

# Jacksonville State University

# ROTC ALUMNI

## Chapter Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

### President's remarks

With the press of time upon us, this year's newsletter is comprised of several articles originally published in the *Jacksonville News* or the *Anniston Star*. I thank both publications for their permission to reprint. Most articles from the Jacksonville News are from Dr. Bill Meehan's Town and Gown column – my thanks also to Dr. Meehan for them and for his unwavering support of the ROTC program and the alumni chapter.



This year's annual ROTC Alumni Chapter banquet is Friday night, October 20<sup>th</sup>, in the Gamecock Center. The cost for the banquet will remain the same as last year at \$20.00 per person. Make plans to attend and call or email Ellen Hartsaw at the ROTC Department--rotc@jsu.edu. Please don't wait --- call or email now.

Linda Bright retired in July from the ROTC Department, but has offered her time to help out the chapter and support the banquet. Special thanks go to Linda for all her help through the

years to the chapter, and the ROTC Department. As a gift, the chapter and the ROTC Department shared in giving Linda a laptop computer. COL (R) Therman Greene represented the ROTC Alumni Chapter and assisted LTC Hester in the presentation.

Congratulations to LTCs Mark and Tim Sullivan on their selection as JSU's Military Alumnus of the Year (MAY). They are very deserving of the award. Jacksonville State University has had one other occasion upon which co-MAY's were selected and shared in the prestigious honors. Several other well-qualified and deserving candidates were nominated, considered, and voted on by the Board members. While it was a hard selection to make in a field of well-deserving officers, we feel that these officers will represent the JSU ROTC Alumni Chapter, the ROTC Department, and Jacksonville State University with dignity.

This year has been very busy for me personally and professionally, and has caused me to rely heavily two board members in particular, COL (R) Greene, and LTC (R) Bruce Pickette. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to COL Greene for his contributions to the newsletter and my very special thanks to LTC (R) Bruce Pickette for his efforts to gather and write the final edited versions of the contents of this newsletter.

Folks, you will not find the usual articles about our Civilian Excellence, Lost Alumni, lists of PMSs or MAYs, or Class Coordinator Programs. Be assured the programs are still there – nominate for Civilian Excellence, and we will hold the nomination for next year. I want to encourage members of the association to seek out those deserving members of our services who meet the criteria for selection for MAY and or Civilian Excellence and nominate them. We need your input and do not want to slight any deserving individuals of due recognition.

My congratulations to Mrs. Melanie Delap, Executive Director of the JSU Foundation, for her selection of honorary membership in the chapter. Mrs. Delap has made many contributions to the Chapter and the ROTC Department, and joins the ranks of others who have been previously recognized. Hopefully, we will be able to present her membership certificate to her at the October 20 banquet.

Our scholarship program continues to be a great success. My thanks to all the sponsors, donors, and MG (R) Larry Lee and COL (R) Greene for their efforts in assisting in the management of donations and this program. This year, their efforts culminated in the awarding of 10 scholarships to deserving cadets.

### IN THIS ISSUE

PMS & ROTC Update .....	2
Professor of Military Science.....	2
Scholarship Update .....	3
Alumni of the Year.....	4
Join the JSU Alumni.....	4
Chapter By-Laws.....	4
New Chapter Director .....	4
New Lieutenants .....	5
Erin Rice.....	5
Sullivan brothers.....	6
Professors of Military Science Gather.....	6
Pics from Iraq.....	7
Linda Bright .....	8-9
Continuing Family Tradition .....	10
JSU ROTC Friends .....	10
ROTC Homecoming Banquet.....	11
Chapter Contact Information .....	11

## Update from the PMS

It has been a great year for the Military Science department in 2006! We commissioned 22 second lieutenants this year, exceeding our mission of 17, and we are on track to meet or exceed our mission of 16 Officers in 2007. Many of these commissioned officers have already deployed or will deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan shortly after they complete their initial officer training.

We continue to work through the challenges of cadre deployments and shortages as the Army continues its missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Major Greg Pass continues to serve in Afghanistan in support of 3rd Army, and we look forward to his return in summer 2007. Master Sergeant James Beard departed this past summer for the Sergeant Major Academy; Major Dean Shackelford, our long-time Recruiting Operations Officer, departs in September to serve in Iraq; and we bid farewell to Mrs. Linda Bright who has served all of us faithfully for many years. We welcome Captain John Reynolds and Captain Jerry Mize (JSU '99) to our program and look forward to their service to the Military Science Department.

This past spring, we recruited especially hard in high schools throughout the local area and had an opportunity to personally speak with over 1500 high school students about JSU, career opportunities as an Army Officer, and tuition payment programs. We had an especially large incoming freshman class that will help grow and sustain the reputation of our program.

Let me express my personal appreciation to the JSU ROTC Alumni Chapter for your continued support and all that you do for our cadets. We will continue to work hard and keep your legacy strong!

LTC "Chip" Hester



Lieutenant Colonel Henry "Chip" Hester is the Professor of Military Science at JSU and is responsible for molding today's JSU cadets into tomorrow's military leaders. Chip is a 1985 Distinguished Military Graduate of Wake Forest University where he was commissioned in Field Artillery. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma.

## An update on the ROTC program

"Most people probably think that a majority of Army officers come from either West Point or Officer Candidate Schools," says Lieutenant Colonel "Chip" Hester, the new PMS at JSU. "Combined, these two programs only produce about 35 percent of Army officers." ROTC is one of the best leadership courses in the country and part of the college curriculum at JSU. Students, known as cadets, learn from current Army officers how to motivate groups, make sound decisions and lead others. At graduation, ROTC cadets earn the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the Army or in one of the reserve components – Army Reserves or National Guard. ROTC produces about 65 percent of the Army's officer corps. JSU has produced over 1,360 Army officers since 1948, and many of those are serving today around the world as lieutenants and captains, and at least eight have achieved the rank of Brigadier General. Army officers are the leaders and managers much like corporate management in the civilian sector. After graduating from ROTC, an officer is immediately prepared and expected to run an organization consisting 30-100 soldiers. In addition to leadership training, the ROTC program offers prospective students several more benefits including help with paying tuition and housing expenses. Whether a student is in college or on the way to college, ROTC has scholarships available that are awarded based on a student's merit and grades, not their financial need. These scholarships are available in two, three, and four-year options depending on how much time students have remaining to complete their degree. Cadets also earn a stipend of \$300-\$500 per month and may compete for dorm scholarships provided by JSU to eligible cadets. Additional benefits are available to ROTC cadets who choose to serve in the Army Reserve or the National Guard in their respective states. They gain hands-on leadership experience while training one weekend per month and two weeks during the summer. These cadets are also considered nondeployable by the Army, which means they stay at JSU until they complete their degree. In addition, when these cadets become Army officers, the Army actually pays them a higher salary based on their experience. "When people think of joining in the Army, the first image that probably comes to mind is an infantryman carrying an M16 rifle," said Hester. "But the Infantry Branch is only one of 16 professional branches in the Army." The benefits continue after graduating from ROTC. Army officers today can expect a starting salary of \$40,000 per year plus free health and dental care for themselves and their families, unlimited sick leave, and 30 days paid vacation each year. After two years, an active duty officer's salary will increase to around \$50,000 a year with regular promotions and raises. Additional leadership training is also available. For information about starting a career in the Army as an officer, please call the JSU Military Science Department at 782-5601 or visit the Army ROTC website at [www.goarmy.com/rotc](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc). Based on an article in The Jacksonville News, November 2005.

## **ROTC Alumni scholarship update**

The total Chapter and other sponsored annual scholarships are ten (10) for School Year 2006-2007. These are available to the Professor of Military Science for award to deserving Cadets. All scholarships are for \$500 each and have again been matched by the National Alumni Association, bringing the monetary value for the recipients to \$1000 each. The cumulative donations for ROTC scholarships since the beginning of the program are

School Year 2003-2004:	\$8,500
School Year 2004-2005:	\$8,000
School Year 2005-2006:	\$9,500
School Year 2006-2007:	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>

Following are the Cadets who will receive scholarships for School Year 2006-2007 at the Fall Awards Ceremony:

### **Jerry W. McNabb ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet Richard Pugh is a MS III in the ROTC program. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently is a Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet with the Army Reserve. Pugh's college major is history education. He has a current 3.61 GPA.

### **Jerry L. Savage ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet William Penn is a MS IV who is contracted with the ROTC program. His major is technology, and he has a 2.78 GPA. He is active on the Cadet Ranger Challenge Team, Color Guard, and Scabbard & Blade. A member of the Alabama National Guard in the SMP program, he is serving as the Cadet Battalion S-5.

### **Loy Scott Lee ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet William Tveten is a MS IV and is currently the battalion commander for ROTC. He is an assistant platoon leader at the 3rd TCE U.S. Army Reserve in Anniston. Tveten's college major is criminal justice. He has a current 2.9 GPA.

### **MOAA ROTC Scholarship**

Cadet Joshua Mathews is a MS III cadet in the program. He has earned both the airborne and air assault badges. He is a member of Ranger Challenge and of Scabbard and Blade. He is a criminal justice major with a 3.68 GPA.

### **Fort McClellan Credit Union ROTC Scholarship**

Cadet Robert Brooks is a MS III in the ROTC program. Cadet Brooks has earned the bronze PT award, maintaining a consistent 270 APFT. He is an SMP Cadet with the Alabama National Guard. His major is history education, and he has a 2.67 GPA.

### **Joseph C. Jones, Jr. ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet Clifton Palmore is a MS III finance major with a 3.18 GPA. Cadet Palmore is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, having deployed with the 4th ID. He has a physical fitness score of 278. Cadet Palmore is an SMP Cadet with the Alabama Guard. He is listed in Who's Who among College Students and is currently on the Dean's list.

### **Alumni Chapter ROTC Scholarship:**

Cadet Lindsay Wilson is a MS I in ROTC. She is joining the Alabama Army National Guard as an SMP Cadet. Cadet Wilson maintains a 3.64 GPA in marine biology and chemistry while holding two jobs. She is a championship swimmer and scored 250 on her first APFT after 1 month in ROTC.

### **Alumni Chapter ROTC Scholarship**

Cadet Jonathan Dickson is a MS IV. He is majoring in criminal justice with a 3.28 GPA. He is an SMP Cadet with the Alabama National Guard and has four year of Active Duty with the 172nd Brigade, Ft. Richardson, Alaska. He is active with the Ranger Challenge Team and a member of Scabbard and Blade.

### **Major James P. Rogan ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet Jerome L. Stokes is a MS II. Cadet Stokes is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as a combat lifesaver. He is an art major with a concentration in graphic design and currently has a 2.70 GPA. He is currently an SMP Cadet with the Alabama Guard.

### **Grady E. McBride, III ROTC Memorial Scholarship**

Cadet Christopher Bunt is a MS II in ROTC. He has earned the Army parachutists badge and will be attending Air Assault school this summer. He has a 3.25 GPA in marketing and an APFT of 288.

## Our most recent Military Alumni of the Year



Pictured in uniform, Colonel Rex Forney, USA, and Colonel Imelda Joan Weddington, USAR, received their Military Alumnus and Alumna awards during Homecoming, on Saturday, October 29, 2005. Colonel Forney, was the winner of the 2004 Outstanding Military Alumnus Award, but was assigned to Iraq in 2004 and was unable to receive his award until this last year's Homecoming. Colonel Imelda Joan Weddington, originally from Gadsden, was the 2005 Outstanding Military Alumna and graduated from JSU in 1984 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps. She currently serves as Chief, Department of Nursing, Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program, Madigan Army Medical Center, in Fort Lewis, Washington. She is a faculty member of the Department of Nursing, College of Health Sciences, at Boise State University. (Steve Latham photo)

## Join the JSU National Alumni Association and the ROTC Alumni Chapter

(Membership in the National Association conveys membership in the Chapter)

### Dues:

Annual: \$25 Single, \$40 Husband & Wife

Life: \$250 Single, \$450 Husband & Wife

Send your dues to JSU Alumni Affairs, 700 Pelham Rd. N., Jacksonville, AL 36265

Make checks payable to JSU Alumni Association

(To pay by credit card, contact the Alumni Affairs Office by dialing 800-231-5291, ext. 0, ask for Alumni Office)

## Chapter By-Laws changes proposed

The Chapter's current By-Laws were last revised in November 2004. The Chapter's Executive Board proposes the revisions noted below. The effect of the proposed change to Article IV is to allow all Directors to serve until replaced or the individual resigns. The proposed change will be presented to the Annual General Membership Meeting on October 20, 2006.

### Change "Article IV, Officers, Section 2" from

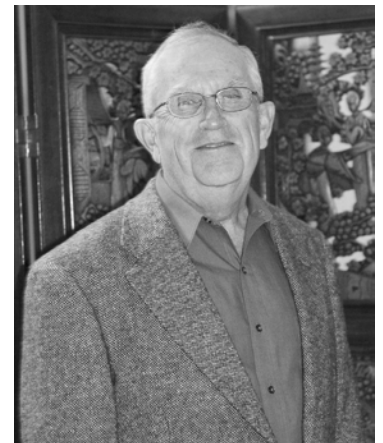
Section 2. A minimum of six Directors will be appointed by the newly elected President. They shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the alumni chapter. Directors appointed by the newly elected President will serve for one year and may be appointed for no more than two consecutive terms.

to

Section 2. A minimum of six Directors will be appointed by the newly elected President. They shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the alumni chapter. Directors appointed by the President will serve at least one year and, after that, may continue to serve until replaced by the President or by resignation.

## New chapter Director

Cliff Lanham graduated from Dothan High School, Dothan, Alabama in 1957. He received his degree from JSU and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry in 1962. Military units and organizations he served with are: 8th Infantry Division; TRADOC Training Command; 25th Infantry, Vietnam; Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Theater Army Support Command, Germany; Ordinance School, Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG); and, TRADOC Headquarters. Military schools completed are: Infantry Officer Basic Course, Ordinance Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff School, Army Logistics Management School, and Ranger School. Geographically, these assignments took him to Ft. Benning; Dahlonge, GA; Baumholder, Germany; Vietnam (twice); Worms, Germany; Kaiserslautern; Niagara Falls, NY; APG, MD; Ft. Bragg; and, Ft. Monroe, VA. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving eight years of Guard time and 22 years of active military service. After retirement Cliff owned and operated a commercial printing company for eight years. After selling the business he returned to graduate school to be recertified in education and taught middle school science for 15 years. Retiring out of the Virginia Beach Public School system in 2003, he moved to Madison, Alabama where he now resides.



## Congratulations to our new Lieutenants

Commissioned on December 16, 2005 (Fall)

Darrell L. Lyles, Quartermaster Corps, Reserve Duty  
Derrick L. Lyles, Quartermaster Corps, Reserve Duty  
Brianna Bladen Nifong, Adjutant General Corps, Reserve Duty  
James B. Nifong, Aviation, Active Duty  
Erin R. Rice, Army Nurse, Active Duty  
Michael C. Simmons, Quartermaster Corps, Active Duty  
Charles J. Wyatt, Medical Service Corps, Active Duty

Commissioned on April 28, 2006 (Spring)

Lisa M. Allen, Military Police Corps, Active Duty  
Daniel P. Buford, Adjutant General Corps, Reserve Duty  
Latoya D. Granger, Adjutant General Corps, Reserve Duty  
Jonothan D. Greene, Field Artillery, Active Duty  
Miles P. Hamlet, Medical Service Corps, Active Duty  
Evan M. Jamieson, Military Police Corps, Reserve Duty  
Crystal A. Lawhorn, Signal Corps, Active Duty  
Bradley K. Majors, Ordnance Corps, Active Duty  
John M. Miles, Military Police Corps, Active Duty  
Carl E. Warlick, Ordnance Corps, Reserve Duty

Commissioned on August 4, 2006 (Summer)

Mitchell T. Hunt, Quartermaster Corps, Active Duty  
Jason Poe, Transportation Corps, Reserve Duty

### First female in JSU history receives Best Ranger Award



Jacksonville State University ROTC cadet Erin Rice was the recipient of the Best Ranger Award at the ROTC Department's Spring Awards ceremony in Rowe Hall in April 2005. She is the first female in the department's history to receive this award. (JSU News, April 2005)

## Erin Rice majors in Nursing

Hundreds of students across the United States attend Jacksonville State University because of our outstanding nursing program or for our exceptional ROTC department. Mrs. Erin Rice, a senior from San Diego, chose to combine both departments. Rice came to JSU in 1999 on a softball scholarship. "I changed my major from pre-med to nursing after the birth of my daughter because I did not want to be in medical school with a small child," said Rice. "However, once my husband decided to join ROTC, I was finding myself at Rowe Hall on a daily basis and making a lot of great friends through ROTC." Rice grew up in a marine and naval town and never thought that the military life was for her. When she graduated from high school, she received many scholarship offers to play softball at different military academies. Rice thought these people must be crazy if they believed she was going to be in the military – which was definitely not for her. ROTC approached Rice about the benefits they provide and the opportunities the U. S. Army had for nurses. ROTC presented Rice with a video about the Army Nurse Corps, which showed interviews with nurses and veterans. The video focused on how the nurses had touched their lives. According to Rice, the video portrayed how young soldiers found hope in the nurses who were caring for them. One nurse on video said that in a day she had been a 19-year-old boy's sister, mother, girlfriend, and wife. She was the last person he talked to before he made the ultimate sacrifice. Another veteran said that he remembered his nurse only by her hands. He had suffered a head injury and never got to see his nurse, but she held his hand every day, and at a reunion, he found her when she grabbed his hand. "The next day I signed the papers to join ROTC. This was a big decision because I was about to start nursing school, my husband was a graduate student, and we had a young child," said Rice. "Despite the early mornings, the aches and pains, and the summers that were spent away from home, it has been all worth it." Rice now serves as the cadet commander of the ROTC battalion and will be a distinguished military graduate. She ranked 209 out of 3895 cadets across the nation who will receive their commission this year. Rice was also the first female at JSU to receive the Ranger of the Year award. The ROTC cadre of instructors annually selects one individual from the Ranger Challenge Team based on his or her performance. Rice's other accomplishments include receiving the scholastic excellence award in nursing, and becoming a member of the Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society. According to Rice, the nursing students at JSU have several T-shirts that they love to wear. Rice's favorite one says, "Save one life and you're a hero, save a thousand lives and you're a nurse, BUT save a hero's life and you're an army nurse!" Rice began working as a nurse at the Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Ga., as a 2nd lieutenant in December 2005. Her husband Derrick is now serving in Iraq as the leader of an ordnance platoon in the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Benning. Based on an article in The Jacksonville News, December 2005.

## Brothers selected as co-Military Alumnus of the Year



Lieutenant Colonels Tim and Mark Sullivan (l-r) are natives of Huntsville and graduated from JSU in 1988. Mark also has a Master's Degree in Information Systems Management from Florida Institute of Technology, while Tim has a Master's Degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University. Tim was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps and Mark in Field Artillery. Tim's operational experience includes Operations Desert Shield/Storm (Saudi Arabia/Iraq), Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Kuwait/Iraq). Mark's operational experience includes Operations Desert Shield/Storm (Saudi Arabia/Iraq), Operation Iraqi Freedom I (Kuwait/Iraq), and Operation Iraqi Freedom III (Camp Liberty, Baghdad Iraq). Both are currently serving as Battalion Commanders at Fort Benning – Tim is commander of the 13th Corps Support Battalion and Mark is commander of the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

## Twin JSU graduates from Huntsville head Georgia fort battalions

Huntsville -- Identical twins who attended high school and college in Alabama made history this summer when they took command of battalions at Fort Benning within a month of each other.

Lt.Cols. Mark and Tim Sullivan, 42, are graduates of Grissom High School in Huntsville and Jacksonville State University. They were commissioned in 1988 and served in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. They returned for the Iraq war in 2003 before taking command at the Army base in Georgia, where their troops often mistake one for the other.

"I talk to people every day that I don't know," Tim Sullivan told the Huntsville Times in a story Monday. "I usually let people finish their conversation before I tell them they've confused me for my twin brother. I learn a lot that way." The brothers tell their fellow

soldiers that if they do not say hello, it is because they are someone else. "I've told them if I look at them strangely, it's probably not me," Tim Sullivan said.

The Fort Benning public affairs office said it apparently is the first time for identical twins to lead battalions at the Army base simultaneously. Tim Sullivan commands almost 1,000 soldiers in the 13th Corps Support Battalion, while Mark Sullivan commands the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment. They are the sons of retired Lt.Col. Bob Sullivan and his wife, Frances, of Huntsville.

Mark Sullivan said because he and his brother have been in the military all of their lives – as dependents, ROTC students and in the Army – the progression to commanders feels part of their path. They have earned Bronze Stars, senior parachutist badges, as well as medals for Korean defense, Kuwait liberation, and Global War on Terrorism.

For Tim Sullivan, moments of mistaken identity don't end when he arrives at home. "I've got identical twins, Hannah and Mary Grace, who are 3 years old," he said. "I still can't tell them apart." The Anniston Star, July 16, 2006. Reprinted with permission.

## Professors of Military Science Gather



Professors of Military Science gather at Linda's retirement in July 2006. Pictured with bosses Linda and Ellen, left to right are LTC Chip Hester, current PMS, LTC Doc May, LTC Dave Merriss, LTC John Sudduth, LTC Bill Stone, COL Allan Borstorff, and COL Bill Rickett. At far right is Dr. Meehan, President of JSU.

# JSU IN IRAQ

## More Gamecock alum and instructor in Iraq



(Via Email) In July 2006, Major Greg Pass wrote: “Here is a picture of Gamecock alumni Bill Huggins and I standing in front of his ride back to Kuwait from Afghanistan. Bill and I plan to meet again at the Gamecock Homecoming. I should be back home sometime during the second week of August.” Bill is currently Program Manager for Field Operations and Support, PEO-STRI, in Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

## Another Iraq photo from “JT”



This photo of 1LT Marcus Bartlette, '04, left, and MAJ Nolan was taken in Tallil, Iraq, in June 2006. It was sent to the ROTC Department by JT. Lieutenant Bartlette is stationed at Fort Sill.

## Another JSU ROTC grad in Iraq



Major John “JT” Nolan wrote the ROTC Alumni in May 2005: “I came across another JSU alumni “Class of ’90” at Camp Victory, Iraq. Attached is a photo of us together outside the LOGCAP Office. V/R, MAJ Nolan” The photo is of “JT” and Captain Migliar, '90.

## Another Gamecock banner in Iraq



MAJ Greg Pass writes, “This is a picture of one of my former students who is now in Iraq with one of our former cadre members, MAJ John Nolan, and a note that he sent us: ‘I was traveling through Mosul (Iraq) and walking back from the DFAC, and lo and behold, I walk into 2LT William Coulter. Currently, Coulter is working detainee operations and assisting the Iraqi Police. As you can see he is doing well.’” (JSU News, April 2005)

# Linda Bright

## Linda Bright's temporary job led to long career at JSU

Linda Fagan Bright never intended to work until retirement age. What began as a temporary job led to a 28-year career with the ROTC Department at Jacksonville State University.

In the summer of 1969, after the birth of twins, Linda resigned her job at Fort McClellan to be a full-time mom to the twins and a 2-year-old daughter. Another daughter, Audra, would arrive in 1971.

She returned to Fort McClellan in 1978 and worked six months in a temporary position at the Military Police School. Her plan was to work temporarily during the months her daughters were in school. She planned to return to Fort McClellan in September. However, in August, a temporary military personnel clerk position became available at JSU ROTC.

A few months later, the position was converted from temporary to permanent, and Linda continued working because she liked the campus and she liked her job. She learned that, although it wasn't an easy task, she could combine a full-time job and rearing children.

Linda retired as human resources assistant at JSU on August 3 only to venture into another phase of her life. The Jacksonville News, August 9, 2006. Reprinted with permission.

## A note to Linda

Dear Mrs. Linda Bright,  
July 26, 2006

Try as I might – I don't think it is possible to express how truly appreciative and honored we are to have been served by such a truly dedicated civil servant and patriot. I was an Infantryman and certainly not a Journalism or English major. Simply put – Jacksonville State ROTC Department, the United States Army, and our great nation could not have been better served.

Over the years, many great leaders have served the Jacksonville State ROTC Department – each making their mark on many of us, the community, our great Army, and the thousands of students they served. You watched these leaders come and go – always the consummate and silent professional. Never seeking a bit of recognition for yourself, while always placing the ROTC Department and those you served, first and foremost. You made us all look good – never seeking or getting the recognition you deserve!

In fact – on this special day, I expect that you are smiling, maybe crying a bit – given your humble selfless nature – I would also guess that you are probably embarrassed by the outpouring



of love and appreciation that you so richly deserve! What a celebration it is for all of us who have been fortunate recipients of your devotion to duty. We celebrate with you! In fact you outlasted many of us, and our retirements from active duty have come and gone, yet you are still standing – in the trenches taking care of the Cadre, the Cadets, and the Army! We all wish we could be there to hug you on this special day – but that will have to wait until the homecoming reunion!

What a great day this is for all, near and far, who respect and admire you for your loyal service to our beloved Jacksonville State University ROTC Department! You could write a best-selling book about your many years of service at Jax State ROTC – I'm sure the many secrets you know would make for some good reading!

You have touched many lives, and you have witnessed girls and boys become men and women – always in a loving and supportive way, never judging and always showing genuine concern and confidence.



# Retires

You have typed the scholarship packets, the letters of academic and disciplinary probation, and fortunately for many of us, letters of recognition and letters of appointment to the Army that we love. (And the Marine Corps and Navy - in the case of JP and Gene!)



I know that I speak for the masses who love and respect you for your selfless service. It is said, that when someone like you retires at the “Top of their Game” that they leave behind some big shoes to fill. Mrs. Bright, your impeccable record of selfless service is one that can’t be matched in this lifetime of the next. You leave behind far more than a pair of “Big Shoes to Fill!”— you leave behind the perfect example of selfless service to a cause bigger than oneself! We should bronze your shoes and hang them in the trophy case – for all to emulate!

We stand clapping and awe- inspired by your distinguished record of performance. While we may not be there to physically share this special day with you, please rest well tonight knowing that you are loved and appreciated more than you know! We extend our heartfelt gratitude and our very best wishes to you and yours – may you enjoy the best of health and happiness all the days of your long and fruitful life!

By the way! You have Lifetime Season Tickets to sit with the Elite Lettermen’s Club, and you don’t have to paint your belly! We hope to see you at the Big Game! God Bless You! Enjoy your retirement! Our Most Sincere Love and Admiration! Bill Huggins, James Martin, Doug Hicks, Mike Holloway, Maurice Bowles, Ace Elliot, Gene Wisdom, Jesse and Stan Carpenter, John Armstrong, Jim Sullivan, Brian Chatham, John Kallerson, James Glenn, Jack Schlegel, Dave McDonald, Theo Galzerano

## A note from Linda

Thanks to the ROTC Alumni Chapter! I want to thank you for sharing in my retirement celebration and making it such a special occasion. I could never have imagined such a wonderful event! It was great seeing everyone...university administration, faculty and staff, alumni, current and previous ROTC cadre, cadets, family and friends. And, as far as I know, that is the only time seven JSU ROTC Professors of Military Science have ever been in the same place at the same time. It was great!

COL Greene, COL Creel, LTC Pickette...thanks for personally attending and being a part of my special evening! You made it so special!

And the gifts! Unbelievable! I love the computer, printer, and case and will put them to good use. I’ll always remember this special evening...it’s hard for me to find words to adequately express just how much I appreciate everything. But I want you to know that I’m deeply grateful.

Thanks for your support of JSU ROTC. No doubt, we have the best ROTC alumni chapter in the nation! We are so fortunate! And I hope our cadets will follow your example of service and always support the JSU ROTC program. I have enjoyed working with you and treasure the friendships that have developed throughout the years.

Thanks again! Linda  
August 3, 2006



# Continuing family traditions

When 2nd Lieutenant Benji Abbott graduated from JSU in July 2005, he continued two family traditions begun by his great-uncle, Mr. George W. Lott, who also graduated from JSU and served in the military. "I never thought about serving in the Army until I went to see my cousin graduate from West Point," said Benji. "That ceremony planted the seed in me about the military." Benji, a native of Oxford, became a medic and, after returning from active duty training, joined the ROTC battalion at JSU. Abbott is now serving with the 20th Special Forces Group stationed in Birmingham.

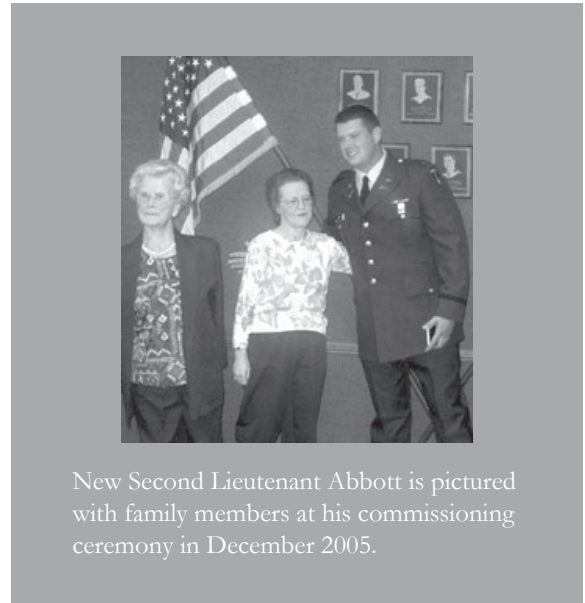
Also, Benji, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in history, currently serves as a Gold Bar Recruiter for the ROTC battalion at JSU. GBRs recruit the most promising students in the region to join the ROTC battalion while they attend JSU.

2nd Lt. George W. Lott, Benji's great-uncle, entered Jacksonville State Teachers College in 1946 after serving in World War II as a sergeant in an artillery unit. He graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education and received his commission in 1950. The ROTC program began at JSTC in 1948 and Lott was a member of the first graduating class.

On Feb. 13, 1951, Lott was sent to Korea. According to the scrapbooks located in the ROTC battalion, Lott was captured by the North Korean Army on May 26 while serving in an artillery unit. He was sent to a concentration camp, and fellow POWs reported that he died of complications from pneumonia sometime in August 1951. According to his sister, Mrs. Mildred Abbott, George was a good brother and very well thought of. Including herself, Lott had five brothers and four sisters. "George was raised on a farm in Cranehill, Alabama, and he got married while he attended JSTC," said Mrs. Abbott. "At the time of his deployment George did not know that his wife was pregnant. Unfortunately, to my knowledge, he never knew he had a daughter." As a result, Lott became the first ROTC cadet from JSU to pay the ultimate sacrifice while serving on active duty when the Department of Defense classified him as Killed In Action. However, his daughter, Ms. Gilda Marie Lott, born just before her dad was taken into captivity, continued the tradition of attending JSU. She graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Gilda, now married, lives in Atlanta and has two daughters.

The tradition continued to the fourth generation when Benji joined the military. His great-great uncle served in the Army between World War I and World War II. In addition, several other members of his family have or are currently serving in the military.

According to Benji, both of his grandfathers served in the Navy during World War II, an uncle served in the Army during Vietnam; a cousin, who is also a JSU graduate, served in the Marines during Desert Storm in 1990-91; another cousin graduated from West Point and served in the 3rd Infantry Division during the Iraqi invasion, and his brother serves in the Coast Guard.



New Second Lieutenant Abbott is pictured with family members at his commissioning ceremony in December 2005.

"After 9/11, I wanted to serve myself, but I also wanted to finish school so I enlisted in the reserves," said Benji. "The ROTC program at JSU provided me with the opportunity to do both."

At this time, the next generation is too young to determine if it will continue the family tradition of attending JSU and serving in the military, but Mrs. Abbott said that she sure hopes they will. She considers both JSU and the military excellent choices to help begin a career. The Jacksonville News, February 2006. Reprinted with permission.

## Friends of JSU ROTC

The purpose of the "Friends of the JSU ROTC" award is to show appreciation to a graduating senior who is beginning a career of service to our country. This initiative is headed up by Karen Gregg, who works with the College of Arts and Sciences. The ROTC Alumni Chapter awarded her an Honorary Membership in 2003 based on her support and dedication to the cadets and ROTC program.

Since the award's inception in the Spring of 2004, five cadets have been honored. They are 2LTs Joseph White, Katherine Meadows, Adam Nickelson, Kirby Rice, and Jonathan Greene. The \$250 award is funded by the membership of the Friends. Membership includes JSU faculty and staff who have visited cadets attending the Leader's Training Course (LTC) or the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC), former and present JSU cadre member, ROTC alumni, and local veterans. Your donations is tax-deductible; contact Karen Gregg at 256-782-5231 or email her at [kgregg@jsu.edu](mailto:kgregg@jsu.edu).

# ROTC Homecoming Banquet

Friday, October 20, 2006  
Gamecock Center, Stephenson Hall

The ROTC Alumni Chapter Homecoming Banquet is for ROTC alumni, spouses, friends, and guests. Make us a part of your Homecoming!

1800-1830	Social
1830-2030	Welcome & Introductions
	Dinner
	Program

**Dress:** Casual (No tie)

**Reservations:** (256) 782-5601 or [rotc@jsu.edu](mailto:rotc@jsu.edu)  
NLT Monday, October 16, 2006

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person

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<http://www.jsu.edu/alumni/rotcalumni/>

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## Disclaimer

JSU ROTC Newsletter is an unofficial annual alumni newsletter published in the interest of JSU ROTC alumni. Writers' opinions are their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the JSU Department of Military Science staff or faculty, the U.S. Army, or the publisher/printer.

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