Above: CDT Henry, head of the Trainer-Advisor Teams (TATs) for spring 2015, briefs the training schedule for the semester at the leadership lab on 15 January.

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December Commissioning

On 5 December 2014, four Maverick Battalion alumni met the intent of their ROTC contracts when they stood on the Wiecking Auditorium stage to be commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Army. Lieutenants Ellyn Emde, Barrett Evenstad, Seth Mickelson, and Derek Rogers were surrounded by family, friends, cadets and cadre as they repeated the words to the oath of office.

The ceremony was hosted by LTC Murphy and narrated by CPT McClure with his trademark enthusiasm. The guest speaker was MG (R) Cecil Richards, the former Air Force chief of chaplains. 2LT Emde was sworn in by her sister, 1LT Arie Emde, and her first salute was SFC Michael Goldner, the former training NCO for the Maverick Battalion. 2LT Rogers was sworn in by LTC Jerry Bohl of the Minnesota National Guard aka Mr. Bohl, the Maverick Battalion’s Recruiting Operations Officer (ROO), and his first salute was MSG Jason Arneson. 2LT Mickelson and 2LT Evenstad were both sworn in by MAJ Tim Adams of the Minnesota National Guard, aka Mr. Adams, Maverick Battalion XO and MSL-100 instructor. 2LT Mickelson’s first salute was Seaman First Class Ray Reker and SGT Mac Minogue jointly, and 2LT Evenstad’s was SFC (R) Kent Lande.

December’s commissioning represented a change from previous years where the commissioning was presented as part of a year-end military banquet. Instead, commissioning was its own ceremony, independent of the dining-in held some weeks before. LTC Murphy has stated that this is his intent for all commissioning ceremonies going forward, citing his desire to keep commissioning apart as its own ceremony rather part of a longer event.

“Play Term” at Gustavus

This January, some lucky Gustavus students participated in Army Leadership, a class offered by battalion cadre over the college’s four-week January Interim Experience, better known as “J-term” or “Play Term”. J-term is a time between the first and second semesters where GAC students take a single class for a few hours a day, five days a week, in a more laid-back environment than the regular semester. This change in format allows students and professors to pursue interests unrelated to their main course of study, and Army Leadership is a perennial favorite.

The curriculum closely resembles the MSL-111 and 112 courses at Minnesota State University, but includes a “highlight reel” of other ROTC events such as combat water survival training (CWST), field leader’s reaction course (FLRC), and a diagnostic Army physical fitness test (APFT). The class is fun for the students, but it also serves a valuable recruiting function for the battalion by allowing students to get a taste of ROTC before they commit to the program.

As for the Gustavus cadets in our battalion, many of them use their J-term to knock out one of ROTC’s commissioning requirements. Starting with J-term 2014, the cadre has offered History of American Warfare, which covers the military history requirement for commissioning. Other J-term pursuits by Gustavus cadets have included study-abroad trips to Latin America, courses in Arabic and ancient Greek, and recently a tour with the Gustavus Choir to the United Kingdom and France.
New Contract: Maggie Walstrom

Name: Maggie Walstrom
School: Minnesota State University
Year: MSII

Featured Cadet: Alexis Liston

Name: Alexis Liston
School: Gustavus Adolphus
Class year: MSIV
Major: Philosophy and psychology
Hometown: Alcester, SD
Accessed Component and Branch: Active duty adjutant general

Favorite Army experience: Choosing a single favorite experience is not really easy. Moments that come to mind are new experiences, achievements, and meaningful (sometimes silly) connection with people. A few examples - the rush of the first prop blast; participating in and graduating Air Assault School; playing "never-have-I-ever" with the women in my LDAC platoon. Another LDAC favorite: ten of us women crammed into a tiny space all night under a botched and dysfunctional 6-poncho hooch, with a spider-infested log, on the side of a ravine during a heavy rain storm, while some guys nearby roared “99 Bottles of Beer” – and being seriously told to stop laughing and get to sleep!
Mavericks Sound Off

Commander’s Intent: CDT Liston

“Let’s continue our semester by setting a positive tone, grounded in an always-broadening understanding of our purpose as cadets. Really begin to focus on building community with the people you see in class and lab, who run with you at PT, and with whom you sometimes share struggles. While we uphold our professional manner and high standards, we must also strive to create a welcoming and supportive place for all of us involved and our families. Let’s go not only for uniformity, but also for unity.”

Announcements

The battalion S-4 is looking to purchase battalion t-shirts, and is soliciting designs from cadets. Submit your design to CDT Joshua Sonnenburg (jsonnenb@gustavus.edu) for the potential of a reward!

No PT at Gustavus 2-6 February for touring week

Fridays are civilian days for PT

CDT Sandersfeld has been awarded the Army Health Professions Scholarship, a full-ride scholarship with benefits toward dental school. If you see him, make sure you tell him congratulations!

If you have announcements to go in the next newsletter, submit them to CDT Bennett Thrash (bthrash@gustavus.edu) or CDT Hannah Dvorak (hdvorak@gustavus.edu) before COB on 10 February 2015.

LDP

Leadership Lab

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Physical Training: MSU

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Physical Training: GAC

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