While many of the UNI cadets were busy with Advanced Camp, Basic Camp, CULP, internships and other Army schools, recruiting over the summer continued to be a key task to get incoming freshman and transfer students into the program. Over the summer 2LT Trey Roosa, the Gold Bar Recruiter, and Mr. Thompson, Recruiting Operations Officer, attended 16 incoming student orientations, 5 open houses, and several other events during the welcome to UNI week. As a result, the program started off with 27 students enrolled in the initial freshman class, which was the largest in the past five years. These students included 4 National Scholarship winners and 4 Iowa National Guard Minuteman Scholarship winners.

Another big push was to get cadets who were awarded scholarships to start in the fall fully qualified so they could start to draw their benefits. We contracted five cadets right away. The quality of these young men and women is amazing. Their cumulative GPA as a group is over 3.4 and it includes one STEM major, one nurse, two elementary education majors, and one history major. Together, the value of these scholarships exceeds $274,000.

Recruiting remained big focus for the remainder of the fall semester. UNI ROTC partnered with UNI Admissions, the Iowa National Guard, and US Army Recruiting Command to bring prospects to campus for the scheduled university open houses on every Friday from early October through mid November. These open houses allow the prospects a chance to learn about UNI during the morning sessions and then, after lunch, learn more about ROTC and becoming an Army officer. In addition to open houses, Mr. Thompson and 2LT Roosa attended five regional college fairs to promote Army ROTC to college bound Iowa high school students.

Bringing in the next generation of Army leaders remains a key task for the Panther Battalion. The 2017-2018 school year started off strong and we have high expectations for not only this year but also the next years going forward.
NASA INTERNSHIP

ROTC cadets have many additional opportunities for summer training. These include Army schools like Airborne and Air Assault as well as the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program. What many people may not know is that cadets can also compete for internships with other federal government agencies. UNI MSIII Cadet Jack Rollison is one of those cadets. Cadet Rollison spent his summer as an intern with the NASA Ames Research Facility in Mountain View, CA on one such mission. As a NASA intern, Cadet Rollison worked with a cognitive psychologist to study the effect of space on cognitive functions in astronauts. Cadet Rollison is a bio-chemistry major at the University of Northern Iowa and through this internship, learned how bio-chemical changes in a person can affect their cognitive abilities, and gained a better understanding of his own field of study. Additionally, he saw how scientists from various disciplines work together. In addition to his work on understanding these changes, Cadet Rollison also attended a week long, joint Department of Defense – NASA conference that provided insight into cutting edge research taking place between the two organizations. To sum up his experience, Cadet Rollison stated, “Whether it be in my civilian life or military life, the NASA internship that I took part in has made a very strong impact that I feel will benefit me for life.”

PANTHER BATTALION HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

The Panther Battalion held its second Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday, October 7. This year, the Panther Battalion inducted Captain Matthew Nielson who was KIA in Iraq on June 29, 2011. Accepting this honor on his behalf were his parents, Roger and Christine. The Panther Battalion Hall of Fame recognizes distinguished alumni who contributed to the Army and their community after graduation. CPT Nielson’s parents accepted the award and gave moving comments on the impact their son made at both UNI and his unit. CPT Nielson’s legacy lives on as an inspiration to current and future cadets.
UNI CADETS SUPPORT CVP
HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The UNI Center for Violence Prevention hosts an annual High School Leadership summit. This event’s purpose is to train high school leaders on how to be mentors to their fellow students and help prevent violence of any kind in their schools. This year’s summit was on October 12 and hosted 275 high school juniors and seniors from eight area high schools. Additionally, the event had a delegation of 34 students from Sweden.

As part of this summit, UNI ROTC cadets ran team-building exercises as one of the breakout sessions. All of the exercises focused on various aspects of leadership starting with problem solving, followed by making a decision, and then communicating during the execution of the leader’s plan. As groups accomplished the tasks, cadets placed additional variables on them such as limiting verbal communications. Over the three breakout sessions, UNI cadets were able to engage with over 100 high school leaders and take them through the team building events.
For the 3rd year in a row, the Panther Battalion partnered with the Sartori Hospital Festival of Trees celebration. This organization hosts an annual Veterans brunch that celebrates Veterans from across the Cedar Valley. As part of this year’s event, UNI Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Harris administered the oath of enlistment to 11 ROTC cadets who have made a commitment not only to the ROTC program, but also to the nation to become an officer in the Army. We congratulate these cadets on this dedication and thank the Festival of Trees committee for allowing us to be part of their program.

The Panther Battalion will host its annual ROTC Dining Out on Saturday, February 24 at the Maucker Student Union on the UNI Campus. All Panther Battalion alumni, family, friends and supporters are welcome to attend. In the coming weeks, look for more information on the costs, meal selections and times.

If you cannot make the Dining Out but would like to donate to the cadet organization, please contact the ROTC office at 319-273-7648/6178.

You can check out the Panther Battalion online and follow us on social media at the following:

- csbs.uni.edu/military-science
- @UNIROTC
- northern_iowa_ROTCS
- @UNIROTC