

Fall 2016

# Gateway Gazette

Fall Edition



The Gateway Battalion is proud to announce the recipients of scholarships for Fall Semester 2016. 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 Matthew E. Snell and take the Oath of the Army Officer before a leadership lab.

### **Freshman Contract Recipients:**

Cadet Eliza Antonowich	Washington University
Cadet Justin DiCarlo	Washington University
Cadet Trent McPherson	Maryville University
Cadet Adam Messer	Washington University
Cadet Cienna Jordan	Washington University
Cadet Sean Rogers	Washington University
Cadet Ryan Benson	Saint Louis University
Cadet James Harter	Saint Louis University

### **Sophomore Contract Recipients:**

Cadet Emma Hupp	Saint Louis University
Cadet Emerson Rainey	Lindenwood University
Cadet Ted Sheehy	Washington University
Cadet Sommerlyn Stevens	Lindenwood University
Cadet Harrison McIntosh	Washington University

### **Junior Contract Recipients:**

Cadet Sontaya Sherrell	Washington University
Cadet Peter Leach	Saint Louis University
Cadet Jessica Rhodes	Univeristy of Missouri-Saint Louis
Cadet Stanley Goodwin	Webster University

# Message from the Professor of Military Science



Alumni, Cadets and friends of the Gateway Detachment, it is an honor for me and my family to join the Gateway team. A special thanks goes out to COL Chad Callis, the out-going Gateway Professor of Military Science, for a warm reception and outstanding transition. I am an ROTC graduate and career Infantryman with multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan (most recently returning from Kabul in June 2016). MAJ Don Harris, MAJ Mike Shaughnessy, CPT Joel Groves and SFC Joshua Johnson have also joined the Gateway Detachment in various capacities since the last publication of the Gateway Gazette. We are all excited to be here and are looking forward to working with the Cadets.

The Gateway Detachment continues to grow with a current enrollment of 106 Cadets which includes a very strong incoming freshmen class of 41. In the short time that I have been here, I have continually been impressed by the intelligence, discipline, and creativity of the Cadet Battalion. They have demonstrated an insatiable desire to learn and push themselves to reach their potential. Whether it was training in the pouring rain during the fall FTX, competing in the newly redesigned and grueling Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Leonard Wood, or earning the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (5 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze), the Gateway Detachment sets a standard of excellence.

We couldn't do all that we do without the support of our alumni, and we would love to have you join the team. There are many opportunities for you to have a powerful impact on the next generation of Army Leaders including one-on-one mentoring, professional insights or a financial gift to the Cadet Fund. Please contact me to find out more information ([matthew.e.snell@wustl.edu](mailto:matthew.e.snell@wustl.edu)).

Thanks for your continued interest in the Gateway Detachment. These young men and women are the future leaders of our Army. I encourage you to follow our activities and accomplishments on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC>).

Matthew E. Snell, LTC, Professor of Military Science



# Spending a Summer Abroad

Cadet Haley Allen is a Sophomore at Washington University.



This past summer, I was fortunate enough to be able to spend eight weeks in Tanzania as a recipient of a Project GO scholarship. The trip was extremely eye-opening to me as I lived among and learned about a culture entirely different from my own. I became conversational in the language of Kiswahili and learned about history, anthropology, foreign aid, and so much more.

The most important takeaway from this trip was learning about foreign affairs and how limited cultural knowledge and ineffective communication can be counterproductive in accomplishing the task at hand. Outside of our classroom studies, we were given many opportunities to interact and speak with locals to be fully immersed in the Tanzanian culture.

We had homestays for a week with Maasai families, a semi-nomadic, pastoralist tribe in Northern Tanzania, which allowed us to fully experience traditional life in rural Tanzania. My homestay also enabled me to gain an understanding of the many issues plaguing rural Tanzanians including water scarcity, poverty, drought, lack of healthcare, and so on.

I also had the opportunity to intern at the local health clinic for a week and observe differences in access to healthcare, available qualified professionals. In addition, I spoke with many of the doctors and nurses about the challenges they face on a daily basis.

Four days of safaris through the Serengeti allowed me to marvel over the natural beauty of Tanzania while learning about the challenges, such as climate change and poaching, that threaten the well-being of the ecosystem.

Furthermore, we were able to intern with a Non-Governmental Agency in a small coastal village that focused on educating the community members about sustainability as well as the problems of overfishing and pollution directly affecting their source of income and way of life.

In total, my experiences have provided me with a strong understanding of the Tanzanian culture and language, and given me a better understanding of the many factors influencing the region such as NGOs, foreign aid, tourism, and so on. The eight short weeks I spent in Tanzania have been extremely impactful on my life and truly something I will never forget.

# CULP: A New Perspective

Having never traveled outside of the United States, I feel beyond privileged to have been able immersed in such an interesting culture. The primary goal of my CULP mission was to successfully train a battalion of nearly sixty Malagasy soldiers so that their unit could gain certification from the United Nations in order to carry out their own Peace Keeping mission in Burundi this fall; in addition, my squad (combined with the other five squads present) were afforded the opportunity to complete both cultural and humanitarian missions during our short stay in theater.

Spending a month on an entirely new continent, in an extremely different culture, broadened my world view in a way that is unachievable in a classroom. Before I had only studied transnational issues, but seeing these things first-hand helped me realize how much work we, as future leaders in the United States Army, have in order to assist in creating not only global peace but also global prosperity.

During my trip, a lot of time was focused on understanding cultural competencies. All of these competencies were designed in a way that promoted discourse among cadets, and helped many to realize the social implications of things like colonialism, racism secularization, education, and poverty, to name a few. I found this approach to be particularly insightful especially as we compared the Malagasy people and their social issues with the American people and our social issues. The only division between our peoples are devious social constructs that were primarily created to increase the prosperity of First World Countries while taking advantage of Third World Countries.



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



Above: Cadet Tharp interacts with wild lemur during a cultural immersion trip in the Malagasy Rainforest



As a part of Cadet Tharp's Mil to Mil mission, he and his squad had the privilege of training a battalion of Malagasy soldiers as they attempted to gain UN Certification



# A Summer at Ft. Knox



Above: Cadet Peter Leach is a junior at Saint Louis University.

In the weeks leading up to Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET), I did not know what to expect. Having spent only four months with the Gateway Battalion prior to going, I had serious reservations about how I would perform. However, after settling into a routine at Fort Knox, it became overwhelmingly clear that my short time with Gateway had prepared me even better than cadets with far more experience in other programs.

The month at CIET followed a 'crawl, walk, run' structure. In the 'crawl' phase, my fellow cadets and I learned the fundamentals of drill and ceremony, customs and courtesies, and the day-to-day pace of Army garrison life. The 'walk' phase incorporated a gradual increase in responsibility, as we practiced leadership roles within our platoons. During this period, we also honed basic soldier skills such as marksmanship and land navigation. Finally, CIET culminated in a 12-day field training exercise which tested our unit cohesion through the execution of movement to contact, ambush, and reconnaissance missions.

No stint of cadet summer training is without tedium or frustration, and CIET was certainly no exception. Nevertheless, it was my time with Gateway that made my experience much easier compared to that of my peers. I went in the first regiment alongside cadets from The Citadel, Norwich, Texas A&M, VMI, and other senior military colleges—colleges that live and breathe Army life. The difference between us was the creativity and compassion to lead and the humility to fail until I succeeded that Gateway instilled in me. Despite frustration—both personal and collective—I refused to lose sight of the bigger picture, and dismissed the notion that the training was in any way beneath me. Ultimately, it was not superior knowledge or technical competence that helped me thrive at CIET; it was 'buy-in'. I approached each day not as an opportunity to shine but as an opportunity to make mistakes, support my teammates as they learn from theirs, and grow as a leader. Any program that teaches cadets to be comfortable with the very uncomfortable process of improving is clearly doing something right. I am proud to say I adopted this attitude from the cadets, NCOs, and officers that comprise the Gateway Battalion.

# Army ROTC Ranger Challenge

Cadet Jacob Griffith is a sophomore at Maryville University.



Do you think you are mentally and physically prepared to push your body to the max? If you answered yes to this, then the Ranger challenge is just the competition you've been looking for. The ranger challenge is a team of ROTC cadets that endure 27 miles of rucking with roughly 30-35 pounds as we are tested on not only our physical fitness, but also our mental fitness, our knowledge of combat procedures, and soldier etiquette. Some of this includes grenade identification, proper procedures for deploying grenades, Combat Life Saving procedures, call for fire with field artillery, the breakdown and functions check of a M4 assault rifle, and many other basic soldier tasks. Along with the soldier knowledge, Ranger Challenge requires cadets to find their inner strength and push their bodies to the maximum as we have training Monday through Friday. As we awake before the sun rises, while everyone else sleeps, the Ranger challenge team trains to be the best team to step foot at the competition.

The outcome is a group of highly fit cadets capable of having any challenge thrown our way. The time and dedication for this team amounts to a lot, but by the end of the season the camaraderie of our team and the pride that comes along with being on the team is like no other. Nothing brings me more pride than saying I am on the Ranger challenge team, while being a Cadet for the Gateway Battalion. As we walk into the competition and compete, we know our Leader Cormac O'Halloran has helped motivate and prepare us to take 1st place.

The challenge takes place in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Every ROTC brigade across the nation sends their best soldiers to contend to be the best Ranger challenge team, but I have no doubt in my mind that the Gateway cadets that I have been training with will be an absolute tough contender in this competition. I would recommend every cadet to test their body and give Ranger Challenge a try next year. I know for me it has been an honor to be a part of this close team of highly capable cadets.

# Field Training at Ft. Leonard Wood



Cadet Teddy Sims is a sophomore at Washington University double majoring in Biochemistry and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.



This September, I was fortunate enough to attend the Gateway Battalion's Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The FTX, gave me the opportunity to utilize the skills and training we were exposed to in the classroom and leadership labs in a meaningful way.

Once we arrived in Ft. Leonard Wood, the first task we completed was an obstacle course. Having only been an ROTC Cadet for a few weeks, the course gave me the perfect opportunity to get to know my fellow cadets as we motivated one another past each obstacle. Once we completed the obstacle course, we moved onto the Leadership Reaction course which tested our ability to work together towards a common objective. We often rotated leadership positions and our cadet chain of command ensured everyone had the chance to contribute in a meaningful way. I felt very proud of the way my group never gave up, even when a task seemed impossible, and moved through all but one obstacle.

The next day, we repelled down a 40-foot tower and completed a confidence course, again, as a unit. That night, we were given a compass and a flashlight and utilized the point plotting, map reading, and terrain recognition skills we learned in the classroom setting. Night land navigation was by far my favorite part of the FTX. Besides the sense of accomplishment that came with finding points assigned to us, I also had the opportunity to strengthen a very practical skill that will help me in the future.

I gained valuable experiences at the Fall FTX that I would not have been able to receive in a classroom setting. With every task we completed, my fellow cadets and I gained the confidence we will need to be effective leaders. I am very thankful to have participated in such a unique learning experience so early in my ROTC path.



# Campus Leadership: Staying Involved



Cadet Sommerlyn Stevens is a sophomore at Lindenwood University. In addition to being involved in ROTC, Cadet Stevens is a member of the synchronized swim team at Lindenwood.



When looking at an ROTC cadet, student leadership is an essential characteristic. Roles in both school and military leadership are challenging, but the ability to balance both is one of the greatest challenges. The two leadership roles correlate with each other to the point where many leadership skills learned from other activities can be tweaked and applied to military leadership. Campus activities, paired with the ROTC program, give a cadet opportunities to work on one's leadership skills and become a well-rounded leader.

At Lindenwood University, there are many chances to get involved. I am personally on the university's synchronized swim team, exercise science club, and take part in intramural sports. Many may say leadership means being a president of something, but in reality, it is not that complicated. Success of intramural sports are all determined by the students. On the team, there are opportunities to show and train leadership skills. A team can have a team captain where the role includes seeing who is coming, and making sure everybody is approved to play. Another example, of leadership is if the team wants t-shirts or team uniform, one can step up and organize a way to get the team matching apparel. These are examples of little leadership opportunities where with just one tweak could help with military leadership. After a cadet commissions as an official Army Officer, their tasks start small. The new Lieutenant starts as a platoon leader (PL) where one is in charge of a platoon (group) of soldiers. Some of the tasks may include having your platoon at a certain place at a certain time with accountability. This being very similar to knowing who is going to show up for the intramural game at seven o'clock. Unity is very important to a platoon and one way to accomplish that would be through a standard uniform just like the team t-shirts.

As a part of the university's Synchronized swim team, I've been able to work on my communication skills, which is crucial when it comes to leadership. I am in charge of anything related to strength training for the team. Tasks include keeping accountability, relaying attendance information to coaches, and sending out workouts to the team. For the team, we have skills testing that are required for meet participation. I have to communicate between coaches and athletes to ensure there is team cohesion. Similarly, as a PL you have to make sure your soldiers know what they are doing and if there are any changes to the plan.

There are many lessons and techniques that could be learned just by getting involved. For those ROTC cadets that are wanting to work on leadership skills, my best advice is to try new things and put yourself into positions that allow you to get uncomfortable and grow. When the time comes, you never know what leadership skills will guide you through it.

# Leadership Lessons From Local Officers

Cadet Morgan Brooks is a junior majoring in American culture studies and global health at Washington University.



One of the great resources of Gateway Battalion is the great network of soldiers who make themselves available to cadets for any questions they may have. Many cadets have reached out to alumni or local army officers for advice or insight and were met by helpful mentors. During the Leadership Lab on November 10, some of the valuable members of our network including the guest of honor, Brigadier General Beckett, came to speak to the battalion in a panel-style, question and answer session.

The first portion of the lab consisted of a panel of captains who were participating in Washington University in St. Louis MBA or PhD programs. The panelists represented a variety of branches, including engineering, armor, logistics, aviation, field artillery, military intelligence, and civil affairs. The soldiers shared useful leadership tips and emphasized traits of strong army leaders. Willingness to learn was common theme, whether it be learning about the jobs of the soldiers you are leading, learning about their specialized skills to better utilize them, or learning about ways to develop as a leader. Panelists also reiterated the importance of maintaining physical fitness to set an example and gain respect from their soldiers. The panelists exemplified some of the incredible opportunities for education post-command, showing cadets opportunities that they can strive through as they move throughout their military career.

Brigadier General Beckett graciously shared his wisdom with the cadets at lab as well. He stressed the importance of constantly assessing people and situations, whether it be in a military career or in civilian life. Situational management and awareness are key aspects of great leaders. BG Beckett also offered strategies for personal development. He recommended reading whenever possible. Specifically, he mentioned the US Army Chief of Staff's annual reading list as a starting point for the cadets. In order to further develop leadership and professional skills, BG Beckett suggested visiting people who serve as role models for the success you like to achieve and asks them what their biggest successes and pitfalls were. He echoed the panelists' advice that a constant willingness to learn separates the mediocre and the stellar leaders. BG Beckett voiced the qualities of a successful leader in three words: innovate, adapt, and overcome. Gateway Battalion cadets are fortunate to be surrounded by cadre and mentors who are constantly striving to teach cadets how to incorporate this advice into their future careers as US Army officers.

# AIR ASSAULT: Developing Skills, Professionalism, and Esprit de Corps



Cadet Conor Hammond is a junior at Washington University.



In the 1940s, advances in warfare necessitated the development of new strategies that avoided heavy concentrations of troops while allowing effective insertion. In response to this demand, the Marine Corps developed the concept of “vertical envelopment” which enabled commanders to make use of air mobility assets to seize key terrain and engage the enemy behind their lines. Today, that strategy lives on as Air Assault. This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Ft. Benning, GA to attend the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center’s Air Assault Course. The rigorous 12 day course is designed to produce soldiers with proficiency in all aspects of operations involving rotary wing aircraft and to instill professionalism across all disciplines.

The course was divided into three phases. The first—Air Assault Operations—involved hours of classroom instruction, extensive self-study, and a comprehensive final test. Over the course of three days, we crammed pages of information on everything from pathfinder operations to the specifications of rotary wing aircraft. The second phase—sling load operations—was by far the most technically difficult. Under the careful and expert direction of the Air Assault Sergeants, we learned to meticulously rig and inspect sling loads (various pieces of cargo to be carried under a rotary wing aircraft). Phase II is notoriously difficult with a large portion of each class going home at the end of it. The final—and most highly anticipated—phase was rappelling. Our class spent two long days executing numerous rappels from a 60 foot tower with various amounts of gear. Over those two days, student after student—including myself—began to shed fears and insecurities and drop from the tower confidently. As a culminating event, we were taken up 90 feet in a UH-60 Blackhawk and put our skills into practice.

Before we could proudly wear the Air Assault badge, we had to pass one final test—a midnight 12-mile road march across the hilly terrain of Ft. Benning. When we finally crossed the finish line—exhausted—we realized all we had gained, not just the applicable skills, but the attention to detail, the confidence, and the pride of being Air Assault!



# Airborne All the Way

Cadet Andrew Schad is senior criminal justice major at Saint Louis University.



I attended and graduated from Airborne school in Fort Benning, Georgia over the summer, earning my Airborne wings. The training was a great experience, and I not only learned about Airborne operations and jumping out of a plane, but also about the Army in general by talking with my fellow jump school classmates, which ranged in rank from E-1 to E-8 and from O-1 to O-4.

Airborne school was broken up into three phases; ground week, tower week, and jump week. Ground week consisted of an APFT, Airborne 5K, and learning how to execute a parachute landing fall (PLF). During ground week we also jumped from the 35 foot tower to work on executing an aircraft. Tower week consisted of dropping from a swing landing trainer to continue to work on conducting proper PLF's, emergency landings, and dropping from the 250 foot tower. Finally, during jump week, we conducted five jumps from two different aircrafts, the C-17 Globemaster and a C-130 Hercules. The five jumps we conducted included two Hollywood jumps, two combat equipment jumps, and one night jump. The Hollywood jump consists of jumping with only your main and reserve parachutes. The combat equipment jump consists of jumping with your main and reserve parachutes along with a molly ruck sack and rifle case, all of which totaled approximately 100 pounds. The night jump was simply a jump conducted during the concealment of the nighttime darkness.

After completion of my five jumps, the only remaining events were graduation and the pinning ceremony of the Airborne wings. I was lucky enough to have my parents make the trip down from Cincinnati, Ohio to Fort Benning to pin my wings on me and be a part of the ceremony. Airborne!

# Summer Internship with NATO



Cadet Teddy Sims is a senior at Washington University commissioning in December as an intelligence officer.



“In this challenging moment, I want to take this opportunity to state clearly what will never change -- and that is the unwavering commitment of the United States to the security and defense of Europe, to our transatlantic relationship, to our commitment to our common defense.” - President Obama

This summer, I spent 10-weeks as a political intern at the US Mission to NATO. When I arrived in Brussels, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I couldn't tell you the policy difference of deterrence versus reassurance. I couldn't tell you what interoperability meant. Like most Americans, I didn't really know what NATO was or did.

My duties and responsibilities at NATO constantly changed. I attended negotiations and committees on topics ranging from partnership and cooperation with Columbia, anti-piracy efforts off the coast of Africa, ballistic missile defense, and NATO's mission in Afghanistan. During these meetings, I would note take for senior Foreign Service Officers and draft official cables back to State Department headquarters in Washington.

NATO gave me access. I was able to begin to understand how diplomacy works. I had a crash course in how Ambassador Lute, a retired three-star Armor officer and former Deputy National Security Council Advisor, works through NATO's complex operating environment and solves problems. Because the US-NATO relationship is so important, the Mission is filled with seasoned DoD and State Department officials. Ambassador Lute navigates these relationships in order to best accomplish the White House's intent, which is no easy task.

Outside of the office, I was able to explore Europe. I spent many weekends seeing the pearls of west Flanders and the Belgian countryside. Brussels is centrally located, so I was able to visit several key battlefields including the Bastogne, Waterloo, Verdun, and a three-day trip to Normandy. While my time at the mission was great, I'll remember spending an entire day driving along the coast in Normandy and stopping at every landmark to acknowledge the sacrifice. I'll remember standing on Point du Hoc trying to imagine what those soldiers faced.

Last fall, when I landed the internship at NATO, I had to figure out how to fund a summer in Brussels. I decided to pursue funding through ROTC. After some email exchanges with Cadet Command, I received word that ROTC was fully funding for my internship. I couldn't have had the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop as a future officer at the world's premier military alliance without it.

# 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 a community member 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 at [matthew.e.snell@wustl.edu](mailto:matthew.e.snell@wustl.edu)

