

Fall 2018

Panther Press, Fall 2018

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Military Science.

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PANTHER PRESS

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ROTC BASIC CAMP

This past summer, the Panther Battalion sent nine cadets to ROTC Basic Camp at Fort Knox, KY. Whereas Basic Camp (formerly called Leader Training Course) was only for prospects who did not complete the first two years of classes, over the past three summers we have been able to send scholarship cadets who completed either their MS1 or MS2 years, in addition to those cadets who needed basic course completion credit. One of the scholarship cadets who attended, Tyler Whitehead, said that, “My physical and mental capabilities were challenged throughout the month that I was at Fort Knox. I learned how to operate a M16 rifle. I conducted land navigation during the day and at night. I completed a variety of confidence courses alone and with my squad. I trained how to properly use a gas mask in a gas chamber. I also conducted physical training and ruck marches regularly. The experience gave me a good first look at life in the US Military. I am looking forward to serving my country after I complete my college education.” While Cadet Summer Training staffing requirements will cause Basic Camp to revert to the original purpose of providing basic course credit, it has provided some great opportunities for cadets to get additional training on an Army installation before they report for Advanced Camp.

FALL SWEARING IN CEREMONY

We kicked off the fall 2018 semester by adding seven newly contracted cadets who took the enlistment oath at the start of their land navigation leadership lab. Six cadets received scholarships that will pay out over \$207,000 in combined financial benefits. The 7th cadet is pursuing a Masters degree. These cadets represent some of the highest quality students at UNI and the combined



GPA of this group is 3.48. We congratulate each of the student scholar/athlete/leaders on earning their scholarships, and more importantly, making a commitment to the Army and the Nation to step forward and take on the mantel of leadership.

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (CULP)

Cadet Morgan Jones was one of eight Panther Battalion Cadets that got to travel overseas last summer for CULP. CULP is designed to expose Cadets to a different culture so they understand the importance of working alongside partners from across the world. Many of the Cadets will do partnered training with Soldiers from other nations throughout their career, so being able to understand different cultural views is key to a successful partnership. Cadet Jones shared her experience with us:

“For one month this summer, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to many different cities throughout the country of Morocco through the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program (CULP) at the University of Northern Iowa. I traveled with 40 American cadets from all over the United States. The first ten days were spent at the Royal Military Academy interacting with cadets that were in their third year. We spent time traveling to different cities in order to completely immerse ourselves in local life and expose ourselves to a new culture. We were able to ask questions that most people tend to stray away from. I was able to build relationships, connect with people, and helped close that gap of cultural barriers, stereotypes and misunderstandings.

In addition to our time spent with the Moroccan cadets, we also lead outreach projects at an orphanage, a half-way school for neglected/homeless/abused children, and Amal (a women’s education and empowerment facility) or which translates to hope in Arabic. We went to all different climates and terrains to experience how diverse Morocco is. From sleeping in the desert, to hiking the Atlas Mountains, to the populated marketplaces of Marrakesh. I gained a completely new outlook on how I view the world and how important cross culture and global interaction is. At the end of the day, we are all humans sharing one world.”





ARMY TEN-MILER TEAM

For the third year in a row, UNI ROTC sent a team of cadets and cadre to run the Army Ten-Miler on October 7. Eight cadets from the program drove to Washington DC overnight on October 4. After arriving in Washington D.C., they were released to explore the city. As MS3 Cadet Tierra Dorff said, “we got to see the Washington Monument, the WWII memorial, the Lincoln memorial and so many other amazing things. The next day we went to the Arlington Cemetery. This was very humbling to be standing where 400,000 plus military personnel and families were buried. The Changing of the Guard ceremony takes place every hour and it was honestly beautiful to watch.” The race itself began at 0750 at the Pentagon. Cadet Dorff said, “The energy was insane and it continued throughout the run. People were carrying flags and running with gear on. There was not a leg of the run where you did not feel motivated to keep moving forward.” After completion of the run, the cadets and cadre began the long drive back to UNI. Again, Cadet Dorff stated, “It was such an amazing experience and I hope more people can experience something similar because it reminds you that you are a part of something bigger.”

UNI CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

For the 4th consecutive year, UNI ROTC was a co-sponsor for the UNI Center for Violence Prevention’s annual high school leadership summit. 275 high school juniors and seniors from across Iowa went through training on how to prevent violence in their schools and communities. As part of this training, Panther Battalion cadets led the students through some problem-solving, teamwork exercises which stressed the importance of communicating a plan and working together to make it happen. These activities included the “broken bridge” which required them to move the team across an open area with limited resources; the “magic carpet” which had them flip a poncho from one side to the other all while standing on it; the “helium stick” where they had to lower a wooden slat to the ground as a group; and “Kim’s game” which was an organization and memorization exercise. While the students had some fun, challenging exercises, the cadets also gained experience in supervising people. It was another great event and we look forward to next year’s summit.



2018 UNI ROTC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

This year, we recognized our second fallen Soldier alumnus, 2LT Brian Gienu as the 2018 inductee into the UNI ROTC Hall of Fame. Over 100 family, friends, former cadre, and cadets attended the ceremony which was held on the West Gym floor. Lieutenant Colonel Harris presented his parents with a duplicate of the plaque that will go on our wall of honor during the Military Appreciation Football game.



FESTIVAL OF TREES VETERANS BRUNCH

UNI ROTC partnered with the Sartori Hospital Festival of Trees Veterans brunch for the 4th consecutive year. This brunch connects cadets with Veterans as members in the brotherhood and sisterhood of arms. Panther Battalion cadets provided a color guard for the event and the culminating part was nine cadets taking the oath of enlistment, signifying their commitment to the nation. We want to thank the organizing committee for allowing us to be a continuous part of this community event.



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