



THE JOINT MILITARY LEADERSHIP CENTER

2019 NEWSLETTER ■ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC)

Overview

At the start of the Fall 2018 semester, we welcomed 27 new residents to the ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC) and one returning resident, Army Cadet Ronald Aytona. Of the 27 new residents, four had previously lived on campus in other residence halls. With LLC enrollment not being as strong compared to previous years for various reasons, we limited the LLC to only one floor vice two floors. Air Force **2d Lt Christina DeInnocentiis** was selected to return as the Residence Hall Advisor (RA) after a great job in the position last academic year. Air Force **Cadet Raymond Cordova** was to be the second RA for the LLC but his floor was converted to a general population floor. Still, Cadet Cordova remained involved with all LLC activities and has been selected as the LLC RA for the 2019-2020 next academic year! The residents of the ROTC LLC had a very busy year. Below are some highlights.



Kayaking on the Hillsborough River

This was a customized outdoor adventure trip organized and led by the university's Outdoor Recreation Department. A number of residents took advantage of this opportunity to kayak on the Hillsborough River in downtown Tampa. The trip was free for the participants which included the kayak and related equipment, transportation, lunch and guides to



lead and facilitate those kayaking for the first time. It was a warm but beautiful day on the water which provided great exercise, adventure and great sightseeing in downtown Tampa from the river.

First annual Dinner with the Dean

A Residential Education curriculum program, the purpose of the dinner is to provide an opportunity for the LLC residents to meet with college faculty and USF administrators in a semi-formal setting to obtain advice and skillsets for career planning. Attending with many of the LLC residents was the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, **Dr. Paul Atchley**, the academic dean to whom the JMLC and ROTC units report. Also attending were the commanders of the ROTC units, **CAPT John Schmidt**, Naval ROTC; **Col Timothy Sites**, Air Force ROTC; and **LTC Ryan Atkins**, Army ROTC. After enjoying a delicious dinner catered by Mission BBQ, Dr. Atchley, an Army ROTC graduate himself, talked about his career both in the U.S. Army and in academia with a positive message to the residents about their own future potential.



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ROTC Instructor visits to the LLC

CAMPUS WIDE HOUSE CALLS: Air Force ROTC instructor, **Lt Col Kelley Jeter**, visited the LLC at the start of the academic year with the Director, John Sarao and other university faculty/staff. The purpose of Campus Wide House Calls is for university faculty & staff to engage campus residents in their communities early in the semester to inform them about campus resources and answer their questions on a variety of topics. Lt Col Jeter is a prior enlisted airman and an Air Force Public Affairs Officer who just recently completed a tour in South Korea.



JOINT OFFICER PANEL: This year's panel was comprised of the following ROTC instructors representing each service: **CPT Matthew Coulthard**, Army ROTC; **Major Nathaniel Redman**, USMC, Naval ROTC; **LT Bradley Lentz**,

USN, Naval ROTC; and, **1st Lt Marcus Koskosky**, Air Force ROTC. It was very interesting for the residents to hear the different perspectives of each officer while also noting many similarities across the services and hearing some good natured, inter-service humor between the officers.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCO) PANEL: **MSG Jaime Castro**, Army ROTC and **SSgt Sarah Karason**, Air Force ROTC, provided a vital insight into officer/enlisted working relationships based on their own personal experiences and different perspectives. MSG Castro, a senior NCO with twenty plus years of experience in the Army and SSgt Karason, a more junior, female NCO in the Air Force.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE PANEL: This was a first for the LLC to provide a women's perspective on military service to the residents. Participants were **Lt Col Kelley Jeter**, Air Force ROTC; **CPT Deisy Wolfe**, Army ROTC; and, **CPT Lindsey Trombley**, an Army officer attending USF as a graduate student. These women officers led a very open discussion about the challenges and opportunities they experienced during their service.



Global Connections

Project Global Officer (GO) Blog

Midshipman Logan Woods, Naval ROTC and **Cadet Connor Dunn**, Air Force ROTC continued USF's participation in Project GO during the summer of 2018. Project GO is sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Security Education Office and is exclusively for select ROTC students nationwide who are studying one of the DoD's critical languages. If selected, Project GO provides a scholarship for ROTC students to study in a particular domestic or overseas language study program. Both students maintained a blog during their studies abroad. Midshipman Woods studied Chinese with a Boston University summer study abroad in ShangHai. During his

studies which included a personal tutor, he had the opportunity to travel to other locations in China including the Yellow Mountains, Beijing and the Great Wall. His blog is posted at this link: <https://bloglogan123posts.tumblr.com/?fbclid=IwAR3nnygBbaf09khbP-Pn49Eo6StBTASanEixcRmB-CUPHNAG8AF-1-Ft-soY> Cadet Dunn studied Russian in Estonia with a University



MIDN Logan Woods in China.

of Pittsburgh language immersion program. He along with other ROTC students from around the country studied at the University of Tartu in the town of Narva located on the border with Russia. During his studies, he had the opportunity to tour various locations in Estonia and also to Riga the capital of Latvia. His blog is posted at: <https://projectgoestonia2018.wordpress.com/>

Visits with the Coalition at U.S. Central Command

Senior National Representatives (SNRs) of the Coalition at U.S. Central Command made an introductory visit to the Joint Military Leadership Center during the fall semester. The SNRs who made the visit were **BG Henrik Larsen**, SNR of Denmark and Chairman of the Coalition; **Col Robert Geerdes**, SNR of the Netherlands and **Col Changhun Lee**, SNR of the Republic of Korea. During their visit they met with the Director and ROTC commanders to learn about each of the ROTC programs and tour the CWY building. The whole idea of training future military commissioned officers at a civilian college campus was unique to them.

As a follow up to the visit, BG Larsen invited our leadership to speak to all the SNRs at one of their weekly meetings at the Coalition Village on MacDill AFB which took place during the spring semester and went very well. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies, **Dr. Paul Atchley** also made the visit. Members of the Coalition found the ROTC programs very interesting and asked many good questions about not only ROTC but about USF as well. Over 50 nations are represented in the Coalition. What an opportunity to engage such an audience from around the world about our university and ROTC!



German Armed Forces Officer Visit

The Assistant Air Attaché at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany accompanied three junior officers of the German Armed Forces to visit the University of South

Florida. The visit was coordinated with Dr. Margit Grieg of the university's World Languages Department with the support of the JMLC. The Assistant Air Attaché, Lt Col Benjamin Schleider, led a presentation and discussion with about 40 students present including ROTC students. A unique opportunity for all the students attending, the German officers talked about their country, culture and military. The event was very informative and everyone enjoyed the discussions and a short social with some refreshments.

Scholarship Recipients



Air Force ROTC 2d Lts Selected for the Air Force Health Professionals Scholarship Program and Admission to Medical School

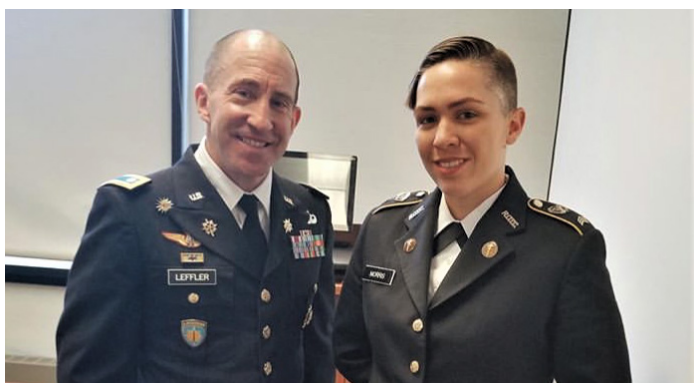
A well-deserved congratulations to newly commissioned **Air Force 2d Lt Anna Bridges** and **2d Lt Christina DelInnocentiis** for their extraordinary accomplishments in being accepted into the U.S. Air Force's Health Professionals Scholarship Program (HPSP). This prestigious award entitles the newly commissioned officers to attend any medical school fully paid (tuition and fees including textbooks, small equipment items and supplies needed for study) by the U.S. Air Force,



as well as a monthly stipend and housing allowance. They were two out of only four cadets who were chosen in the South East Region! Both have been accepted and will attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine in Bethesda, MD starting in August!

CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarships

Based on their superior performance, demonstrated leadership abilities and potential for assuming positions of greater responsibility, the 2018-2019 recipients of the CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarship award are: Army



CDT Victoria Morris

ROTC – **Cadet Victoria Morris**; Naval ROTC – **Midshipman Reilly Maxwell**; and, Air Force ROTC – **Cadet Benjamin Dryden** and **Cadet Kevin Olney**. Cadet Morris was selected from more than 200 Army cadets. She consistently scored above 290 on the Army Physical Fitness Test and led her peers, tactically and technically in the Warrior Tasks and Drills. Midshipman Maxwell was one of 170 midshipmen out of 1,100 nationally to take part in a special summer training pilot program to test their technical knowledge, tactical proficiency, and leadership under pressure. She has maintained a 3.59 GPA, outstanding physical fitness and has over 100 hours of community service. Cadet Benjamin Dryden maintained a 3.5 GPA as a Mechanical Engineering major and was a Distinguished Graduate ranked 5th of 403 cadets at the Air Force Summer Field Training last summer. Cadet Kevin Olney is an Information Systems Management major and was also a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Summer Field Training. He is highly regarded for his leadership development of junior cadets. Cadet Morris and Cadet Maxwell both attended the Yale University NROTC Leadership Conference in New Haven, Connecticut, a first for a Holbrook Scholarship recipient. Cadets Dryden and Olney attended the U.S. Air Force Academy National Character and Leadership

Symposium in Colorado Springs. **John and Cindy Harper**, both USF Alumni, set up the CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarship in memory of their son-in-law, CPT Jason Holbrook, who was KIA in Afghanistan on July 29, 2010.

USF Foundation Scholarships

THE 495TH LEGENDS SCHOLARSHIP: This year's recipients of the 495th Legends Scholarship are **Cadet Cody Mann** (Army ROTC), **Midshipman Anna Phillips** (Naval ROTC) and **Cadet Shyheim Afanador** (Air Force ROTC). The award in the



CDT Shyheim Afanador

amount of \$500 was presented at their respective end of year Military Award ceremonies. Each recipient was completing their third year of ROTC and were selected for outstanding performance in academics, physical training, and professional development. **The 495th Legends** is a volunteer organization created in 2004 as a not for profit company by the leadership members of the 495th Transportation Company based in Lakeland, Florida, who served together in Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. The 495th Legends hosts several golf tournaments each year as their main fundraising effort including a Veterans Day Golf Tournament in Zephyrhills. Members



CDT Cody Mann

of the 495th Legends met with last year's recipients – newly commissioned Class of 2019 Army **2LT Phillip White**, **ENS Joshua Stringer** and **2d Lt Anna Bridges** - for lunch at Mission BBQ so they could personally congratulate them and get to know the students they were assisting with this scholarship.



MIDN Anna Phillips

JMLC SELFLESS SERVICE AWARD: The 2019 recipients of the JMLC Selfless Service Award are **Cadet Christian Jackson**

(Army ROTC), **Midshipman Kristopher Ribecky** (Naval ROTC) and **Cadet Carlos Morales** (Air Force ROTC). The awards were presented at each unit's end of year awards ceremony by the Director of the JMLC. This award recognizes one ROTC student from each service ROTC program for demonstrating outstanding leadership and exemplifying self to the highest standards of conduct and the respective service's core values. Cadet Jackson demonstrated leadership and officer potential by his noteworthy commitment to assisting his peers in professional, academic or personal matters and his own personal character traits which are beyond reproach. He also serves as the President of the Valor Movement student organization. Midshipman Ribecky led his battalion in fundraising efforts including attendance at all fundraising events and volunteers to judge JROTC drill competitions. Cadet Morales distinguished himself by his excellent performance as a Flight Commander and his preparation of cadets for their Summer Field Training while volunteering to organize Wing social activities.

Special Student Recognitions

Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce ROTC Student of the Year



The ROTC Cadet of the Year Award is a recognition of an exceptional ROTC Cadet by the Military Council of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. This award acknowledges participation in activities that provide significant service to our Tampa Bay Community. This year's Cadet of the Year is **Cadet Hunter Johnson** of the Army ROTC. Cadet Johnson is an Environmental Science & Policy Major with a 3.59 GPA. As a third year ROTC student, he has completed over 360 hours of charitable works to raise funds for medical research, veteran's groups, the elderly, and children in need. He participated in reef cleanups and habitat restoration efforts with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). He has also

spent his summers as the head coach of a U-6 City League T-ball Team, where he mentored around 15 athletes. Cadet Johnson enjoys volunteering for the community because he wants to see the community in an improved condition as a result of his simple efforts.

Tampa Bay Lightning "Hero of the Game"

The Tampa Bay Lightning continued to show their appreciation to the military by honoring local active duty personnel and military veterans with their Military Standing Salute at each Lightning home game. **Staff Sergeant Brandon Jordan**, a Naval ROTC Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) student, was recognized at the Tampa Bay Lightning game on September



18. After the event, Jordan said, "My family and I had an experience of a life time. It was such an honor to be recognized by so many appreciative people! We felt very welcomed, respected, and they were very accommodating. They provided us with an additional two tickets on top of what they had already so graciously given. This really provided an amazing moment for my wife and kids as well, for they sacrifice so much and they were appreciated in this moment just as much as I was. Thank you to John and the Lightning family, and to the USF command for allowing us this remarkable moment." The other "Hero of the Game" honorees were Army ROTC instructors **CPT Brandon Sirois**, a Field Artillery officer who deployed to Iraq in 2010 and Afghanistan in 2014; and **CPT Matthew Coulthard**, an Armor officer who served in Iraq as a Reconnaissance Specialist and in Afghanistan as a Platoon Recon Platoon Leader and later as an Infantry Company Commander. **GySgt William Buxton**, a NROTC MECEP student, was the fourth "Hero" recognized at a Lightning game. In addition to the 2nd period recognition, each honoree is awarded 4 tickets and a free parking pass to the Lightning game at which there were to be recognized.

ROTC Graduation Sashes

Starting with the Spring 2018 Commencement, ROTC students have the option to purchase graduation sashes to identify them as ROTC graduates. For a reasonable price, the graduating students can set themselves apart from other graduates with sashes for each ROTC or active duty service. The Spring 2019 graduating class had over 20 ROTC graduates proudly wearing these sashes with their cap and gown at commencement.



2ndLt Pierre Sajous

Joint Events

Joint Run , 11 September – In Honor of Patriot Day 9/11

This year's annual Patriot Day Joint Run was very special as **Dr. Paul Atchley**, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, joined us for the run. Dr. Atchley took over as the Dean in January arriving from the University of Kansas (KU). He was most recently the Associate Dean for Academic Innovation and Student Success at KU and had previously served in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer through the Army ROTC program. **Cadet Matthew Sundell**, Army ROTC, planned and organized this year's run which has become one of the highlights of the year. It is quite impressive to see a combined formation of over 300



students from all services running to honor and remember those who were directly impacted by the event on that 11th day of September in 2001!



Joint Commissioning Ceremony

Family and friends of ten ROTC students gathered in the CWY building on 8 December 2018 for a Joint Commissioning Ceremony. This was only the second time that a single ceremony was held to commission graduating USF students into each branch of the military. Members of the Fall Commissioning Class of 2018 are: 2LT Marcus L. Alcuis

(Army), BA in African Studies; **2LT Edgar Blango** (Army), BS in Public Health; **2LT Brian P. Springer** (Army), BS in Industrial & Management Systems Engineering; **2LT Tyler Wansakul** (Army), BS in Information Technology; **2LT Philip C. White** (Army), BS in Finance; **2ndLt Jose Luis Arroyo** (Marine Corps), BS in Industrial & Management Systems Engineering; **2ndLt William Smart Buxton** (Marine Corps), BA in International Studies; **2ndLt Chazz Robert Peters** (Marine Corps), BS in Management; **ENS Jorge L. Chavez, Jr.** (Navy), BS in Nursing; and, **2d Lt Alexander Callage** (Air Force), BA in Economics.

2018-2019 Commanders' Cup Champions— Army Suncoast Battalion

This year's Commanders' Cup series was a nail biter all the way to the finish. After a total of five team sport events scheduled throughout the academic year, the Army Suncoast Battalion and Naval Buccaneer Battalion were in a dead tie in total points. The Suncoast Battalion won the soccer, ultimate frisbee and flag football contests. Meanwhile the Buccaneer Battalion won the basketball and volleyball contests. As a result of a tie in overall points for the year, each side agreed to battle against each other in dodge ball. The first to win three games would win the Commanders' Cup. The Army Suncoast Battalion were the eventual winners after a hard fought series of dodge ball games and declared the 2018-2019 Commanders' Cup



champions! Well done to all ROTC students from each service who participated throughout the year. All played very competitively with a lot of heart while enjoying the excitement of inter-service rivalry and showing respect for each other when the competition was all over.

A special thanks to **2Lt Matthew Sundell**, Army ROTC; **ENS Justin Lambeth**, Naval ROTC; and **2d Lt Christopher**

Scarfogliero, Air Force ROTC who planned and executed the fall semester events. Also to **2Lt Sarah Funk** and **Cadet Robert Phillips**, Army ROTC; **SSgt Austin Clift**, Naval ROTC and **2d Lt Daniel Thomas**, Air Force ROTC for the lengthy but exciting spring semester Cup events. They did a great job in planning, forming the teams and ensuring the events went smoothly with a lot of excitement!



5th Annual ROTC Senior Celebration

The fifth annual ROTC Senior Celebration was held on Friday, April 12 in the CWY building. The "Celebration" recognizes the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC students graduating and commissioning into their respective service branch during the 2019 calendar year. During 2019, the USF ROTC programs will commission a total of 78 Second Lieutenants/Ensigns – 35 Army, 7 USMC, 8 Navy and 28 Air Force. For the Army, a record total of 9 new officers will branch into Military Intelligence, two of which will branch detail Armor and Infantry initially. Others will enter Air Defense Artillery, Medical Service Corps, Nursing, Military Police, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal, Field Artillery, Cyber and Finance. For the Navy, all will be pursuing Naval Aviation, Submarines or Surface Warfare careers. All USMC 2Lts will attend The Basic School in Quantico, VA before selection into their respective career fields. For the Air Force, ten were selected to be Pilots. The remaining will enter Medicine, Space, Nursing, Acquisitions, Combat Systems Officer, Logistics Readiness, OSI, RPA and Security Forces. The Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) sponsored the event once again. Special thanks to **Jennie Koutrouba**, Branch Manager of Navy Federal's Tampa office for the financial support and **Lori Matthews** of the

JMLC and Christine Borgia of the Army/Naval ROTC units for preparing the delicious appetizers, sandwiches and desserts enjoyed by all!

Joint Picnic at USF Riverfront Park – Friday, March 1

On a warm, sunny Florida winter day, we gathered together to get away from the main campus and enjoy a cookout and each other's company in a casual outdoor setting. Students, instructors and support staff of all the ROTC units enjoyed

eating hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks. This was our second Joint Picnic which we hope will be an annual event a full week before the commencement of Spring Break. The timing is just right for perfect Florida winter weather and before the frenzy and packed schedule of the last half of the spring semester. During the picnic, the Commanders' Cup Ultimate Frisbee event was held to provide some extra excitement and spirit for everyone. In all, everyone enjoyed the great outdoor weather, camaraderie and food prepared by volunteers of the Buccaneer Battalion.

Campus & Community Engagement

Family & Friends Weekend

The JMLC and the ROTC programs participated in Family and Friends Weekend with an Open House in the CWY building on Saturday, 20 October from 10 AM to Noon. This year the Army ROTC conducted rappelling on the south wall of the CWY building for family, friends and students to participate. **MSG Jaime Castro** led his team of Army ROTC cadre in the rappelling operations to ensure all



safety requirements were met and that all participants were properly trained to enjoy the experience. Over 30 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to rappel down the side of the CWY building. Meanwhile the Naval ROTC manned the EST 2000, a small arms weapons simulator which features M-16/M-4 rifles among other weapons that the military use, so visitors could check out this very realistic trainer. The Air Force ROTC partnered with the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE), headquartered at MacDill AFB, for a display of expeditionary communications gear used in the field by joint forces. Finally, Each ROTC unit manned table displays to provide information about their programs.

Salute to Service Football Game

The 2018 Salute to Service Football game saw USF take on Tulane University on Saturday, 3 November. Well done to GySgt Timothy Petersen (Naval ROTC) and MSG Jaime Castro (Army ROTC) for their key last minute coordination and planning for a successful pre-game march on the field with the USF ROTC units and the ROTC Joint Color Guard. Initially there were no plans to have the ROTC units march on the field for the national anthem but after some last minute changes to the program, they were included as they should have been! The Fall 2018 Semester commanders who led their ROTC units on the field were **2LT Stormy Lindsay** of Roberts, Montana who led the Army Suncoast Battalion into one end zone. **ENS Alexander Walker** of Tampa, Florida led the Naval Suncoast Battalion and **2d Lt Alyssa Jessen** of Jacksonville, FL led the Air Force 158th Cadet Wing onto the opposite field end zone.



Halloween Run



MIDN NSO



MIDN NSO



MIDN NSO



Homecoming Parade



Homecoming Parade



Homecoming Parade



Lime Cup

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