

NSU ROTC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Demon Challenge 2023

NSU's Demon Battalion hosted an all-day, 10-event competition for JROTC programs across Louisiana. Six high schools entered nineteen teams tackling a series of physical and leadership-based tasks designed to build relationships between schools and inspire Cadet excellence. Among others, the events included a campus orienteering course, military knowledge test, a modified ACFT, odd object relay, 2-mile foot march with 25-pound ruck, and the high ropes course.

Honorable mention to the Louisiana Army National Guard for providing ACFT equipment (A TRP, 2-108th CAV) and two certified Master Fitness Trainers, SGT Bonnet & SPC Meshell for oversight and judging of various events. NSU continues to maintain rapport and positive relationships with outside units to include Fort Polk's A Battery, 5-25 FA, commanded by CPT Tanisha Bethel, who took time out from their duties to help with judging events. Lastly, thank you to local USAREC Recruiter, SFC Tiffany Gordon, for providing personnel and equipment for the all-day competition.





CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS

Greetings Fellow Alumni,

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the ROTC department at NSU, and consequently the activation of the 73rd Demon Battalion during the Fall semester. Our 75th anniversary is just around the corner. We must embark on special plans to celebrate this momentous occasion. More will be published on this event in upcoming issues. Since its establishment, our ROTC program has commissioned close to 1100 cadets as Second Lieutenants. Those new lieutenants become the newest members of the Northwestern Demon Regiment (NDR).

As we approach the end of this academic year, our usual major events are on the calendar: **The Military Ball, Awards Ceremony, and the Commissioning Ceremony.** The return of the Black Knights Drill Team which I mentioned in our last issue did not proceed as planned. Hopefully, future efforts will have a different outcome.

If you wish to volunteer your talents in support of the NDR, please contact me at ltcsmalleyretired@gmail.com to discuss the current vacancies or other ways you may contribute. The NDR is continuously recruiting new talent to join the Executive Council. The only major council position currently vacant is that of Regimental Operations Officer. Of course, assistants to these primary positions are available.

This year also marked our 5th Annual Legacy Campaign fund-raising event. The event ran from 01 October 2022 through 31 March 2023. Your yearly contribution of \$25 goes toward accomplishing our larger goal of providing funds to enhance the cadets' experience, training, and knowledge. Because of your contributions, the NDR was able to purchase a much needed ice maker for the ROTC department. A material purchase such as this provides the vital support needed during those hot Louisiana training days. Keep watching your mailbox or inbox for information on the 6th Annual Legacy Campaign coming this October.

The NDR database is a constantly changing document. Valid email and postal mailing addresses are crucial for distribution of information. Since our members are steadily on the move, there are old or invalid addresses in the database.

Therefore, we need accurate contact information to ensure everyone is receiving the latest newsletter, event notices or news on cadets' accomplishments. Don't forget to visit our website, **rotc.nsula.edu**, to update your contact information. You will also find the ROTC Alumni Roll Call link as well as other great ROTC and Alumni news and information.

Since our last newsletter was published, two additional members have joined the Council. I am pleased to announce that CPT(R) Donald Davis (37th Battalion, Class of 1987) and COL(R) Ronald Wilkins (39th Battalion, Class of 1989) have joined as the Regimental Communication Officer and Regimental Administrative Officer. Each new Council member brings a new perspective and talent to the team.

As always, your ideas, questions or concerns are welcomed as we continue forging the legacy of the NSU ROTC program.

Fork'em Demons!!

ARTHUR J. SMALLEY
LTC (USA Retired)
Chief of Staff
Northwestern Demon
Regiment (NDR)
29th Battalion, Class of 1979

Demon Battalion Alumni,

Wow, what a whirlwind of a year we've had! Thank you so much for helping to make it a big success. Part of the success came directly from the Demon Regiment with the purchase of a commercial grade ice maker to help keep Cadets safe during training. I am sure there is further mention of it in this newsletter, but I wanted to personally thank you for your support!

Since last year's military ball, we've held spring, summer, and fall commissioning ceremonies; received outstanding results from Cadet Summer Training; hosted an Activation Ceremony and Awards Ceremony; and participated in Patriot Day and Veterans Day events on campus and downtown.

Cadets planned and conducted Orientation for new Cadets, built floats to participate in the Homecoming Parade and the Natchitoches Christmas Parade, and fielded 2 intramural teams.

We took the seniors on a Staff Ride to Vicksburg last April and will take juniors and seniors to Vicksburg later this semester.

We participated in NSU athletics events (join our tailgate!) to include bringing static displays from Fort Polk and LA Army National Guard to campus for the Military Appreciation football game.

We assisted at the JROTC State Drill Meet and brought JROTC programs from six high schools to campus to compete in the first Demon Challenge competition in 10 years. What a perfect day that was; you can bet it's now an annual event!

Professor of Military Science Notes



We hosted Grambling State ROTC for Cadet Command's Ranger Challenge and excelled in the Fall Field Training Exercise at Alcorn State University and the Spring Field Training Exercise at Fort Benning, GA.

On top of all this, we participated in 52 NSU recruiting events and made 103 recruiting visits to high schools within our region. We are confident that our recruiting strategy will pay off in the years to come.

You can't accomplish all this without tremendous effort from the cadre and staff or without tremendous support from the alumni. Thank you all!

I am honored to introduce the Demon Battalion commissionees of this past year (their photos at commissioning can be found on page 9):

2LT Anthony B. Cantrell – commanded the Demon Battalion this past year and, having scored in the top 20% of Cadets nationwide, was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He earned a Master of Science in Homeland Security and was selected for active duty in the Military Intelligence Corps with a branch detail to Infantry.

2LT Kayla K. Graham – graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Minor in Military Leadership. She was selected for Army Reserve, Military Police, and is serving in Shreveport.

2LT Colby R. Hennigan – graduated with a Master of Science in Homeland Security and is serving in the US Army Reserve, Transportation Corps. He is a Mobility Officer with the 342nd Movement Control Detachment Team in Baton Rouge.

2LT Tyler A. Iverson – graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Concentration in Biomedical and a Minor in Military Science. He was selected to serve on active duty, Ordnance Corps. His initial duty station is Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska.

2LT Caleb M. Krikorian – graduated with a Bachelor of General Studies with a Concentration Computer and Natural Science and a Minor in Military Leadership. He commissioned Armor and is continuing his service in the Louisiana Army National Guard as a Scout Platoon Leader with A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, here in Natchitoches.

2LT Joseph S. Orchi – graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in May 2021 with a Bachelor of General Studies and a Minor in Social Science. He is serving on active duty in the Military Intelligence Corps. His initial duty station is Fort Hood, TX.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Key Events at the 2022 Ball

Receiving Line



*Presentation of
the Seniors*

The Army Song

Color Guard



Article (page 5) was published in the April 25, 2022 edition of Natchitoches Parish Journal. Photos courtesy of Leah Jackson and Kevin Shanahan.

NSU Army ROTC Celebrates 72 Years of Excellence



Northwestern State University's Army ROTC Demon Regiment held its 72nd annual military ball in the student union's ballroom Saturday, April 23. Alumni who served in conflicts from the program's founding at NSU in 1951 through Afghanistan and Iraq were joined by the current cadets, instructors and guests in celebrating the remarkable group of nine young men and women who will take their place in the defense of our nation as Army officers upon graduation.

Colonel Edward S. Twaddell, III delivered the keynote address to the assembly. In an address largely devoted to the cadets present, the colonel offered advice to the young men and women starting their military careers.

The late Major General Erbon W. Wise established the Touchstone Award for the Demon Battalion's top cadet each year. Cadet Anthony Cantrell won the award for 2022. He will be commissioned into the Infantry upon graduation.

There was also a local graduate among the future officers. Cadet Alex J. Wade is a 2018 alumnae of NCHS who will go on to serve her nation and her fellow Louisianans in the Louisiana Army National Guard upon her commissioning. NCHS Army JROTC instructors Lt. Col. Anthony Mault, 1st Sgt Shelby and several cadets from NCHS were on hand to celebrate their fellow chief alumnae.

Four NSU Army ROTC Alumni were inducted into the Northwestern Demon Regiment Hall of Fame. One of the honorees was Natchitoches' own Richard J. Hooter.

Northwestern State University has hosted Army ROTC for the past 72 years. During its history, over 1,000 young men and women have become Army officers through the program and have gone on to serve our nation with distinction in peace and war. ROTC is a force for good in our nation, a meritocracy blind to race, class or creed in which a person's character and work ethic can take them far.



The Touchstone Award was presented by LTC Joshua R. Drake to Cadet Anthony Cantrell. TWe used the term "Touchstone" from our Cadet Creed to mark the character of the recipient. The award reads,

"Touchstone: the standard against which others **are measured.**"

This annual award is presented to an ROTC Cadet who is the model of good citizenship. He or she not only embodies the Army Values and Warrior ethos, but is recognized for contributing beyond the expected – and **encourages others** to do the same.



**LTC(R) Smalley and
Battalion Commander, CDT
Anthony Cantrell,
attaching the streamer of
the 72nd Demon Battalion.**



2022 HALL OF FAME



COLONEL KATHERINE M. BIGLER
US Army, Retired

Colonel Bigler served three years in the enlisted ranks prior to joining Northwestern's ROTC program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and commissioned in

May 1978. After obtaining her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, she was branched US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Colonel Bigler first served as the Assistant Command Judge Advocate, US Army Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, KS, with a follow-on assignment as a student at the Judge Advocate General's School, Officer Basic Course, Charlottesville, VA. She then served as Chief, Legal Assistance, Fort Leavenworth, KS. She left active duty and served in the Army Reserve with the Military Justice Office, 2nd Judge Advocate Detachment, New Orleans, LA. She was also an attorney in civil practice during this period.

In 1989, she completed the Judge Advocate General Officer Advanced Course and returned to active duty as the Assistant Command Judge Advocate, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Army Reserve Personnel Center, St. Louis, MO, while completing the Command and General Staff College. Subsequent assignments include Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, 79th Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA; Civil Law Attorney, 94th Regional Support Command, Fort Devens, MA; and Legal Advisor, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, Washington, DC.

She was then assigned to the US Army War College, Senior Service Fellowship, Carlisle Barracks, PA, with duty in Boston, MA. Next, she served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the US Army Reserve Command, Fort McPherson, GA, and later as the Command Judge Advocate, US Army Reserve Personnel Command, St. Louis, MO. Her final military assignment was US Army Reserve Advisor for the Judge Advocate General, Pentagon, Washington, DC.

Colonel Bigler retired from active duty in 2005. For her service and accomplishments, she was awarded a Legion of Merit and multiple Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, and National Defense Service Medals.

Colonel Bigler has been a co-owner of Adams County Winery in Orrtanna, PA. The Adams County Winery, which opened in 1975, is the fifth oldest winery in PA. She and her husband, John G. Kramb, have grown the business to over \$2.5 million in gross sales with over 30 employees



COLONEL RICK FENOLI
US Army, Retired

Colonel Fenoli, a Distinguished Military Graduate, commissioned in 1986 in the Louisiana Army National Guard. He received an active duty assignment to 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery Regiment (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort

Bragg, NC, and served as a Platoon Leader during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Service Battery Executive Officer, and Adjutant. Later, at Schofield Barracks, HI, he served the 7th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division (Light), as the Battalion Targeting Officer, S-4, and S-4 for the International Police Monitors, Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti. Later, he commanded B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, 25th ID.

He served as an Observer Controller, Fire Support Observer Controller, and Firing Battery Observer Controller, Fort Polk, LA; Assistant Fire Support Coordinator and Plans Chief, XVIII Airborne Corps Fire Support Element; J3 Fires Plans Officer, Corps Joint Task Force, and S3, 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC; and Special Operations Command, European Theater Fire Support Officer J3 and J5 Chief of the African Division with multiple rotations to Africa and to include Operation Shining Express, Liberia. He commanded 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC, deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom while commanding Forward Operating Base Marez and Forward Operating Base Diamondback in Mosul, Iraq.

At the Pentagon, COL Fenoli served as the Joint Lessons Learned Branch Chief, stood up the DoD Joint Lessons Learned Information System, served as a Battle Captain in the National Military Command and Control Center, and Deputy Division Chief of the Training and Exercise Branch on the Chairman's Joint Staff J7. He then deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom as the Director of Recruit Training and Commandant of the Kabul Military Training Center, Afghanistan. Upon return, he served on The Department Defense Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Team and lastly as Chief of the Department of Defense's Red Team at Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

He has been awarded the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal w/1 OLC, Meritorious Service Medal w/2 OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal w/1 OLC, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal w/1 OLC, National Defense Service Ribbon w/Bronze Star (BS), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 BS, Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon w/BS, Iraq Campaign Medal w/2 BS, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO ISAF Medal, Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award w/2 OLC, Combat Action, Master Parachutist, and Military Free Fall Parachutist Badges, German Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

He and his wife, Cherie, are retired career military patriots.



2022 HALL OF FAME



MAJOR RICHARD G. HOOTER
US Army, Retired

Major Hooter, holding numbers three in the nation and one in the state of Louisiana, was drafted into the Army as a Private First Class in 1970. He served in Vietnam with C Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

He was assigned to the 25th Rangers, Fort Carson, CO, and served with HHC (Operations), 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry (Mechanized), prior to his honorable discharge in Dec 1971.

In 1972, he enrolled at Northwestern for the 2-year ROTC program and graduated in May 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in Military Science and Education Administration. He was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Infantry.

His assignments at Fort Carson, CO, include Rifle Platoon Leader, B Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized); Scout Platoon Leader, Combat Support Company; Aero Rifle Platoon Leader, Troop D, 10th US Armored Cavalry; Company Commander, Combat Support Company; and Special Assistant to Forward Operations Commander, 1st Brigade, 24th Infantry Division.

Major Hooter served as Post Commander, Fort DeRussy, HI. He was an Instructor for Common Task Division and then Chief, Command Staff Division, Redstone Arsenal, AL. He was the Recruiting Battalion Executive Officer, Little Rock, AR, and again for the 2nd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. His final assignment was Chief, Maneuver Branch, US Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, until his retirement in July 1992.

MAJ Hooter's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Airborne, Pathfinder, and Ranger Schools; Personnel Management, Recruiting, and Defense Strategy Courses; and the US Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Army Commendation Medal with Valor device, Army Commendation Medal w/2 OLC, Army Achievement Medal w/1 OLC, Army Good Conduct Medal w/1 OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Army Service Ribbon w/1 OLC, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Ranger Tab. He wears the Army Superior Unit Award and has been decorated with the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

Since 1996, MAJ Hooter has engaged as a professional bass angler and fished four BFL All-American Tournaments. He has been a valuable member of the NDR Executive Council since 2010 as the Operations and Marketing Officer. He and his wife, JoAnn, have two sons and three grandchildren.

COLONEL ERIC D. SWEENEY
US Army, Retired



Colonel Sweeney graduated from in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. He was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned in the Engineer Corps.

His initial assignment were Electrical Engineer, 4013th Garrison Unit, before attending the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Basic Airborne Course; Platoon Leader, A Company and 522nd Engineer Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, 194th Armored Brigade; Executive Officer, 522nd Engineer Company and 13th Engineer Company; Assistant Operations Officer, 19th Engineer Battalion prior to completing the Engineer Officer Advance Course. He then served as the BN Maintenance Officer, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea, and commanded the 50th Engineer Company; and Assistant Brigade Engineer, 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

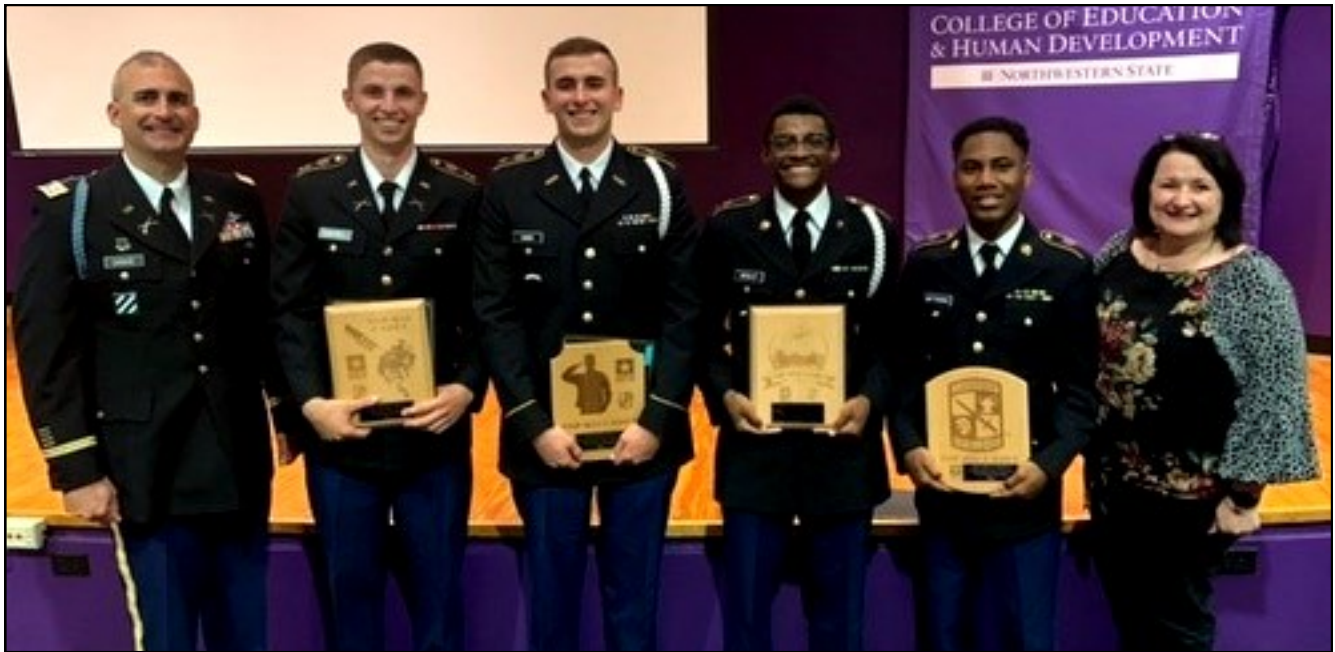
COL Sweeney was a Project Engineer with the Fort Worth District, US Army Corps of Engineers. During this time, he earned a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. He held a second company command with 1st Engineer Training Battalion, 120th Infantry Brigade, and served as the Battalion Executive Officer prior to completing the Command and General Staff College. In 2000, he completed the Naval War College with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies.

COL Sweeney served with the 101st Airborne Division's initial entry forces during Operation Enduring Freedom I & II and the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II. In the 3rd Infantry Division, he served as the Chief Base Camp Engineer during Operation Joint Forge and Stabilization Force-8 (Bosnia). He was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for the 92nd Engineer Battalion, then Director and Deputy Chief, Facility Engineer Division, Defense Intelligence Agency. He then assumed command of the 1st Brigade Special Troop Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division.

COL Sweeney was the Standing Joint Force Headquarters Engineer, Headquarters, US Southern Command, and culminated as the Command Engineer, US Army TRADOC.

After 26 years, COL Sweeney retired from active service in October 2013. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal w/1 OLC, and multiple Campaign, Commendation, and Achievement Medals.

COL Sweeney holds a Ph.D. from LaSalle University and is the Director of Army Instruction (DAI) for the JROTC units of ten Caddo Parish schools. Additionally, he is the Area DAI for all North Louisiana high schools. He and his wife, Maya, have a daughter, Amaya, and son, Eric II.



2022 SPRING AWARDS

Congrats to our Top Cadets in the program for 2021-2022! Recipients of the Superior Cadet Award are Cadet Anthony Cantrell, Cadet Cade Davis, Cadet Andrew Wesley, and Cadet Caiden Matthews, shown here with LTC Drake and Dr. Kimberly McAlister, Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development.

Congratulations also to Cadet Jimmy Lara for his selection as the Outstanding Graduate Student in Sport Administration from the Department of Health and Human Performance.



2022 NINE U.S. ARMY OFFICERS WERE COMMISSIONED



Above— Seven graduates of NSU's ROTC program took the Oath of Office during spring commencement exercises on May 12. From left are 2LT Kayla Graham, 2LT Tyler Iverson, 2LT Caleb Krikorian, 2LT Joseph Orchi, 2LT Colby Hennigan, 2LT Seth Ozsoy and 2LT Anthony Cantrell.

See LTC Drake's comments for information on each officer on page 3.



Left—

2LT Alex J. Wade of Natchitoches commissioned on August 12, 2022. Shown here with her parents.

Right—

2LT Dylan Trueblood commissioned on December 15, 2022.





ALUMNI CORNER



Colonel (R) Ronald R. Wilkins

COL Ronald R. Wilkins entered the service on Jul 28, 1988. Surrounded by Family and friends, on Oct 29, 2021, he stepped onto the stage for his long-anticipated retirement ceremony at Fort Hood, TX. Said COL Wilkins, “I will miss my Army

Family, but I need the separation to allow an opportunity to give back now. It’s time to give back and have fun.”

Colonel Wilkins’ Army career concluded as the Chief of Sustainment (G4) for, III Corps Headquarters Fort Hood Texas. In June 2018, he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Minister of Interior. His previous assignments included Director for Army Integration for The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. He was the Assistant Director for Domestic Operations for the Vice Director of the National Guard Bureau where he prepared the Director of Domestic Operations and Force Development providing strategic oversight to brief the President of the United States and Secretary of Defense.

Colonel Wilkins holds a Master of Business Administration from Trident University (Magna Cum Laude). He received his commission through Northwestern State University’s Demon Battalion in May 1989. He graduated from the Transportation Officer Basic Course, Fort Eustis, VA, in 1989 and immediately deployed as a Platoon Leader with the 1087th Transportation Company, with the Louisiana Army National Guard in support of Operation Desert Storm. After Company Command he then joined the Texas National Guard in 1996, holding the highest transportation position as the Division Transportation Officer for the 36th Infantry Division.

In 2004, he began active service with the Army National Guard Bureau as the Program Manager for Active Duty for Special Work in the Operations Directorate. He served as the Program Manager for Weapons of Mass Destruction for Headquarters, Department of the Army G4, a Branch Chief in G3 Mobilizations where he mobilized over 320,000 Soldiers, 200 units, and 17 Brigade Combat Teams at 100% strength to Iraq, Afghanistan, and various parts of the world 2008-2011. He was hand selected to serve as Deputy Director Mobilization for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of

Defense Mobilization and Readiness as the primary briefer of the SECDEF Order Book. In May of 2011, he deployed as the Senior Army Guard Advisor for US Forces Afghanistan where he briefed the Commanding General for Support on all Army Guard units arriving in the Joint Operational Area.

Colonel Wilkins’ awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Service Medal, and others. He also wears the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award.

Colonel Wilkins and his beautiful wife, Marjorie have two children: Joshua (who maintained a Track and Field Scholarship throughout his NSU college career) and daughter, Trinity (who attends Midwestern State University, Texas).

Colonel Wilkins was the guest speaker for the 68th Demon Battalion Spring Commissioning Ceremony on 11 May 2018. Already a top donor, he sought out other ways to contribute to the program when he volunteered to help one of our recently commissioned Second Lieutenants to find a Reserve unit in the Fort Hood area. He was also quick to offer mentorship to our young officers assigned to Fort Hood, and he recently joined the NDR’s Executive Council as the Administrative Officer.

Colonel Wilkins – congratulations to you and your Family! Thank you for your support to the program and service to the nation. We wish you joy and peace throughout your retirement.



ALUMNI CORNER

The Northwestern Demon Regiment congratulates two of our own, Dr. Johnny Cox and Tynes Hildebrand, on their induction into the Long Purple Line.



Dr. Johnny Cox
Class of 1987, 37th Bn

Cox has served as mayor of Coushatta since 2012 after serving on the town council. He earned a bachelor's in industrial

technology at NSU where he was Student Government Association president for two years and was the student representative of the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities and SGA representative to the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce. He was in the ROTC program where he received the ROTC Academic Achievement Award, the Exceptional Performance Award, a Certificate of Appreciation and a Certificate of Proficiency. He attended ROTC Advanced Camp, receiving an Advance Camp Completion Award and completed the U.S. Army Infantry Airborne Course.

His academic honors included membership in Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, the National Honorary Dean's List, Presidential Academic Award, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities and the Natchitoches Outstanding Community Work Award.

He later earned a master's degree in biblical studies and a doctorate of ministry from the Institute for Teaching God's Word and a doctorate of theology, a doctorate of divinity and a doctorate of philosophy from the Minnesota Graduate of Theology. Cox has been a pastor for more than 30 years.

Cox served in the U.S. Army and Louisiana Army National Guard. He was chief executive officer of Winnfield Funeral Home and Winnfield Holding Company. Cox was a sheriff's deputy with the Red River Parish Sheriff's Office and vice president-chairman of the executive board of the Louisiana Youth Outreach Commission. The Louisiana Legislature passed a resolution in 2013 commending Cox for his work on behalf of the people of Red River Parish.

Tynes Hildebrand
Class of 1954, 4th Bn



Hildebrand has had a seven-decade affiliation with NSU as a two-sport athlete, head basketball coach, athletics director, Athletic Director emeritus and an NCAA regional basketball officials advisor.

He earned a bachelors and masters degree from Northwestern. He was head men's basketball coach from 1965-1980 and director of placement from 1980-1983. He returned to the athletic program as athletic director from 1983-1996.

As men's basketball coach, he led the Demons to the NAIA Playoffs for four consecutive years and won back-to-back conference championships in 1973-74 and 1974-75. He assisted with the training camp of the 1972 United States Olympic Team at the invitation of legendary coach Henry Iba. Hildebrand led the basketball program into Division I, taking the team through its first four seasons at the highest level of competition.

While serving as athletic director, he helped guide the Demon athletic program into the Gulf Star Conference and later the Southland Conference. Hildebrand was selected to serve on numerous NCAA committees including the Division 1-AA football selection panel. One of Hildebrand's trademarks as AD was using interns to supplement a small administrative staff. Among those who began their professional careers as interns for Hildebrand at NSU include Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey and Greg Burke, who succeeded Hildebrand as NSU's athletic director and served in the position for 25 years.

Hildebrand was named Mr. Louisiana Basketball in 1981 and is a member of the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the N Club Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. The Southland Conference inducted him into its Hall of Honor in 1999.

PMS Notes

(Continued from pg. 3)

2LT Seth M. Ozsoy – graduated *Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. He commissioned in the Military Police Corps, Louisiana Army National Guard, and is a Platoon Leader with the 773rd Military Police Battalion in Lake Charles.

2LT Dylan H. Trueblood – graduated with a Bachelor of General Studies with a major concentration in computer and natural sciences and double minors in military leadership and computer information systems. He branched Armor and is continuing his service in the Louisiana Army National Guard as a Scout Platoon Leader for B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, in Coushatta.

2LT Alex J. Wade – graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Exercise Science and a minor in Military Leadership. She recently completed a one-year internship (very competitive selection!) with Demon Athletics while serving in the Louisiana Army National Guard, Quartermaster Corps. Her initial assignment is with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Colfax.

Again, thank you for your support! Please feel free to reach out to me at 318-357-5176 or drakej@nsula.edu.

Joshua R. Drake
LTC, IN
Professor of Military Science
Northwestern State University

NDR DONATES ICE MACHINE



The NDR donated funds to the Department of Military Science to purchase a commercial grade ice maker to keep cadets safe during training and other outdoor activities.



ABOVE: RECONDO awarded to senior Cadet Jimmy Lara.

RIGHT: Cadets Makenzie Cain & Caiden Matthews took the oath of contract.

BELOW: Wise Family Foundation Scholarship recipients Todd Gladish and Layla Theriot.

ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED DURING THE FALL ACTIVATION CEREMONY



73RD ACTIVATION CEREMONY AND SUMMER ACHIEVEMENTS



Left: BN XO Cadet Michael Shamblin and BN CSM Jimmy Lara attached the 73rd Demon Battalion streamer to the colors.

Above: Incoming staff are Cadets Taylor Dixon, Andrew Wesley, Arianna Astorga, and Dylan Trueblood.

The Department of Military Science hosted an activation ceremony for the 73rd Demon Battalion Aug. 25. The military tradition allows the commander to assess the readiness and discipline of the unit and commemorates the unit's history and lineage. ROTC's curriculum and training ensures cadets' scholastic, athletic, and leadership abilities are developed and tested, preparing each for their individual career paths.

This year's Demon Battalion staff includes Battalion Operations Officer Cadet Major Taylor Dixon of Shreveport, Personnel Officer Cadet Captain Dylan Trueblood of Natchitoches, Intelligence and Recruiting Officer Cadet Captain Andrew Wesley of Shreveport, Logistics Officer Cadet Captain Arianna Astorga of New Iberia, Communications Officer Cadet Captain Brooklyn Guerra of Abbeville and the Battalion's Color Sergeant Cadet Caiden Matthews of Shreveport.

Cadets were also recognized for summer achievements. Successfully completing Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, were Battalion Commander Cade Davis of Shreveport, Dixon, Jimmy Lara of Fort Polk, Michael Shamblin of Dry Prong and Trueblood. Wesley volunteered to serve at Fort Knox on the opposing forces to facilitate the field training, which helped prepare him for Advanced Camp next summer.

Cadet Brendan Campbell of DeRidder completed Basic Camp at Fort Knox. The 32-day program focuses on leadership skills and trains on individual and leader tasks to develop and reinforce the Warrior Ethos and Army Values.

Cadet Loren Higginbotham of Jennings was selected to participate in the 4-week, full immersion Cadet Field Training at the United States Military Academy at West Point. This program emphasizes military skills; individual training; preparations for extended field operations; and leading, participating in, and conducting small unit tactical operations.

Shamblin completed Cadet Troop Leader Training, which provides an opportunity for cadets to serve in lieutenant-level leadership positions in active duty units. Shamblin served with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Lara was awarded the Reconnaissance Commando badge, which recognizes cadets who display superior skills at Advanced Camp. A RECONDO badge recipient must exceed the standards in physical fitness, confidence courses, land navigation, marksmanship, first aid, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear training and the 12-mile foot march. Lara is the first Demon Battalion cadet to earn the award in seven years.

When students first enroll in ROTC, they have no military obligation. By choosing to take an oath of contract, cadets demonstrate not only their physical fitness and academic excellence, but also their desire to serve a higher purpose through the Army.

Cadets Makenzie Cain of Shreveport and Caiden Matthews took the oath, administered by LTC Joshua Drake.

Three cadets were recognized as Wise Family Foundation scholarships. They are Todd Gladish of Huntsville, Texas; Layla Theriot of Raceland and Jordan Edwards of Ville Platte.

Information on NSU's ROTC program is available at <https://rotc.nsula.edu/>.

NSU News—Article by Leah Jackson, NSU's Director of Public Information and Media Relations.



CDT Wesley teaching Drill and Ceremony labs.



CPT Davis recognized before the Shreveport Classic football game.



Cadets host Low ROPES obstacles course for NSU Men's Basketball team.



Cadets complete a 3-mile ruck march with the local Army recruiters.



Cadets participate in Patriots Day remembrance.

73rd Demon Battalion:
August—September
2022

73rd Demon Battalion: September— October 2022



Cadets enjoy a competitive PT morning playing a friendly game of dodgeball.



MSG (R) Reeves Flurry is recognized by President Marcus Jones for his military service.



Cadets present the Colors at the NSU's football games.



The 73rd Demon Battalion at the Columns.



Cadet Bordelon issues guidance to his squad during the ambush lab.



Office Strength Manager team briefed cadets on SMP, Scholarships, and ARNG Opportunities

73rd Demon Battalion: October— November 2022



Demon BN Intramural flag football team.



Fall FTX at Alcorn State University.



Ranger Challenge team preparing for written Land Navigation test



Demon Battalion at Off Limits Paintball to build esprit de corps and moral.



Cadets Astorga and Fields playing tactical dodgeball during lab



Cadets get together to do extra PT at the campus gym to enhance physical fitness.

Scholarship Opportunity for Incoming Freshmen and Sophomores

Announcing the establishment of the **Wise Foundation Army ROTC Scholarship!** This two-semester scholarship (\$5,500 -6,000 a year) is designed to assist with paying for the first or second year of college for incoming students.

NSU ROTC prepares students to become US Army officers. Upon completion, an ROTC graduate is commissioned as a Second Lieutenant – with a well-respected, well-paying, guaranteed job right out of college – on active duty or in the National Guard or US Army Reserve.

ROTC courses take place in the classroom and in the field and merge into a typical college schedule. To receive scholarship benefits both semesters, applicants must enroll in the ROTC class, complete a Physical Fitness Assessment, work toward medical qualification, maintain eligibility, and remain motivated to sign an intent to commission contract before the end of the spring semester.

Contracting perks include an annual book allowance and a monthly living stipend of \$420 during the school year.

Qualified Cadets can apply for an additional Army ROTC scholarship to assist with their remaining two or three years of college.

APPLICATION:

Visit “Scholarship Wise Foundation” on the Scholarships page at <https://rotc.nsula.edu>.

This scholarship offer is valid only at NSULA. To be eligible to participate in this program, an applicant must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be a high school graduate or equivalent (GED).
3. Be able to be admitted into Northwestern State University.
4. Add the Army ROTC Freshman class (CRN 11980).
5. Complete a Pre-Participation Physical (Sports Physical).
6. Complete the Cadet Command Fitness Assessment (1-minute pushups, 1-minute sit-ups, 1 mile run) administered by NSU ROTC cadre prior to deadline.
7. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading point system.

For more information, please contact Mr. Raymond McDowell at 318-357-6501 or mcdowellr@nsula.edu

MEET THE ROTC STAFF



CPT Kegan Davis, Assistant Professor of Military Science.

CPT Davis commissioned through the ROTC program at Xavier University in 2012. He served as an ARNG Field Artillery officer for about 10 years before coming to us in February 2022 from the Reserve Component Directorate. There, he served as an ARNG Liaison Officer and Operations Officer for the ARNG Assistant Chief of Staff, US Army Cadet Command.

CPT Davis has since changed components to USAR and is now serving as NSU's APMS as an Active Guard Reserve Soldier.

CPT Davis and his wife, Tiffany, have two kids, Meyer (5) and Wyatt (2).

2022 FALL AWARDS

Northwestern State University's Department of Military Science hosted the fall 2022 awards ceremony Dec. 1 to recognize ROTC cadets for accomplishments this semester.

Beginning with academic honors, the program began with recognition of Dean's List cadets and scholastic awards. Recognized were Cadets Taylor Dixon, Jimmy Lara, Arianna Astorga, Peyton Bordelon, Loren Higginbotham, Brendan Campbell, and Jaylon James.

Military awards were presented to MS IV (senior) cadets instructed by LTC Joshua Drake.

Cadet Cade Davis, a history major, is Battalion Commander and captain of the Ranger Team. He received the Cadet Scholar and ROTC Honors Award. Cadet Michael Shamblin is majoring in computer information systems and information systems management. He received the Cadet Scholar, ROTC Honors and PMS Scholastic Excellence Awards. Cadet Dylan Trueblood, who is majoring in general studies with a minor in computer and natural science, is the Battalion Administrative Officer. He received ROTC Honors.

Awards were presented to MS III (junior) cadets instructed by Master Sergeant Michael Blakely.

Cadet Breanna James, a psychology major, is the Company First Sergeant. She received the Cadet Honors, ROTC Honors and PMS Scholastic Excellence Awards.



Pictured above—The class of 2023: CDT Jimmy Lara, CDT Taylor Dixon, CDT Cade Dixon, CDT Michael Shamblin, and 2LT Dylan Trueblood.

Cadet Andrew Wesley, majoring in physical science and chemistry, is the BN Recruiting Officer. He received the ROTC Honors Award. Cadet Brooklyn Guerra, Battalion Communications Officer, is a communications and sports media major. She received the ROTC Honors Award.

Awards were presented to MS II (sophomore) cadets instructed by Maj. Jeffrey Christensen. Cadet Jan Amutan, who is majoring in unified public safety administration and law enforcement administration, received the Cadet Scholar Award. Cadet Makenzie Cain, a criminal justice major, and Cadet Logan Falgout, a communications major, received the ROTC Honors Award. Cadet Christian Holmes, an elementary education major, received the Cadet Honors Award. He also received the PMS Academic Award for the highest jump in GPA this semester and the PMS Achievement Medal for the most improved cadet. Cadet Quintavia Johnson, a nursing major, received the Cadet Scholar, ROTC Honors and the PMS Scholastic Excellence awards. Cadet Caiden Matthew, a computer information systems major, is Battalion Color Sergeant. He received Cadet Honors, ROTC Honors and the PMS Scholastic Excellence awards. Cadet Kennedy Stewart, a health and exercise science major, received the ROTC Award.

Awards were presented to MS I (freshman) cadets instructed by Captain Kegan Davis. Cadet Ethan Jones, a biology and natural science major, received the Cadet Honors Award. Cadet Lawson Turner, a communications/sports media major, received the Cadet Scholarship Award.

The PMS Commendation Medal recognizes those who have contributed extraordinary efforts to the program. Cadets receiving the Commendation Medal were Michael Shamblin, Breanna James, Brendan Campbell, Jaylon James, Todd Gladish and Layla Theriot..

2022 FALL AWARDS (CONTINUED)

To encourage cadets to punctually attend physical training, the PMS established the PMS PT Award. Cadets cannot have any unexcused absences to receive this award. Recipients are Cadets Cade Davis, Michael Shamblin, Breanna James, and Layla Theriot.

Cadet Breanna James took the Oath of Enlistment during the program, surrounded by Family and friends.

Hugo Carmignani, an international student from Paris, spent the fall semester at NSU and participated in ROTC. He not only participated in military science classes, but also labs, physical training, field training and intramural sports. He was presented with a commemorative coin.

Outstanding service awards recognize those cadets who have contributed additional time and energy to social projects for the university and Demon Battalion. Cadets honored were Michael Shamblin for service as president of the Black Knights, ROTC's recognized student organization; Andrew Wesley for service as vice president of the Black Knights; Peyton Bordelon for service as secretary of the Black Knights, and Makenzie Cain for service as treasurer of the Black Knights.

There were many more awards presented. Check out Leah Jackson's December 2022 article at NSU News.

2022 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FESTIVITIES

BN float entitled: Home for Christmas!





NSU

DEMON BATTALION

FORK 'EM

JANUARY

2023



PARTNERSHIP

PHYSICAL TRAINING



The Demon BN conducted a diagnostic ACFT to give a baseline for progression throughout the year, and continue to push each other during PT



NSU is building partnerships with FPLA. Thanks to B BTRY, 5-25 FA hosting NSUs MS Ills on Group/Zero and IWQ in prep for CST23

INSTRUCTION



Getting out of the classroom and increasing peer discourse allowing Cadets to really think about tactics and how the environment can effect planning

LAB EXECUTION



Starting the year off with a crowd favorite on confidence building and rappelling, Cadets walk through rappel and belay fundamentals. MSIVs are being put in multiple mentorship roles including small group Drill and Ceremony and decided to share best practices and basics on TMK and OPS Planning for the first few labs of the Spring Semester 2023

PLATOON ATTACK ON GRADY PRESERVE



ABOVE: CDT 1SG Peyton Bordelon laying out the plan of attack. **LEFT:** CDT Ethan Jones



While the juniors planned the exercise, seniors served as graders and provided feedback. Cadet Dixon takes notes on "blue cards," just like those used at Advanced Camp.



NSU

DEMON BATTALION

FORK 'EM

FEBRUARY



PARTNERSHIP

PHYSICAL TRAINING



The Demon BN conducts a midterm ACFT displaying improvement just 6 weeks later from the initial fitness assessment.



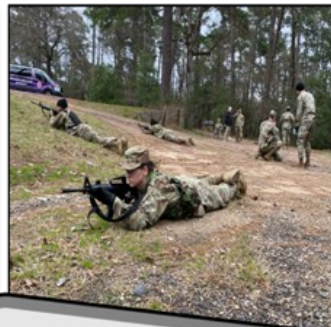
Cadets gathered to fill sandbags in support of a JROTC competition known as Demon Challenge. NSU also volunteered as judges in support of the LA State Drill meet.

INSTRUCTION



MSI's were briefed by USAREC recruiters during class to further knowledge on different opportunities and the Simultaneous Membership Program.

LAB EXECUTION



NSU conducted Platoon level operations in preparation for Spring FTX. Each week MS III's are rotated in leadership positions to gain a better understand of what it means to display specific leadership attributes and competencies in a field training environment.

*Northwestern State University
U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps*

*LTC Joshua R. Drake
Professor of Military Science
cordially invites you to attend the*

*73rd Demon Battalion
Spring Commissioning Ceremony
on Thursday, 11 May 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Friedman Student Union Ballroom
Northwestern State University*

R.S.V.P.

**(318) 357-6951 or
halls@nsula.edu**

**Military—Duty Uniform
Civilian—Business Casual**



*The Honorary Colonel of the Demon Regiment
Lieutenant General (Retired) Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr.
requests the pleasure of your company at the*

74th Demon Battalion Military Ball

*on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at seven o'clock
~ Social Hour at six o'clock ~*

*Friedman Student Union Ballroom
Northwestern State University*



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01 OCTOBER 2022 – 31 MARCH 2023

Thank you for your continued support!

MILITARY BALL SPONSORSHIP

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CPT & Mrs. Alejandro Cespedes

CPT Kristen (Daisy) Enlow & SSG Jacob Enlow

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CADET ACTIVITIES

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NSU Student Union Life, Mr. Alan Pasch

Former Mayor of Natchitoches, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Posey

Parish President John Richmond & Mrs. Kathy Richmond

Sodexo Catering:

Mr. Shaquille Broussard, Chef Jimier Anderson, & Ms. Jena Elfer

Kevin Shanahan Photography & Natchitoches Parish Journal

LTC Arthur Smalley, US Army Retired

Marshal Randy Williams, City of Natchitoches

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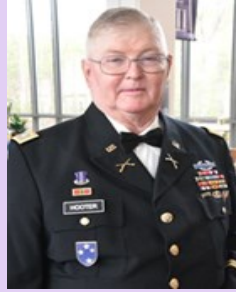
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The Demon Regiment, a rich heritage —
built one Cadet Legacy at a time!