HOOAH!
The Mighty Bruin Battalion - UCLA Army ROTC

Loyalty • Duty • Respect • Selfless Service • Honor • Integrity • Personal Courage
FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends and family of the Bruin Battalion,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well from the holidays and set for another great year. We’re midway through our Winter Quarter at UCLA and already excited about both the 32% increase in our cadet enrollment in the Bruin Battalion and the fact that the Bruin basketball team is currently ranked #2 and poised and ready to win our 100th NCAA Championship.

In addition to the increased number of new cadets our current Winter Quarter already has been highlighted with the Winter Field Training Exercise at Camp Pendleton. We trained 70 cadets and 9 new cadre members (two crusty cadre veterans led us, CPT Tom Higginson and MAJ Eric Cortes) over the 26-28 January weekend. Furthermore, two of our cadets, Senior Dan Nelson (Co-Captain of the Army Football team) and Sophomore Bridgette Tuquero (Co-Captain of the Cheerleading squad) represented Army ROTC at the All-American Bowl in San Antonio over the holidays. Cadets Nelson and Tuquero spent time leading camps and talking to the many high school students about the benefits of Army ROTC and the opportunities they have had as college students at UCLA.

Next quarter, our MS IIIs are in the final stages of preparation for Warrior Forge Training this summer at Ft. Lewis. We will have one more weekend training event (23-25 April) with the Bruin Battalion at Camp Pendleton conducting squad and platoon tactics with Claremont-McKenna College and then finish off the year with our commission ceremony with one of the largest classes at UCLA in the past 20 years on 17 June. Please take a look at page six for a list of our seniors and their branch/duty assignments.

On a sad note it is with much regret that I inform you that one of our 2005 Graduates, 2LT Mark Daily, was killed in action in Iraq on 15 January 2007 (see next page). Many of our seniors were led and inspired by Mark during his time in the battalion. Mark was the Cadet Battalion Commander and a National ROTC Distinguished Honor Graduate. In addition to establishing a memorial on campus (currently the proposal is with Chancellor Abrams) we will also rename our Commissioning Ceremony in honor of 2LT Daily. He embodied everything that we expect and ask of our young Lieutenants and his selfless service is a reminder of how special all of our ROTC Graduates are. We currently have contact with 24 UCLA Bruins serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are proud of their service, our alumni’ service, and the commitment that our current 70 cadets will make to secure and guarantee our freedoms in the future.

Thank you all of your support. If you’re in Westwood, please stop by your battalion to stay hello to the new cadets and cadre carrying on the great traditions and legacy of the Mighty Bruin Battalion! God Bless and we hope to see you for the Alumni tailgate in April, the Awards Ceremony and Military Ball in May and/or the Commissioning Ceremony in June!

Christopher P. Talcott
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army
Professor and Chair

On our cover: It’s a TA-50 Supply Layout Inspection! Cadets make sure they have everything needed before leaving for their Winter FTX at Camp Pendleton, 25-28 January 07. From left to right, CDT William Geiger, CDT Leona Campbell, CDT Maia Trotta, CDT Amanda Coyle and CDT David Bitter.
On 15 January 2007, UCLA Army ROTC graduate, Second Lieutenant Mark J. Daily, was killed by an IED in Mosul, Iraq. His loss is felt deeply by all those who knew him, including the Bruin Battalion.

2LT Daily was commissioned in June 2005 and earned Distinguished Military Graduate honors. As a student, he served as cadet commander and is remembered by younger cadets as someone who was always willing to help them. 2LT Daily was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

2LT Daily’s impact continues to be felt. Prior to deploying to Iraq, he posted an essay on his MySpace web page explaining why he had joined the Army (see excerpt below). His essay has since been reposted across the internet, quoted on the U.S. Senate floor and been discussed by talk show hosts. On February 16, the L.A. Times ran a profile on him which appeared on the front page.

For the UCLA community, 2LT Daily’s death has been a painful reminder of the many brave Bruin warriors who have given their lives to defend this land of freedom, and for whom no memorial yet exists. To remedy this, the Department of Military Science, in conjunction with the Departments of Naval Science and Aerospace Science, has proposed to Chancellor Norman Abrams, the establishment of a memorial on campus.

Donations to support the creation of a memorial may be sent to The UCLA Foundation at:

UCLA Dvlmt-Col of L&S/attn: Robyn Altman
Army ROTC Memorial Fund
Box 951413, 1309 Murphy
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1413

Why I Joined
Excerpts from a posting by 2LT Mark Daily on MySpace.com, 19 October 2006

“If you think the only way a person could bring themselves to volunteer for this war is through sheer desperation or blind obedience then consider me the exception (though there are countless like me). I joined the fight because it occurred to me that many modern day “humanists” who claim to possess a genuine concern for human beings throughout the world are in fact quite content to allow their fellow “global citizens” to suffer under the most hideous state apparatuses and conditions. Their excuses used to be my excuses.”

“One thing is for certain, as disagreeable or as confusing as my decision to enter the fray may be, consider what peace vigils against genocide have accomplished lately. Consider that there are 19 year old soldiers from the Midwest who have never touched a college campus or a protest who have done more to uphold the universal legitimacy of representative government and individual rights by placing themselves between Iraqi voting lines and homicidal religious fanatics. Often times it is less about how clean your actions are and more about how pure your intentions are. So that is why I joined.”

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Congratulations!

Branch and Duty Assignments
Hooah! Congratulations to the following seniors who recently received their branch assignments:

- John Abraham  Armor, Active Duty
- Katherine Alexander  Nurse, Active Duty
- Johnny Anderson  Field Artillery, Active Duty
- Ana Baez  Quartermaster, Active Duty
- Gericson Carpo  Engineer, Army National Guard
- Edwin Cruz  Military Intelligence, Army National Guard
- Christopher Fields  Ordinance, Active Duty
- Jacqueline Marrero  Transportation, Active Duty
- Bryce Matson  Military Intelligence, U.S. Army Reserves
- Michael Stahlke  Armor, Active Duty
- Kevin Sykora  Quartermaster, U.S. Army Reserves
- Sandy Vithayanonth  Field Artillery, Active Duty
- Roy Yoo  Signal, U.S. Army Reserves

Just Signed
Welcome to the newest members of the Bruin Battalion! It is with pleasure that we announce the following cadets who have recently contracted and are now working to become part of the future leadership of the U.S. Army:

- Leona Campbell
- Maggie Caines
- Benjamin Felix
- Charles Huynh

Baby News
Our best wishes to Cadet Arellano on the birth of his beautiful new daughter, Emily Marie. The littlest Arellano was born at 3:31 p.m. on Valentine's Day, 14 February 2007. She weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long. Wife and baby are doing great!

You’re Invited

Alumni BBQ
Saturday, 28 April 2007
11:00 a.m.

The cadre and cadets of the Bruin Battalion invite you and your family to join us for an afternoon of college baseball and barbecue!

The UCLA Bruins will take on Arizona at Jackie Robinson Stadium (old Sawtelle Field on VA grounds) at 2:00 p.m.

RSVP by 13 April 2007
Victoria Sanelli
(310) 825-7381 or vksanelli@ucla.edu

Upcoming Events
Save the Date!

- Awards Ceremony
  11 May 2007
- Military Ball
  11 May 2007
- Commissioning Ceremony
  17 June 2007

All alumni and friends of UCLA Army R.O.T.C. are invited to join us for these upcoming events. Further details to be announced. Please call Victoria Sanelli at (310) 825-7381 with questions or email vksanelli@ucla.edu.
Cadet Spotlight: All-Americans

By: CPT Casey J. Miner

Two University of California, Los Angeles cadets are living the college dream while attending a premier national university as leaders in athletics and their ROTC program.

Senior Cadet Daniel Nelson, a native of Boise, Idaho, and sophomore Cadet Bridgette Tuquero, a native of San Diego, California, continue to receive accolades for their dedication to their sports and their country. Most recently they earned the opportunity to attend the Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas, earlier this month as marshalls, and as representatives of the Army ROTC program.

Initially their roles for the national high school all-star football game and cheerleading competition including welcoming and in-processing over 500 high school athletes for the four-day event. Once they arrived their roles were expanded tremendously due to their initiative, adaptability and positive attitude, according to Lt. Col. Danno Svaranovic, Chief of Recruiting Operations for Cadet Command.

Nelson, who is attending UCLA on a football scholarship, and was voted team captain by his fellow teammates for the 2006 season, personally encouraged the combine athletes during their competition and then spoke to over 250 athletes about balancing life as a football player, college student and an Army ROTC cadet.

“It was an honor to be selected,” said Nelson. “I always wondered if there were other football players in ROTC, so it was nice to meet some of them. I also liked seeing the Soldiers and the heroes that were recognized for their service — it was humbling.”

Tuquero, who is attending UCLA on a four-year Army scholarship, and is the current captain of the cheerleading team, addressed several hundred cheerleading competitors and parents prior to the nationally televised competition.

“I was honored,” said Tuquero. “I was able to meet so many wonderful people. I met a lot of female officers for the first time and getting their perspectives was incredible.”

Both cadets appeared together in a live television interview during the football game that became the centerpiece of the Army ROTC’s televised promotion. During the event they spoke to hundreds of future college students, parents and coaches from 41 states, and represented Cadet Command in the Army’s largest community outreach and marketing event of the year, according to Svaranovic.

Nelson is hoping to branch active-duty infantry this summer after attending the Leader Development and Assessment Course. He is an avid triathlete and marathoner, as well as a fundraiser for the Pat Tillman Foundation and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. He was recognized by the UCLA football team this year with four awards including earning the 2006 Jerry Long “Heart” Award.

Tuquero will continue as the UCLA cheerleading captain, as well as participating on the UCLA gymnastics club, Army ROTC Ranger Challenge and Color Guard teams, and her church choir. She would like to branch aviation or military intelligence, with the eventual goal of law school and becoming a Staff Judge Advocate in the Army.
The Firing Range: Share Our Best Shots

Photos by: CDT Kevin Sykora and CDT Roy Yoo

Above: The Bruin Battalion gather for a group photo during a joint dining-in with AFROTC. The event was held at the American Legion Post 283 in Pacific Palisades on 19 January.

Left: Bottoms up! Air Force cadet, Aaron Richardson, and Major General Paul E. Mock, Commanding General of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, drink grog at the Army/Air Force joint dining in.

Above: CPT Brian Johns, Assistant Professor of Military Science at our CSUN detachment, celebrates a particularly good shot at the Winter FTX.

Below: Cadets at the Winter FTX make a meal from MREs — yum!
Grey clouds loomed, but the rain held off until the cadets had run their last laps. Held at Drake Stadium on Thursday, 22 February at 0615, the student-planned event raised funds for the cadets’ student group. The students fundraising goals for this year include:

- Keypad lock for cadet lounge
- New cadet lounge furniture (chairs, conference table, coffee table, refrigerator)
- Bruin Battalion shirts, hats and/or sweatshirts
- Training events (running races, paintball matches)
- Military research and library materials
- Military ball on 11 May
- Digital camera equipment

Over 40 cadets ran laps for 60 minutes and raised $2400 toward their goal. Good job cadets!

Left: Cadets begin preparations for the 2007 Bruin Run VERY early in the morning.

Above Left: That smile says, Cadet Evan Ching loves to run!

Above Right: Cadet Nathan Welch (front) and CDT John Abraham (back) finish up their laps.

Right: Cadet Yoon gives the Bruin Battalion two thumbs up!
Thomas D. Boyd III was a UCLA student and ROTC cadet before he decided to enlist in the Army and fight for his country in World War II. He recorded an account of his experiences during the Battle of the Bulge, which we began sharing with our readers in our last issue. This series will run over the next few issues. We invite anyone who feels so inspired to write us and share their own stories of being a cadet or soldier.

In Part 1, young Lieutenant Tom Boyd and the 422nd’s C Company arrived deep in the Olzheimer Wald woods where they patrolled in the cold, encountering a grenade and a few wounded German prisoners.

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By now, the feeble sun, screened by a thin overcast, was warming the tops of the trees, and the melt water was dripping. All through the forest there was a steady patter of dripping water splattering on the muddy path, and on all of us, and splashing off branches and bundles of pine needles. I was wet and cold and shivering, and this was to continue for the next days.

I got back to my CP and checked in by telephone with company HQ and Captain Ralph Kulzer, the CO, and about that time a jeep came rattling down the trail with a trailer loaded with those so-called Warmite food cans. Hot breakfast! Only it wasn’t. It was pancakes and syrup, stone cold and soggy, and we wolfed it down. I was surprised and embarrassed. The bloody sights I had seen didn’t affect my appetite a bit.

It was then, when Capt. Kulzer tried to ring up battalion and report the prisoners, that it was discovered our phone lines had just been cut. A Kraut patrol had been up the hill behind us. The only other excitement that day was when somebody discovered a German had been inhabiting a hollow log about 25 yards below the path in front of our platoon, with a telephone line back into Krautland. Somebody had spotted the wire further down the slope and trailed it up to the log. We got our bazooka team to lay one on the log, in case the Germans were still there and to destroy it as a hidey-hole. They fired — three times. Three times it didn’t explode. Then they discovered that in their excitement they had neglected to pull the pins to arm the missiles. (Still, we won the war.)

Along about dark we were ordered to move our platoon up to the left flank of the company and across the ridge to join up with a composite company on our left. It seems — and this was the first we’d heard of it — that the second battalion, which had been joined on our left, had been pulled away to the north to cover the gap left by the withdrawal of units of the 14th Cavalry. This “Losheim Gap” later was the scene of much furious action.

We dug foxholes in the soggy ground, and they promptly filled up with cold water. I didn’t even ask Hampton to dig me a hole, which would have been normal procedure. We spent a miserable night on top of the ground behind trees or pacing around to keep warm. I lucked out and found a log shelter a few yards behind our “front line” where some soldiers were huddled up like fox pups in a den, and I ducked in and out of there between trips to check the line of positions, occasionally sending one or two guys in there to warm up.

Dawn brought some relief as the overcast broke up occasionally and let some sun through. Officers and sergeants walked around quite openly on the ridge top road, talking about our situation and checking our positions, until a German ME-109 fighter plane came roaring down the ridge on a strafing run. We could see the light flashing in his wing guns and his nose cannon, and we all dove for cover.

After a couple of minutes we relaxed and got up, and that was when he made another pass, again north to south, but this time firing into the fringe of woods where we were. This time bullets were racketing off the trees all around us. A soldier sitting next to me had field-stripped his M-1, and had the loose parts in his up-ended steel helmet between his legs, which were sticking out in front of him on the ground. A bullet hit the helmet, sending it spinning in the air and scattering rifle parts. He wasn’t scratched, but I remember he turned a bit pale for a moment. The helmet had been about eight inches in front of his crotch.

What followed was interesting and encouraging. A flight of our P-47 Thunderbolt fighter planes had been circling below the overcast, and one of them peeled off and followed the ME-109 down the ridge and up as he pulled out of the strafing run. We could hear the guns firing. As he climbed, the ME-109 started to trail smoke, and he rolled left and headed down in the direction of Prum. We infantry, out on the road and watching the dogfight, gave a cheer as he disappeared below the trees. We didn’t see a parachute.
In 1959, when I was working as a PR man for an electronics communications firm in San Carlos, we brought in two hot-shot radio engineers from Czechoslovakia. One of them was Anton Zuleeg, a Sudeten Czech, who had been on the German side in the war. In fact, he’d been a Luftwaffe fighter pilot. We were swapping war memories and I described our strafing by the ME-19. He looked a bit startled, and said that he had made a strafing run along a ridge where there were American infantry on the road, and had been chased and shot down by a P-47. Actually, he got the plane down safely. It was during the early days of the Bulge, but he couldn’t remember exactly where he was. We looked at each other and laughed. Maybe.)

That evening we got one last meal from the kitchen and then my Platoon Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Romeo Rossi and I reported to the CP for our orders. We were to form up in a column and, under cover of darkness, march about due west to high ground around the town of Schonberg, where we would receive orders for an attack on the city to drive out the columns of Germans converging there. Our motor column carrying all our gear, kitchens, ammo and what not would meet us somewhere approaching our objective. Sergeant Rossi and I took the news back to our platoon. In the dark, we fell into a column and started plodding west. I didn’t know who was in the lead, nor what our route was. I just followed along, keeping up with the dark shape in front of me and an eye for the guy behind me. Along the way were a lot of discarded overcoats. It was understandable. They were heavy to begin with, and heavier now that they were wet, and we were moving along at a good pace. They were missed later on.

Near dawn, this would be the 18th, we pulled into a woods and bivouacked there for the night, curled up under the trees. No motor convoy showed up. (We later learned they had been ambushed on the road.) Those of us who had C-rations or D-bars ate these, and tried to sleep.

Next dawn, at our company briefing for platoon leaders and some noncoms, drawn-looking Capt. Kulzer told us we were going to advance on Schonberg, which was over the ridge northwest, along the right side of the road (Bleialf-Schonberg) with the 423rd Infantry on our left across the road. Our first task was to get across the road in front of us (the “Skyline” road that came south from Andler). On the other side was a broad, grassy field sloping up toward the ridge. As we moved up the field, we came under fire from a stone farmhouse and barn several hundred yards down the hill to our right. Bullets were snapping past our heads, so we spread out and went up the hill in short rushes, dropping into the knee-high grass. I remember Sergeant Rossi telling me, with a grin, “You gotta move faster than that, Lieutenant.” He was right. The longer we were out there, exposed, the greater chance of getting hit. We didn’t return fire. This was not our mission. We had to approach Schonberg. Actually, I heard later that Lt. Hawtin, our company executive officer, got hit in the elbow going up that field.

NEXT INSTALLMENT: Will our Lieutenant and his platoon take the town of Schonberg? Or do the Germans have a nasty surprise for the Americans?

Friends in Arms
Friends for Life
Viet Nam-Era Alumni

40-Year Reunion

The graduates of the Viet Nam-era are planning a reunion in Los Angeles for September 29, 2007. If you are interested in attending, please email rama@cruzio.com.

Joe Hall has created a great website dedicated to the Army ROTC cadets during the Viet Nam War years. Visit online at: www.UclaRotcAlum.org
“I simply decided that the time for candid discussions of the oppressed was over, and I joined … Don't forget that human beings have a responsibility to one another and that Americans will always have a responsibility to the oppressed. Don't overlook the obvious reasons to disagree with the war but don't cheapen the moral aspects either … So if you have anything to say to me at the end of this reading, let it at least include “Good Luck”.”