



# ROTC ALUMNI Chapter Newsletter

September 2013, Volume 16, Issue 1

## New Second Lieutenants

**Seven second lieutenants were commissioned this past school year into the JSU ROTC alumni ranks. The ROTC program has commissioned 1474 cadets since its beginning in 1948.**

### **Congratulations to Second Lieutenants:**

**Donna Zanne Wilson**  
Medical Service Corps  
Army Reserve

**Logan Byars**  
Air Defense Artillery  
Active Duty

**Jerrell Dabney**  
Chemical Service Corps  
National Guard

**Ashley Henson**  
Army Nurse Corps  
Active Duty

**Jessica Legette**  
Medical Service Corps  
Army Reserve

**Amber Johnson**  
Corps of Engineers  
National Guard

**Daniel Herring**  
Quartermaster Corps  
Active Duty

## TAPS

Former Professor of Military Science, **Colonel William F. Rickett Jr.**, U.S. Army Retired, died on 11 January 2013 at the age

## Chapter Notes

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of our ROTC Alumni Newsletter. There will be no printed version mailed this year. For future reference, we will, however, post a copy on our website. Please forward to your fellow ROTC alumni who you think may not have their email recorded. Notify the Alumni Office of your email if you receive the newsletter from a fellow alumnus and not from their office.

Our 18th annual banquet will be held on Friday, 11 October at the Houston Cole Library on the 11th floor. Call in your reservation to the ROTC Department at (256) 782-5601 or email to ehartsaw@jsu.edu, no later than Friday, 4 October. The cost is \$25 per person and dress is casual (no tie). Our Military Alumnus of the Year, Brigadier General Curt A. Rauhut '84, will be our speaker. Alumni are asked to spread among the tables, so that cadets have an opportunity to interact with us.

Special thanks to our own alumni chapter director, Colonel Charles (Chuck) Buxton, JSU ROTC '90, who stepped in with little notice and spoke at the Commissioning Ceremony on 2 August. He is a twenty-five year National Guardsman who is qualified in six branches with two tours in Iraq. COL Buxton serves as deputy branch chief of the Women's Health and Fertility Branch at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Please consider a donation to the chapter's ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund to help generate scholarships for deserving cadets.

Please mail donation to:  
ROTC Scholarship Endowment  
JSU Foundation  
Jacksonville State University  
700 Pelham Road North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

## 2013 Military Alumnus of the Year

of 84. Colonel Rickett enlisted in March 1947 and retired as a Colonel in July 1980. He was PMS in 1976-1980, during which time 121 cadets received their commissions. He served his country for 33 years during the Korean War as well as the Vietnam War.

**Tracy Glenn Watkins**, JSU ROTC '79, died on 9 July 2013 in Orlando, Florida, at the age of 56. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate and was awarded an ROTC three year scholarship. Tracy was a member of the United States Army from 1979-1987 and earned the rank of captain. He was a commander of an airborne infantry company in Panama, a battalion maintenance officer, and also served as an infantry rifle platoon leader on the DMZ in Korea. He also worked for Raytheon as an Operations Officer and trained soldiers in Afghanistan. At the time of his death, he owned a testing facility for drugs, alcohol and DNA.

**Colonel Robin Keith Byrom**, USAR, Retired, JSU ROTC '78, passed away on 21 August at the age of 57. COL Byrom served for 27 years in numerous Army Reserve and Active Duty Chemical Corps positions, including those in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. At the time of his death, he was Chief, Joint Experimentation and Analysis Division, at the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Interment with full military honors is to take place at the National Cemetery in Montevallo, Alabama.

### Visit us Online!

View our website [HERE](#)

Previous newsletters, a list of chapter officers and directors, scholarship programs and other information can be found

**Brigadier General Curt A. Rauhut** has been selected as the **Military Alumnus of the Year for 2013**. He earned his BS in accounting and military science and was commissioned as a finance officer through the ROTC program in April 1984. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is currently the director for resource management, Installation Management Command at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. His primary duty includes managing an approximately \$11B annual budget to run and sustain our Army installations. General Rauhut has served in several key command and staff positions during his career and was promoted to Brigadier General in December 2010. He has received numerous military awards to include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Scuba Diver Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge. General Rauhut is an alumnus of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity at JSU where he served as the chapter's treasurer in 1982 and president in 1983. General Rauhut is married to the former Julie Urias from Las Vegas, Nevada. They have a fifteen year old son, Chase and the family resides in San Antonio, Texas.



### "The Gallant Pelham"



In March, Major General David Bryan (US Army, Retired), '70 (right) presented LTC Sean Corey and the ROTC program with a print featuring the Jacksonville area native Major John Pelham during the 150th anniversary of Pelham's death. The signed limited edition print, by noted Civil War painter John P. Strain, features Pelham, with Generals Stuart, Jackson and Lee near Fredericksburg during the winter of 1863. After the presentation MG Bryan

on the website.

Like us on Facebook at  
["Gamecock Battalion"](#)

### FALL 2013 ROTC EVENT CALENDAR

20-22 Sep.	CFTX
11 Oct.	Alumni Banquet
12 Oct.	Homecoming
17-20 Oct.	JFTX
21 Nov.	Fall Awards Ceremony
25-29 Nov.	Thanksgiving
2-7 Dec.	Final Exams
13 Dec.	Commissioning/ Graduation

### Alumni Scholarships

The complete description of the scholarships can be viewed [HERE](#).

The Chapter's scholarship program continues to financially assist deserving cadets. Since the beginning of the program in 2003, the cumulative value of the scholarships, when matched by the JSU Alumni Association, is \$188,000.00. The following are the scholarship values by the school year.

2003-2004	\$8,500
2004-2005	\$8,000
2005-2006	\$9,500
2006-2007	\$10,000
2007-2008	\$19,000
2008-2009	\$29,000
2009-2010	\$20,000
2010-2011	\$25,000
2011-2012	\$18,000
2012-2013	\$20,000
2013-2014	\$21,000

Scholarships are awarded to a deserving ROTC cadet with an

gave the cadets who were present a brief history of "The Gallant Pelham" and discussed how Pelham revolutionized the use of light artillery as an arm of the cavalry.

### Homecoming Activities 2013

#### Friday, 11 October 2013

ROTC Alumni Chapter Homecoming Banquet, 11th Floor, Houston Cole Library for ROTC alumni, spouses and guests

1800-1830	Social
1830-1845	Remarks by JSU President, Dr. William A. Meehan Welcome, Introductions and Recognitions
1845-1930	Dinner
1930-2100	Update by PMS and Gamecock Battalion Guest Speaker: Brigadier General Curt A. Rauhut 2013 Military Alumnus of the Year
	Alumni Chapter Business Prizes!

#### Saturday, 12 October 2013

0900	Alumni House & Rowe Hall Open
0900-1500	SGA Tailgate
1930-1030	President's Open House
1100	Homecoming Parade
1130-1330	ROTC Tailgate
1200-1300	Alumni Association Board of Governors Meeting
1500	Kickoff
Halftime	Alumni of the Year Awards & Homecoming Court

**Reservations for the banquet:** (256) 782-5601 or email [ehartsaw@jsu.edu](mailto:ehartsaw@jsu.edu) no later than 4 October 2013.

Cost: \$25 per person and the dress will be casual

### The Current Scholarships and Recipients for School Year 2013-2014

#### Anniston Elks Lodge #189 ROTC Scholarships:

Awarded to Cadets William Benefield (MSIV) and Dalton Murphy (MSIV).

#### Belser (Captain Donnie R.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:

Awarded to Cadet Chad Alan Boyer (MSIII) and Christopher Hobbs (MSIII).

**Blount (Second Lieutenant Matthew A.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Two scholarships, awarded to Cadets Amanda Wells (MSIII) and Christopher Hobbs (MSIII).

**Boozar (James and Ethel) ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Misha Dantzler (MSIV).

academic standing of sophomore, junior or senior who is contracted to serve as an Army officer upon graduation and commissioning. The Professor of Military Science conducts a selection board of the cadets who have applied for the available scholarships. An "order of merit" list is established and scholarships are assigned against the sequence of the list. For School Year 2013-2014, twenty-one cadets will each receive \$1000 scholarships. Sponsors agree to fund \$500 per year for a five year period. The annual \$500 is matched by the Alumni Association and the total of \$1000 (\$500 per semester) is provided to the cadet.

**Comfort (Captain Kyle A.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:**

Awarded to Cadet Chelsea Jones (MSIV).

**Elite Letterman's Club ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Dominique Stewart (MSIII).

**Fort McClellan Credit Union ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Kimberly Stiles (MSIV).

**Heathcock (Colonel James "Jim" T.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Isiah Burgin (MSIII).

**Lee (Loy Scott) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Sarah Pugh (MSIV). Sarah is to be commissioned in December.

**McBride (First Lieutenant Grady E., III) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Joshua Garrett (MSIV). Joshua is to be commissioned in December.

**McNabb (Captain Jerry W.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Joseph M. Burnett (MSIV). Joseph is to be commissioned in December.

**Miller (Captain Richard C.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Evan Prince (MSIV).

**Miller (Captain Richard C.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Craig Dobbs (MSIV).

**Miller (Captain Richard C.) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Matthew P. Baker (MSIV).

**Northeast Alabama Military Officers Association (MOAA) ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Desmond Clay (MSIV).

**Savage (Lieutenant Colonel Jerry) Memorial ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Dayton Grissam (MSIV).

**Tate (Dewey E.) ROTC Scholarship:** Awarded to Cadet Jonathan Farmer (MSIV). Jonathan is to be commissioned in December.

**Williams (Major Dwayne) Memorial ROTC Scholarships:** Two scholarships, awarded to Cadets Emerald Padgett (MSIV) and Russell Dean (MSIII).