



BISON PRIDE

Howard University Army ROTC Newsletter **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US**

December 2008

Volume 3, Issue 4



~COMMANDER'S CORNER



I hope this newsletter find you in high spirits and feeling truly blessed during this holiday season! Although our economy has cooled off in recent months, I feel a renewed sense of pride and hope for our country. My pride in what we are accomplishing on campus and in our community is nothing short of amazing! Our Cadets continue to demonstrate the true meaning of selfless service and volunteerism. They supported several high profile events during the month of November to include: Color Guard for NDIA luncheon, Color Guard and Escorts for a Leadership Conversation with Colin Powell and visiting our veterans at the Armed Forces Retirement Center on Veterans Day.

Furthermore, during the upcoming holiday season, please be mindful and continue to pray for our military leaders, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed around the world; but especially for those in Afghanistan and Iraq. Most important, do not forget about the families and loved ones they left behind. There are many opportunities to send cards and letters to our Soldiers and their families to bring about a holiday cheer! I am requesting that Alumni and friends of the Bison Battalion to visit or send cards to our wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

Similar to last year; if you know of a Howard Alumni that is deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Operations Iraqi Freedom you should consider sending a care package, phone card, or assist a family! Finally, remember this is the season of giving; there are a number of other worthwhile organizations that support our soldiers and their families such as the "Wounded Warrior" program. You can give financially or volunteer some of your time at one of the local medical treatment facilities or hospitals.

Just a friendly reminder, on 16 December starting at 1830 hrs, the AUSA/George Washington Chapter will host its 4th Annual "Wanna Be a Santa" Holiday Party in the Mologne House at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. You are cordially invited to attend and hope you will share in the Holiday spirit and "Wanna Be a Santa" to our heroes and heroines. Again, I wish you a great holiday season and Prosperous New Year!

Sincerely, LTC Bobbie L. Williams Sr.



Greetings to my fearless Bison,

As the holiday season approaches, I urge you all to take this moment to appreciate your family, friends and loved ones. Thanksgiving is an occasion in which individuals show gratitude for what they have, and more importantly for the people they have in their lives to share their success with. With that being said, let us not forget all of the hard work, diligence and dedication we have put into this program within the past four months. I must admit that when I first took command of the Howard University Bison Battalion, I had no clue what I was getting into. However, each and every day I recognize the growth and maturity in each of you, since day one. And it is because of your diligence, perseverance and hard work that LTC Williams and I can say with assertion that our dreams have now become a reality.

The Battalion APFT has increased significantly since our diagnostic in August, Cadet participation in community service events and Cadet functions have been phenomenal, and most importantly, each of you have overcome your fears, by attempting and for many, mastering the Combat Water Survival Test, Land Navigation, Basic Rifle Marksmanship and Rappelling.

As I walk through the halls of the Pentagon, I am constantly reminded by Howard University Alum of how proud they are of what you all have done. When you look in the mirror you should be proud of this program and more importantly, you should be proud of yourself.

The completion of the semester is upon us; however, I urge you all to remain focused. Remember, you are always a student first. Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season. Happy studying and safe travel! BISON LEAD THE WAY!!!

C/LTC JOHNSON-Cadet Battalion Commander

~BISON HEADLINERS

- ◆ Congratulations to C/LTC Johnson and C/MAJ King on winning the NDIA scholarship.
- ◆ Special thanks to the "Bison Battalion" Cadets that participated in the Veterans Day trip to the Armed Forces Retirement Home
- ◆ Special thanks to the Mentorship Team who sponsored the Mentor-Mentee raising over \$175.00 for the Mentor-Mentee Night.



Upcoming events :

- 4-DEC-Battalion Christmas Celebration
- 5-7 DEC Reading Period
- 10-17 DEC Final Examinations
- 11-DEC- Fall Awards Ceremony
- 17-DEC-Semester Ends

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*..I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely.
~Charles Dickens*



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Check us on the web!
www.armyrotc.com/edu/

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TOP: Cadets Polite and Livingston learning some new steps
BOTTOM: 2008 Mentor-Mentee night at HU

~BISON IN ACTION

More Bison in action Photos in our album at <http://www.coas.howard.edu/departments/#army>



Bisons partake in the Thanksgiving Potluck



C/CPT Young waits her turn for a strike

...It is only by following your deepest instinct that you can lead a rich life, and if you let your fear of consequence prevent you from following your deepest instinct, then your life will be safe, expedient and thin.....

~Katharine Butler Hathaway



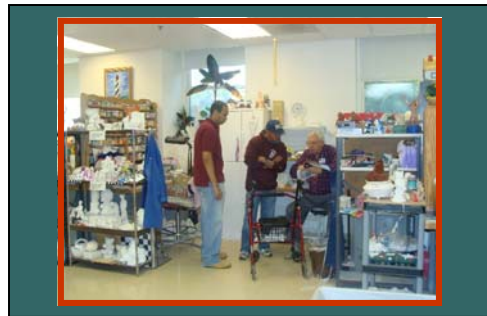
2008 Mentor and Mentee night



Bison visits the Armed Forces Retirement Home



C/LTC Johnson shows how it's done!



MSG Graves and C/CPT Montgomery chat with a resident at the AFRH



Decades apart in age, a resident tells the story as the Bisons listen



2008 Bison Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner



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TOP: Cadets take a break during a visit to the AFRH

BOTTOM: Bison poses with a good friend of the BN Mr. Knokes

~ ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK- "The Bison Family"



Each year the Howard University "Bison Battalion" hosts a Thanksgiving potluck for the Cadets, Cadre, and friends of our program. The recruiting and retention efforts of our cadre were evident as this year's event was packed wall to wall with Cadets. LTC Williams gave a motivational and heartwarming welcome to the "Bison Battalion" family and MS I Cadet Jamal Minor gave a touching blessing of the meal.

The Cadets prepared the majority of the side dishes and participated in a dessert cook off. Cadets Cydnia Young and Jasmyn Morgan placed first and second respectively in the side dish contest. Cadets Jasmyn Morgan and Llewingtina King placing first and second respectively in the Mentor-Mentee dessert contest. As a part of the Cadet Battalion Commanders guidance regarding leadership outreach, each major event that is scheduled this year will consist of a Mentor-Mentee event.

The food, music, inspirational words, and friends all made the evening enjoyable and worthwhile. Events like the Thanksgiving Potluck bring the entire Cadet population together for an evening of warm memories and good laughs. We are a family not because we eat together, but because we train, live, learn, mature, and lead together. Leadership and Pride is not just a phrase, but a lifestyle.

~FRESHMEN PROFILE-Cadet Jamal Minor



Howard University's Army ROTC has a huge influence on the structure of my life in many ways through the service of leadership, value, moral character, and growth. As the Soldiers Creed states, "I am a Warrior and member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values." This shows the reflection of the mission that the Army ROTC strived and has pursued everyday. Joining Army ROTC was not in my plans as a freshman until I realized insufficient funds would get in the way of becoming a Howard Bison. Although my initial gain was financial, this semester has opened my eyes to the Army Officer Profession. Army ROTC has shown me that life is a challenge and that responsibility, leadership, and selfless service are the true keys to success.

Furthermore, the *Supremes* said it best: "There's a place for us." A place where your family is the bond is greatest when you are stressed to the max. When you know that the person next to you will give their life to save yours. Yes, there is a place for people who want more than an academic advancement. This place is where your mind and heart learn to think and beat together. Howard University's Army ROTC program has brought me a family away from home.

Finally, I am stronger today than I was four months ago. Yes, I am physically stonger—due to the rigorous PT program—, but the strength I am talking about is a strength like no other. It is a strength few of my college peers know of. It's the strength to get over yourself. The strength to build. I am ARMY STRONG!!!

~ALUMNI CORNER-CPT Cameron Smith



Howard Homecoming 2008, October 16th, held a significant meaning in my life and career. It was my 32nd birthday and the day I reported for duty as the new recruitment officer for the Bison Battalion. My career had come full circle; just eight years ago I was commissioned from this same ROTC program. I am delighted and feel privileged to be in a position to make a significant contribution as a cadre member to influence our next generation of leaders.

When I first stepped into the battalion area I definitely felt the pride our Cadets took in Howard's strong legacy of producing great Army Officers. This pride was most evident in the meticulous manner by which the Cadets chose to honor distinguished general officers that graduated from Howard on a Wall of Fame. I also ventured to my old hang out the Cadet lounge and it was quickly evident the quality of life for our Cadets had improved. I felt at home viewing the 40" plasma screen TV and surprised to see a computer lab that invited Cadets to surf the web or complete a research paper at the disposal of the program. I was asked by a Cadet if I enjoyed such comforts as a Cadet, but before I could answer she excused herself by reminding me that plasma screens probably were not invented during my day.

Despite some of the outward differences I experience in the battalion the principle that a past and present member of the Bison Battalion are family first and always remains the foundation of the program. I am pleased to know that when a Cadet might want to vent about a difficult class or gain some insight to a challenging situation they have Ms. McCalop's attentive ear. As a battalion we continue to put the welfare of our Cadets on the top of our priority list. Alumni support has also been so influential to our continued success. It is comforting to know that ROCKS Gala Cadets may network in a nurturing environment, throw down on a soul food buffet, and electric slide the night away. As the holidays approach I am thankful for those who continue to support and contribute to the development of our Cadets as they become future leaders for the Army and the global community.



BISON

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.....You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others - something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.....

~Albert Schweitzer

~Veterans Day 2008- " A visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home"



Most students at Howard University took the day off on November 11th, 2008; however, this was not the case for the Cadets of the "Bison Battalion." More than twenty Cadets traveled to the Armed Forces Retirement Home for a tour, to speak with veterans, and to thank them for their service to our nation. Considered a city within a city, the AFRH campus features everything its residents need for daily living: 1021 private rooms for independent living equipped for cable television and tele-phones, banks, chapels, convenience store, post office, laundry, barber shop and beauty salon, dining room, and 24-hour security and staff presence.

Approximately three miles from the gates of Howard University our Cadets witnessed first hand the beauty of the AFRH campus which covers some 221 acres and dates back to 1851. AFRH has also played summer host to several presidents including Abraham Lincoln. It is at his home within the Armed Forces Retirement Gates, that President Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation.

Cadet Shave' Gardner, an MS II, stated, " It was a touching moment." The day's memorable events came to an end with Cadet's speaking with veterans about their time in service. One thing is for certain. The Cadets of Howard University Army ROTC will continue to support the Armed Forces Retirement home and its mission.

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POSTAGE



Happy Holidays from
your Bison Family!

~WORK HARD...PLAY HARD- Mentor-Mentee Night



On Thursday, November 6th 2008, Howard University ROTC program hosted a mentor-mentee event in The Blackburn Center game lounge. The informal event was held to bring the mentors and mentees together to enjoy a moment of fellowship and relaxation. As a part of the Cadet Battalion Commanders original guidance to his entire leadership team, Cadets are being offered numerous tools this year to assist them with their adaption to both ROTC and University Life.

As a part of this mission, the Cadet Leadership Team sponsored a Mentor-Mentee night. Cadets were able to enjoy activities such as ping pong, pool and cosmic bowling. In the bowling area, most Cadets laughed and joked around while attempting to get a strike. Other Cadets watched from the sidelines cheering their battle buddies on. Throughout the night pictures were taking to

capture the memories of these amazing 2008 Cadets during this unique occasion.

As the night progressed, the mentors decided to start the "cupid shuffle." The cupid shuffle is a dance similar to the electric slide. Everyone dances together in unison doing the same step. For the most part everyone was having a good time. They smiled and danced with one another. Cadet Cooper quotes "I had fun. I honestly think we should do this more often because not only did I bond with my mentor but also with the battalion. It was a chill and relaxing night away from the military standard setting of ROTC."

ROTC can be stressful with all the intense requirements; such as waking up between 0500-0600 everyday with the exception of most Tuesdays, dedication to the program and extra requirements from Howard University itself. This was a night to just loosen up, kick back, and enjoy one another. It was full entertainment, thrill, and bonding. We WORK HARD and PLAY HARDER!