lindenwood University athletic events. Their participation in events for deployed Soldiers helped raise awareness within their university communities. Throughout the semester, our MS IV (Senior) Cadets have set the example for our Cadet Battalion, influencing their fellow Cadets to push themselves.

(Continued on next page)

# Message from the Professor of Military Science

(Continued from previous page)

Our MS IV Cadets recently received the results of Cadet Command's Accessions Process, which designates Cadets for future duty in the Active or Reserve Component, as well as the Army branch for those entering the Active Component. This was a very competitive process, with over 5,500 Cadets across the nation competing for various positions. Of the 20 Gateway Detachment Cadets accessed this year, 11 will enter Active Duty and nine were selected for the Reserve Component (RC). As an indication of the quality of this year's commissioning class, seven were designated as Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG), meaning they were in the top 20% of Cadet Command's commissioning class, and both Cadets Matthew Brice (WashU, 2016) and Connor Eulberg (WashU, 2016) earned positions in the top 10%. I encourage all of our Cadets to take advantage of available opportunities to learn about the Army's components and branches in order to enable them to make informed decisions as they prepare to enter the Accessions Process at the end of their MS III (Junior) year. Throughout the school year, the Gateway Detachment helps to make this possible by providing access to online resources, guest speakers, Cadre, Army Reserve and National Guard leaders, and alumni.

2016 is the 100th Anniversary of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. This anniversary will be marked with events on the local and national level in the coming months. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of those who preceded us, strengthen the bonds with our alumni and university partners, and further capitalize on the military resources available in our local community. We got a head start on this anniversary by capitalizing on our alumni and military teammates' willingness to help during the Fall Semester. During separate speaking engagements, COL Eric Heist (WashU, 1990) and BG(R) Tracy Beckett (SLU, 1969) provided our Cadets with their insights on leadership, how to better prepare for the future challenges they can expect to encounter, and an understanding of senior leaders expectations for junior officers. GEN Frank Grass, who is the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke to our Cadets about National Guard opportunities, and provided a senior leader's perspective on the challenges facing our Army today. CPT Joel Groves (WashU, 2006) and the St. Louis District HQ for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided interested Cadets with a chance to visit one of their sites in the St. Louis area where they learned about opportunities provided by the Engineer branch. Members of the WashU Veterans Organizations led a discussion with Cadets focused on what they can expect to encounter as new leaders in the Army. These events enriched our Cadets' ROTC experience and helped them to understand that leadership in the Army is a team effort, with its members having an understood obligation to help each other improve and grow.

In closing, thank you for continuing to support your Gateway Detachment Cadets. As you can tell, our remarkable young men and women are making significant progress as they prepare to meet the nation's future challenges. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our program, or suggestions on how we can improve the experience for our Cadets. I encourage you to stay up to date on the Gateway Detachment's activities and accomplishments through our website ([www.rotc.wustl.edu](http://www.rotc.wustl.edu)), and our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC>). Best wishes to everyone as we take a short break at the holiday season and prepare for the second half of the school year.

# Sometimes Change is for the Better

Cadet Abigail Chmiel is a freshman with an undeclared major at the Washington University.



College has been a huge adjustment for me. It's the first time I've been away from my family for an extended period of time, which has meant a lot of new freedoms. I don't have to eat at scheduled times, I do my homework when I want and I go to bed when I feel like it. However, this separation has also meant a lot of new responsibilities. Without my parents around to tell me to get everything done, I've acquired a great deal of new time management skills. Now, I'm the one who tells myself to pick up my room, do my laundry, and study for exams. In addition to adjusting to the new freedoms and responsibilities of college life, I've also had to make the adjustment to life as an ROTC cadet.

The first interaction I had with other Cadets was at the barbecue before school started. I arrived at the barbecue nervous and with a multitude of questions on my mind. My nerves were quickly eased when I heard about all the opportunities available to ROTC Cadets. After talking to a few of the older Cadets, who described what the program was like and offered me advice about the adjustment to ROTC and college life, I knew I had made the right decision joining ROTC.

Though I've only nearly completed a semester as an ROTC cadet, I've gained many skills along with a new family. Through ROTC, I've made friends at various schools and across different years in school. Waking up at 5 a.m. for physical training that begins at 6 a.m. is always difficult, but my peers motivate me to push myself and they make these early mornings enjoyable. The skills I've learned through ROTC have not only been taught to me by my superiors, but also my peers. The older Cadets, especially my mentors, have been great resources for advice and knowledge. They have set great examples for me and motivate me to be the best version of myself. Coming into college I knew very little about the ROTC program, or the Gateway Battalion. I had a few set assumptions about what ROTC was like and honestly it has defied all these assumptions and exceeded my expectations. While ROTC is an extensive time commitment, it has been beyond worth it.

# New College and Army Life Experiences

Over the past few months, I have undergone a great deal of change and adaptation. I have been adapting, not only to college life, but to the life of an Army Cadet participating in ROTC. Whether it has been embracing a rigorous course load, or constantly commuting between Saint Louis University, where I am a resident student, and Washington University, where the Army ROTC's Gateway Battalion is located, I have experienced a plethora of change. I personally believe that the secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new. In this same spirit, I could not ask for a better experience.

I am thriving at SLU in more ways than I could ever imagine and I could not be more grateful to the Gateway Battalion for their support in developing me as a future Army officer. If it weren't for the support of my fellow Cadets and the Gateway Battalion Cadre, I would not be as involved on SLU's campus as I am. I have become involved in several social justice oriented clubs, Greek Life and have even been elected as the Vice President of Administration for SLU's Inter-fraternal Council. Army officers have a longstanding tradition of being actively involved in a myriad of community, fraternal and service organizations. Being part of a Jesuit University and Army ROTC, which both have strong values that invoke service, perfectly complement each other and increase my desire to serve others in the most effective capacity that I am able.

Overall, Army ROTC has been a very positive experience. It is constantly developing skills that will make me a better leader and simultaneously enhance the reach of my service endeavors. Few have the desire and opportunity to serve in the capacity that have and I am excited to be able to say that I will become an Army officer upon graduation.



Above: Cadet George Tharp is a freshman majoring in Biostatistics at Saint Louis University.

Below: Saint Louis University is a private Jesuit University. An integral part of the Jesuit mission is based heavily on service and leadership.



# Military Stakes: Training with Competition



Above: Cadets take time to reassess their plan after conducting a tactical leader's reconnaissance on an objective.



Above: Cadet Andrew Potts is a junior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

During the semesters of Army ROTC with the Gateway Battalion, there are many things that prepare you for life in the Army. Not only are these events and classes very helpful, but they are absolutely fun as well. We conduct training labs every week, but my favorite kind of training is the weekend events that we participate in 2-3 times a semester. Especially the Military Stakes Super Lab. Military Stakes is a developmental training exercise, but also pits the Cadets within the battalion against each other in a friendly competition. The ultimate goal is to develop their Army knowledge and leadership capabilities, but also evaluates their application of that knowledge and procedures against the standard for each task. This year, the winners received a bag of Gateway Battalion and Army ROTC memorabilia, as well as the pride associated with being the most proficient team while executing the tasks associated with their mission.

The event is held all day on a Saturday at one of Missouri's Army Reserve training areas. It helps prepare you for the most realistic decision-making and tactics that Army officers will use in the Army. Cadets start off with all their gear, a dummy simulated rifle and use land navigation to navigate through the various woodlands around them. Using land navigation, Cadets go through specific scenarios of coming into contact with the enemy. Scenarios range from reacting to indirect fire, reacting to direct contact, conducting to and reacting to ambushes. Cadets are also faced with having to call for medical evacuation and other support services. These scenarios help Cadets receive a realistic view of the responsibilities and duties of squad leaders.

The event helps prepare Cadets by testing them and building their skills in decision-making, leadership capabilities, land navigation, mission understanding and even confidence. Some Cadets have problems with maintaining their confidence through tough dynamically challenging environments where they are required to make crucial decisions. The Military Stakes lab helps them to build that confidence with the scenarios we go through. Cadets learn to make a decision quickly, regardless how good it is, and change it for the better as the scenario progresses. In doing this, it helps build confidence and shared-trust between the squad and the Cadet. The focus of the exercise remains on the Junior class during the lab and Cadets learn and practice all the abilities, skills, and attributes that make a great Army Officer.

This event is vital in helping prepare Cadets to be Army leaders upon their commissioning. Bringing all of the skills learned throughout the entire course and combining their use in one event, makes Military Stakes realistic and one of the most important events of ROTC conducts. It is also one of the most enjoyable, especially with the competitive aspect.

# Army ROTC Ranger Challenge

Cadet Emerson Dresser is a junior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Emergency Management.



Ranger Challenge is a competition between ROTC Battalions across the country. It allows teams from different ROTC detachments to compete against each other for the honor of being the best at applying varying combinations of acquired Soldier skills, military knowledge and physical fitness. While it is a competition, ultimately it helps to create esprit de corps within Army ROTC and provides a competitive focal point that allows cadets from different universities to interact and network as they would in the active-duty and reserve components of the Total Army Force.

The Ranger Challenge team this semester was different than it has been in previous years because we competed as a co-ed team. Though our team was co-ed, we still competed in the male category and stacked up pretty well against the competition. In order to prepare for the competition at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, we trained 2 to 3 times a week for roughly 5 weeks. This training occurred from the week after the semester began until the competition. Because the team only had five weeks to prepare, the training was very rigorous. Cadet Jason Sumpter led our training sessions and he was the perfect fit for the job. He did a phenomenal job creating workout routines that incorporated aspects of the competition with intense physical training. Some of this training even included early morning ruck sack forced marches before classes began in the mornings.

All of the team members knew the competition would approach quickly, so morale was high and we continually pushed each other above and beyond our limitations. Our team consisted of one senior, a handful of juniors and sophomores. The level of physical fitness varied across the team, so during training those that were more physically fit worked hard to increase the fitness level of those that tended to struggle. We improved dramatically from the start of training, to the day of the Ranger Challenge competition because of the commitment and dedication of the team. We performed admirably at the competition, in spite of stiff competition. Our results would not have been as great without the hard work of the dedicated team members and Cadet Sumpter. I look forward to competing again next year.

# Gateway Battalion's Ranger Challenge Experience



Cadet Tristan Boots is a junior at Saint Louis University, majoring in History.



After five weeks of arduous training, we were finally ready for the competition. One chilly Friday morning, the 11 of us (nine competing, one alternate and one senior coach) and a few Gateway Battalion Cadre boarded our van and headed out to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After dropping our gear, we were quickly moved to the Physical Training location to take the Army Physical Fitness Test. This test consists of performing two minutes of as many pushups as possible, two minutes of as many sit-ups as possible and a timed two-mile run. After completing the run we change into our Army Combat Uniforms and moved onto a more intellectual challenge of disassembling M4 rifles and grouping. After the weapons range, weapons disassembly and reassembly we moved on to night land navigation. This tests your ability to accurately plot and map a distance and direction to a location with only the moon and a red lens flashlight to see. After night land navigation, we moved back to the barracks and prepared our gear for the 15 kilometer forced ruck sack march the next morning.

We moved to the troop trail at 0400 and started our ruck that morning. After completing the ruck march, we started day land navigation which was similar to night land navigation, but with greater opportunities for success because of the daylight. Following land navigation, we started the a circuit of events, which included; a tomahawk throw, trauma casualty medical evacuation lane, a one-rope bridge critical thinking team obstacle, an obstacle course and hand grenade assault course. Upon completion, the winners were announced at an awards ceremony. Cadets had some time to interact with other Cadets from other universities before packing their gear and heading back home.

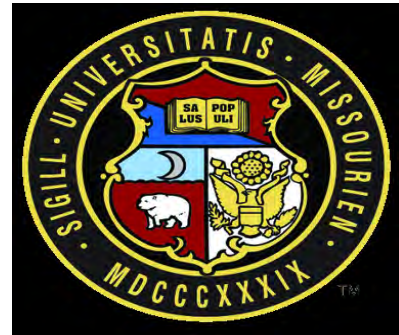
My favorite and probably the most challenging thing about the Ranger Challenge competition is the 15 kilometer forced ruck sack march. This requires a combination of pure physical ability, along with mental strategy and fortitude. We trained relentlessly for the ruck march before the competition, so the feeling after completing it made all the pain during the ruck march worth it. This is also a group event, so a team's time doesn't stop until everyone is across the line. In addition, members of each team cannot separate more than 25 meters, so you must remain as a group and push everyone around you. This really requires group comradery and a solid group of Cadets to do well.

Overall, our ability to field a competitive team from the Gateway Battalion and train in the way we did, shows the level of excellence and proficiency within Gateway Battalion. It also reflects the quality of Cadets that we have within the program. Our small group trained 6 days a week to refine our skills for the technical challenges in our off-time. I feel like we will continue to field competitive teams for years to come in the Gateway Battalion.

# Campus Leadership: Staying Involved



Cadet Steven Galbraith is a junior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, majoring in History. In addition to being involved in ROTC, Cadet Galbraith is the Vice-President of the Japan-American Student Association.



Student leadership is a must for ROTC Cadets. Leadership in the military is challenging and leadership in college is challenging as well, but the most challenging thing of all may be balancing them both. Leadership in the military and in a student organization are two very different things. ROTC teaches Cadets to be successful, decisive leaders in the Army. Student leadership teaches some of those same traits, but working with volunteers and civilians is not the same as working with military personnel. I believe that student leadership in college, paired with ROTC, provides the Army Cadet with a set of leadership skills that complement each other.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) is committed to international travel and involvement in a variety of ways. One of the avenues used to reach out to internationally minded students are student organizations. The mission of the Japan-American Student Association (JASA) at UMSL is to promote Japanese culture and to facilitate interaction between American students and Japanese foreign exchange students. We put on a variety of programs every semester to accomplish this, including Japanese movie screenings, Japanese cooking workshops, and the weekly Japanese Language Table (discussions and games), as well as many other events. In the fast-paced world in which we live, cross-cultural awareness has never been more important. JASA gives UMSL students the opportunity to get to know Japanese culture firsthand. Japanese language and culture is a passion of mine, and I'm privileged to be in a leadership position in JASA!

My job as the Vice President of JASA is to aid and advise the President, as well as conduct the duties of the President in his/her absence. I believe this position to be linked closely to the Executive Officer (XO) position in the Army, which I have the potential to be with as few as two years of military service as an Army Officer. The President, or Commanding Officer, cannot do all things and be everywhere at once. A Vice President (XO) can complete behind-the-scenes work that, while mundane at times, is nonetheless crucial to making our events a success. Logistically and administratively, the Vice President and XO are both positions that ensure nothing gets overlooked.

While maintaining my leadership positions both in ROTC and in JASA is challenging, many of the skills I learn in ROTC contribute to my success. I owe a lot to ROTC in my development as a leader. Equipping Army Cadets to give back to their campuses is one of the many things which makes ROTC an amazing program.

# The Correlation of Team Sports and Leadership

Cadet Nicholas Tannenbaum is a junior Molecular Biochemistry (Pre-medical) major at Washington University. He is also the goalie for the Washington University Men's Soccer Team.



As a varsity soccer player, communication and fitness are paramount to success. From practice, to an NCAA tournament game, the ability to formulate plans with others and the physical ability to execute, leads to incredible achievement that cannot be rivaled. Upon joining Army ROTC's Gateway Battalion, it became clear that the Army is another organization that values these two traits. Whether it is an obstacle courses, or a panel with senior Army leaders, each event the battalion participates in is tailored to developing the leadership and knowledgeability of each individual Cadet. Even though the Army thrives on its use of team tactics, there is a strong emphasis on each member of the team being the best they can be. After all a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This is a concept that came naturally to me after participating on a sports team. Regardless of what position a person is playing, they need to perform at a high level to support the goals of the team. I was able to seamlessly transition from one organization to the other without any difficulty at all.

Once all team members have mastered their physical skills the only thing left to do is join them together through clear and concise communication. As a goalie in soccer, my job is to survey the field and direct my defense, person-by-person, in order to successfully defeat the other team. Upon donning an Army uniform and taking the oath of enlistment, the tasks do not change. As a platoon leader, the position a Cadet will most likely receive as an Army officer upon graduation, I will be tasked with surveying the battlefield and directing my troops, unit-by-unit, in order to accomplish the mission. In this way, soccer has been invaluable in shaping my career with the battalion and my future exploits as an officer.

ROTC is not a one-way street though. It has imparted countless lessons upon me. I am now better able to better interface with professors and peers in a respectful and personable manner. It has instilled a discipline in me that has made me relentless in pushing towards my goals. Overall, ROTC has shaped countless interactions in my daily life, as well as allowed me to apply skills learned in other settings in a dynamic and challenging environment. While I may never become a professional soccer player, I know that through Gateway's training, I will become a professional officer in the finest fighting force on the planet.

# Staying Active: Sports, Fraternities and ROTC



Cadet Mocha Uchiyama is a sophomore Business Operations and Supply Chain Management major at Washington University. He is also a member of the Washington University Football Team.



I have had the unique opportunity to not only be a Cadet in the Gateway Battalion, but also a student athlete at Washington University. I am also a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. While balancing all these activities can prove challenging at many points throughout the year, they complement each other very well in terms of developing key leadership traits. This residual effect has allowed me to further succeed within ROTC.

Leadership on a football team is closely correlated with leadership in ROTC. Whether I am at practice, or a game, I have had the opportunity to work on my leadership skills every day. I am continually able to develop as a vocal leader to my teammates. This comes in many different forms. Whether it is getting teammates in the right position before a play, speaking to my team before a game to maximize motivation, or holding someone accountable for their actions on and off the field. Having this practice has greatly improved my leadership skills within ROTC by giving me the confidence to speak in front of others, while giving presentations and briefs, and also holding myself and peers accountable for our respective responsibilities.

As a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, I am in charge of our main philanthropy program, where we raise money to send care packages to military members who are overseas, by setting up donation tables at different school sporting events. The opportunity to take charge of such an important part of my fraternity has enhanced my organizational and planning skills, while preparing me for similar tasks within ROTC and as a future Army officer.

The discipline required in balancing different activities has helped enhance my experience and challenged me during my time here at Washington University. These opportunities have exposed me to not only the personal aspects of leadership, but also the planning and administrative aspects. These experiences will ultimately prepare me for the challenges that I will face as a Cadet, and a U.S. Army Officer.

# From Sergeant to Second Lieutenant



Cadet Blake Bleisch is junior Global Studies major at Fontbonne University. Cadet Bleisch is also a Sergeant in the Army Reserve.



Upon entering the ROTC Gateway Battalion, I was greeted with excitement and enthusiasm. From the first day, I felt like a part of the team. The Cadre, staff and my fellow cadets are always there to help out. Your fellow cadets always have your "6". Though the world of ROTC is different than that of the regular Army world, the lessons I have learned in the program can be applied at any point in time in the Army.

Coming into the program as a prior-service cadet means you are held somewhat of a higher standard than a normal cadet. This seemed a bit daunting at first, but with time, I came to the realization that having some of the cadets look up to you for help is a great feeling. I have been able to share my experiences in training and have learned about the experiences of other cadets. Even though I have come from a somewhat established background within the Army Reserves, my skills as a leader have improved. I have learned many things in the ROTC program I was not even aware about from my previous training. My leadership skills and basic soldiering skills have only strengthened from attending the various labs and field training exercises. As a Noncommissioned Officer in the Army Reserves, I can leverage the leadership and soldiering skills I already have, build them during my participation in the program and become better equipped to help lead soldiers in my Reserve unit.

The Gateway Battalion is a great organization. Being led by remarkably knowledgeable cadets makes it feel as though I'm in the active-duty force conducting Army training. Discipline, camaraderie and challenging training environments make the ROTC program not only fun, but it is also a way to build skills that will give you a step ahead of your peers. Leadership is a focal point in the military and is even more emphasized in ROTC. Being a cadet means taking charge, building skills and challenging yourself. If you are a prior-service veteran in any capacity, or have no military experience and want to develop and have respected leadership skills and roles both in a civilian career and amongst Soldiers, the Gateway Battalion Army ROTC program is a great organization to take that next step with.

# Enlisted Guardsmen to Army Officer



Cadet Brady Hawkes is a junior majoring in three different areas; Political Science, International Relations and Economics at Lindenwood University. He is also currently an Infantryman in the Missouri National Guard.



The Gateway ROTC program has given me a wider selection of opportunities than I would have experienced alone in the National Guard. Just recently, I contracted and was enrolled in the Simultaneous Membership Program. This program allows me to participate in my monthly weekend drills at my unit, while having my tuition paid for before I become an Army officer. Before enrolling in Army ROTC, I was an Army Specialist. While I was a specialist in the National Guard, I had some responsibility, but not nearly as much as being in a leadership position in ROTC. Each year, there are several events that are available in the ROTC program that I would not be able to participate in if I was just a member of the National Guard. For example, events like the Ranger Challenge, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFB), the Leadership Development Course and attend Airborne School.

Once you contract into ROTC, the opportunities increase even more. Programs like Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) and GAFB become available and count for accessions points in the nation-wide ROTC competition for attaining a commission as an Active Duty Army Officer. CULP is a program that pays for you to stay in a foreign country for a few weeks. While you are there, you train with military personnel of that country. GAFB is a German physical course that has multiple events. If you pass the course you get to wear the badge on your ASU's even after you graduate. These courses will give you points that will go towards your accessions packet, so the more points you have, the better.

While I was in a leadership role in ROTC, the experience was an eye opener. You are not just taking care of yourself anymore, you have to ensure that your team, squad, or platoon is up to date at all times. This gave me valuable experience during training events and also carried over into school. If you can keep track of 50 people, all of a sudden, being a leader in a group project isn't so difficult.

Previously, as a Specialist in the National Guard, there was never a chance for me to lead a team or a squad. One of the main reasons why I enjoy ROTC is that I am given a chance to lead. The different leadership rotations each month put you in different roles, so you gain knowledge of and experience working in different positions. Also, ROTC is a great program to learn valuable skills than can easily be transferred over to school and the civilian world.

# How Do You Get Involved at Gateway ROTC?

*Whether you're a prospective Cadet, a parent interested in what your child does in the ROTC, an alumni wanting to look back into the program, or wanting to give back, we are here to help.*

## Gateway Battalion website:

[rotc.wustl.edu](http://rotc.wustl.edu)

## Like us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/GatewayROTC](https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC)

**I'm a prospective Cadet and would like to observe some of your training events, or classes. Who should I contact to schedule that?**

Mr. Lee Rodriguez in the Gateway Recruiting office can help you schedule appointment. His contact details are:

(314) 935-5521  
[lee.e.rodriguez@wustl.edu](mailto:lee.e.rodriguez@wustl.edu)



## I'm a specialist in the National Guard, how do I get involved with ROTC?



Mr Gary Lee is the Program Coordinator and has over 26 years of experience helping Cadets achieve their goals.

(314) 935-5546  
[glee@wustl.edu](mailto:glee@wustl.edu)

## How Can you Support the Gateway Battalion?

Donations through Washington University are fully tax deductible

### Checks Payable to:

"Washington University - Department of Military Science"

Memo: Acct# 11-2051-94990

### MAIL TO:

Washington University  
Campus Box 1082  
One Brookings Drive  
Saint Louis, MO 63130

### Online:

Go to [gifts.wustl.edu/giftform.aspx](http://gifts.wustl.edu/giftform.aspx)  
Click "select giving areas". Then, check "other" and enter "Department of Military Science" and Acct# 11-2051-94990

### Other:

To donate time, money or equipment, or other resources outside of WashU channels, please contact the PMS

