What a semester it has been for the Gopher Battalion. Despite all the challenges and obstacles that our Cadets have had to overcome, we have remained resilient and have continued to push ourselves to become better leaders. The semester started out with an exciting win for the UMN Army ROTC Program with its first Joint Military Athletic Competition victory in 48 years. The focus then switched to building cohesive teams throughout the battalion during some great leadership labs. Cadets traveled to Northern Star Base Camp in Minneapolis where they were broken into their squads and given a multitude of different challenges and exercises they needed to complete. Gophers walked out of this lab with stronger bonds and greater trust within their squads. In late February, the we also participated in a winter survival skills leadership lab at Arden Hills Army Training Center. One beautiful Saturday, Cadets cycled through stations such as snowshoeing, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and cold weather survival classes. Even though all this great training was conducted at the beginning of the semester, our in-person training was sadly cut short due to the Global COVID-19 Pandemic and the University closures that went along with it. However, the adaptability and perseverance of the Gopher battalion really showcased in the Cadre and Cadets’ ability to quickly transition to an online learning format. With the implementation of virtual MS Class and weekly virtual lead labs, Cadets could continue to refine their leadership skills and tactical knowledge to prepare for Cadet Summer Training and life past ROTC. This semester surely was not what anyone envisioned, but I am extremely proud of the way the Cadets of the Gopher Battalion rolled with the punches and demonstrated their commitment, resiliency, and mental agility. One battalion, one team, one family. Gopher Strong!

Golden Gopher’s Newest 2nd Lieutenants
By 2LT Ng

Minneapolis, MN - On May 14th, at the University of Minnesota, the graduating ROTC Class of 2020 started their new chapter in the United States Army. This year, Golden Gopher Battalion commissioned 15 new 2nd Lieutenants. Of these Lieutenants, some will serve in the National Guard right here in Minnesota. Some will go on to serve in the Active Duty component. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the traditional commissioning ceremony, the Gopher Battalion conducted a virtual commissioning ceremony to ensure friends, family, and fellow Cadets can witness this remarkable moment of the new Lieutenants. Though it is just the beginning of their careers as young officers, this commissioning ceremony represented years of hard work, dedication to academics and military training, and their first major milestone as United States Army officers. Congratulations new Lieutenants and good luck in all future plans, decisions, and actions. Gopher Strong, Dig Deep! See complete list of Class of 2020 on page 4.

Cadet Battalion Commander
By Cadet Lucas Manke

Minneapolis, MN—What a semester it has been for the Gopher Battalion. Despite all the challenges and obstacles that our Cadets have had to overcome, we have remained resilient and have continued to push ourselves to become better leaders. The semester started out with an exciting win for the UMN Army ROTC Program with its first Joint Military Athletic Competition victory in 48 years. The focus then switched to building cohesive teams throughout the battalion during some great leadership labs. Cadets traveled to Northern Star Base Camp in Minneapolis where they were broken into their squads and given a multitude of different challenges and exercises they needed to complete. Gophers walked out of this lab with stronger bonds and greater trust within their squads. In late February, the we also participated in a winter survival skills leadership lab at Arden Hills Army Training Center. One beautiful Saturday, Cadets cycled through stations such as snowshoeing, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and cold weather survival classes. Even though all this great training was conducted at the beginning of the semester, our in-person training was sadly cut short due to the Global COVID-19 Pandemic and the University closures that went along with it. However, the adaptability and perseverance of the Gopher battalion really showcased in the Cadre and Cadets’ ability to quickly transition to an online learning format. With the implementation of virtual MS Class and weekly virtual lead labs, Cadets could continue to refine their leadership skills and tactical knowledge to prepare for Cadet Summer Training and life past ROTC. This semester surely was not what anyone envisioned, but I am extremely proud of the way the Cadets of the Gopher Battalion rolled with the punches and demonstrated their commitment, resiliency, and mental agility. One battalion, one team, one family. Gopher Strong!

Inside This Issue

From the PMS & SMSI 2
Ed Delay Bound 3
Mega Lead Lab 3
Bataan Death March 4
Class of 2020 4
Northern Warfare 5
Gopher Volunteer Team 5
Cadet of the Year 6
MSIV Staff Ride 7
JMAC 7
Awards Winners 8
Scholarship Winners 8
Sights of Spring ‘20 9
From the Professor of Military Science
By MAJ Melissa Hoaglin

Wrapping up the spring 2020 semester is bittersweet. I have been thoroughly impressed by all of your continued resilience through the COVID-19 Pandemic. I am also proud to say that no amount of physical distancing was able to diminish your Gopher Esprit de Corps, camaraderie, and leadership/tactical skills development as demonstrated by the great online interactions we were able to experience together and the occasional online jests. To our graduating Senior Class: Each of you has added to the overall effectiveness of this battalion, what you developed over this past year is amazing. I look forward to hearing all of your 2LT accolades, you will always have a battalion to come home to–don’t be strangers! I know you will represent the best this program has to offer as you begin your careers. Dig Deep! To the Battalion: You are AWESOME! Whether engaging your instructors or peers, I am constantly amazed by your intellectual prowess and your overall team intellect. I cannot express how amazing it was watching you bond as a sue do-family, start off the semester right by whooping the Navy, Air Force, and Marines in the Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC), and bringing it home at the end of the year by continuously seeking excellence in your studies and physical readiness-regardless of COVID-19 aka Murphy’s Law. Your adaptive learning and execution of studies in a new and unique environment speaks to the quality of leadership you will continue to develop and exude – I cannot wait until next year! Parting thoughts: I love my job because of YOU! After we consolidated and reviewed all comments from Cadets and cadre, we selected the Gopher Battalion Cadet Leadership for next semester. Two days after we finalized the selection and before we notified the Cadets, we received a “What does ROTC mean to me” submission from the future Cadet Battalion Commander. Cadet Jesse Sattler, Marketing Major, MS IV to be, and future c/BC stated, “What does ROTC mean to me? It means a family, in the true, literal sense. ROTC has changed who I am completely, and I cannot ever thank every single Cadet enough for that.” I couldn’t have said it better myself, GOPHER STRONG!

From the Commandant of Cadets
By MSG Troy Hill

Wow! That was a different semester! I want to say that although it has been challenging, our Cadets have worked harder and been more creative than I thought was even possible. The Cadets and cadre of the Gopher Battalion have adjusted to the “normal” as it stands right now and not only accomplished all requisite tasks, they have exceeded them. I feel confident that the training we have accomplished has set up our seniors to be successful Lieutenants and the rest of the Cadets to fall right in to the next level of training in the fall. One of the bright spots of all of this for me has been the new and creative ways to communicate. We conducted Cadet of the month, semester and year boards over Zoom. We took a different approach this semester and let the seniors choose the juniors, juniors chose sophomores and sophomores chose freshmen to compete. Cadet of the month winners were Cadets Giambrone (freshman), Scufsa (sophomore), Sattler (junior), and Birkholz (junior). By winning, they showed the Cadets who voted for them that they were deserving of the opportunity and also made $250 in the process. Cadet Scufsa and Cadet Sattler also won the Cadet of the Semester board ($500) and will compete against Cadet Vandenbergh (sophomore) and Cadet Tomczyk (junior) for Cadet of the year! I was truly amazed by some of their essays and conduct in these leadership boards. Great job to all who competed. Since we couldn’t conduct in person training, we had to add a few leadership labs to this semester. These labs were conducted nearly every Wednesday evening since we went to online learning. The senior class planned and executed the labs for the underclassmen and also provided excellent feedback to the juniors in preparation for Cadet Summer Training. The juniors worked all week together in platoons in preparation for the leadership labs. They utilized any and all technology to ensure they were prepared to execute their mission on Wednesdays. This extra work will prepare them for whatever training will happen this summer. We are not sure if that training will be two weeks at Fort Knox, Kentucky or 7-10 days at Camp Ripley, Minnesota or even something in between. We will keep the Cadets updated as soon as we know something. I am very excited to get back on campus and to figure out what the new norm is. What will always be the norm though is the hard work, dedication and superior training within the Gopher Battalion. Thanks for all the support from friends and family because we couldn’t have done it without you all this year. We look forward to seeing you all in the Fall. “Dig Deep”
Educational Delay Bound
By 2LT Ng

Minneapolis, MN - One of our newly commissioned Second Lieutenants received news from the Uniformed Services University that she was accepted into their Clinical Psychology PhD program. 2LT Madison Warner is a Psychology major graduate from the University of Minnesota and was accepted to this PhD program through the Army ROTC Educational Delay Option. “It was the day after I got home from interviewing there, I was shocked to hear back so soon. It still doesn’t feel real!” 2LT Warner says. She began her senior year at the University of Minnesota by being awarded an Education Delay Status, making her the second Cadet in UMN AROTC history to commission with one, and the first to use it for the Army Medical Department (AMEDD). She spent her senior year as the Cadet Battalion Supply Officer, then as the Cadet Public Relations Officer. In October 2019, she came up with an initiative called the Cadet Advocates. The Cadet Advocate program gives Cadets a confidential space to talk about struggles and receive resources for issues regarding SHARP, EO, and personal struggles. It has proved to be very beneficial and helps bridge the gap between Cadre and Cadets. Major Hoaglin, the Gopher Battalion’s Professor of Military Science adds, “CDT Warner is an audacious young leader who strives for excellence, she continuously challenges those around her to exhibit the highest ethical standards and to live by the platinum rule.” Uniformed Services University is a health science university of the U.S. federal government. Cadet Warner will be getting her PhD while receiving 2LT pay, benefits, and training. Additionally, for the first time in history, the entire incoming class of USU Clinical Psychology PhD students are female. After graduating from USU, Cadet Warner will be a Clinical Psychologist for the United States Army.

“I am grateful for all of the life skills and support this battalion has given me, both from cadre and Cadets. I’m very excited to continue living out my dreams!”

CDT Madison Warner

Mega Lead Lab
By Cadet Mitchell Verbeten

Arden Hills, MN - On Saturday the 22th February, Cadets from the Golden Gopher Battalion conducted a winter survival leadership lab at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATs). The purpose of this Mega Lead Lab was to learn field craft in all environments with an emphasis on winter survival. Cadets were taught the proper use of their gear, how to make makeshift ice fishing gear, how to make a winter shelter and how to snowshoe and cross-country ski. While the biggest goal of the lead lab was to teach winter field craft, another emphasis was an improvement on morale. Cadet Van Sickle adds “It was a great way to introduce some basic winter survival skills, and a fun break from some of the harder tactical lead labs from the fall.”
By Cadet Dakota Birkholz

Minneapolis, MN - Every year, Cadets from the University of Minnesota compete at the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico to honor the historical event that took place in the Bataan Peninsula, April 9th, 1942. The training began in early November and was rather extensive. Cadets began with a 7 mile run and progressively trained up to 22 miles in Minnesota’s brutally cold conditions to prepare for the unruly desert mountain terrain. Throughout the training process of 20 weeks, this group of Cadets ran over 360 miles. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Army decided to cancel this year’s Bataan Memorial Death March. This is the second time in its history the Bataan Memorial Death March was canceled. Nonetheless, Gopher Cadets are ready to compete for next year’s Bataan Death March. Gopher Strong!

Cadet Van Sickle after the 16 miles training run

U.S. Army Newest Second Lieutenants - Class of 2020

We would like to recognize the new Lieutenants by Name, Degree, and Branch:

1. Brooke Buehler  
   BS Health Promotion  
   Signal

2. Kayla Bulver  
   BS Kinesiology  
   Transportation

3. Matthew Delk  
   BS Mechanical Engineering  
   Field Artillery

4. Alec Farrell  
   BA Criminal Justice  
   Aviation

5. Lauren Hensley  
   BS Marketing  
   Field Artillery

6. Lucas Manke - DMG  
   BS Mechanical Engineering  
   Aviation

7. Gabriela Marick - DMG  
   BS Elementary Education  
   Adjutant General

8. Grace Nielson  
   BA International Studies  
   Military Intelligence

9. Daniel Gruening  
   BS Kinesiology  
   Infantry

10. Madeline Pantalion- DMG  
    BS Elementary Education  
    Infantry

11. Michael Talbert  
    BA Legal Studies  
    Transportation

12. Mitchell Van Sickle  
    BS Applied Economics  
    Infantry

13. Mitchell Verbeten - DMG  
    BS Mechanical Engineering  
    Cyber Intelligence

14. Madison Warner  
    BS Psychology  
    Education Delay

15. John Yungner  
    BS Psychology  
    Ordnance

DMG - Distinguished Military Graduate. Cadets with this marking all placed in the Top 20% of the National Order of Merit List earning the designation.
Northern Warfare Challenge
By Cadet Alec Farrell

La Crosse, WI - The Golden Gopher Battalion sent six Cadets to compete in the annual Northern Warfare Challenge in La Crosse, Wisconsin on February 22nd, 2020. The Gopher team consisted of Cadets Morrow, Tomczyk, Scufsa, King and Team Captain Cadet Hawley. Gopher Battalion also brought two alternates, Cadets Shreve and Burns. Cadet Shreve was able to compete with the University of Illinois Chicago ROTC Battalion. Northern Warfare Challenge consists of 25 teams rucking 16 miles with a variety of skill lanes up and down the scenic bluffs of Wisconsin. These skill lanes included fire building, casualty care, knot tying, and weapons skills. Race day began with a 0330 wake up for gear layout and a tasty MRE for breakfast. The race kicked off at 0730 and took about six hours to complete. Due to an unfortunate injury, the team was forced to withdraw from official competition. Our team did not let that get us down, the remaining uninjured Cadets went on to complete the course. After the competition, Cadets received pizza and were able to mingle with Cadets from other schools. Overall, everyone did a great job competing, pushing themselves to their limits, and representing the University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Battalion. I am grateful to have been OIC for this competition. DIG DEEP!

Gopher Volunteer Team
By Cadet Gabriela Marick

Minneapolis, MN - This semester more Cadets showed interest in and got involved with Volunteer Team. We kicked off the semester with a JROTC event. We sent a few Cadets to Cretin-Derham Hall High School in order to help judge the Upper Midwest JROTC Competition. Fourteen schools with about 350 students were in the building competing in four major competitions. These Cadets had a blast as they judged events such as curl-ups, pull-ups, push-ups, and the shuttle run. Our Cadets also help with inspecting ASUs, Drill and Ceremonies. Our partnership with JROTC programs is extremely valuable each year. These Cadets did a great job representing the Gopher Battalion. Over spring break, we sent several Cadets to high schools in the Twin Cities area with the purpose of recruiting and meeting with potential students who are interested in ROTC. These Cadets were excited to share their experience in ROTC and proudly represented the Gopher Battalion. We visited a total of seven high schools in the Twin Cities area. These high school visits are a great way to promote our ROTC programs here at the University of Minnesota. Although our semester got cut short, we have an excellent foundation built for future events this summer and next year. Thank you to everyone who helped support the Gopher Battalion!
Cadet of the Year - Basic Course

Cadet Addison Scufsa is originally from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. He graduated from Simley High School in 2018. He is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota and a Cadet Corporal at the Golden Gopher Battalion. Cadet Scufsa is majoring in Supply Chain Operations at the Carlson School of Management and Geography, GIS, and German at the College of Liberal Arts. He is currently participating in the student government representing the undergraduate body and he is the business manager for the Minnesota Republic, a campus newspaper that publishes bi-weekly. During his free time, he usually chooses to run, read the news, hangout with his friends playing games, or watch the Indianapolis Colts. While he never had a family member in the military or experience with the National guard, Cadet Scufsa only military experience is the two full years with ROTC which includes multiple specialty teams, two FTXs, and the Tactical Information Operations Planners Course in Vermont. Cadet Scufsa’s military goals are to commission onto Active duty and branch Military Intelligence, Air Defense Artillery, or Quartermaster. His academic goal is to graduate college with a degree from Carlson School of Management and College of Liberal Arts with a 3.8 GPA or higher. His long-term personal goal is to start his first business by the time he graduates. He would like to retire from the Army before ten years and move into either his own business or a corporate job becoming a strategic consultant at a major agency. Cadet Scufsa envision himself returning home after his time in Active Duty.

Cadet of the Year - Advance Course

Cadet Cameron Tomczyk, a Shoreview, Minnesota native, graduated from Mounds View High School in 2017, where he participated in Track and Field and Cross Country, and was drawn to the study of mathematics. The summer following high school he enlisted into the Army Reserve, and completed Basic Combat Training at Ft. Jackson and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Lee. From there, he returned to Minnesota to start his Bachelor of Arts in Actuarial Mathematics and to participate in the Army ROTC program at the University of Minnesota. In the University of Minnesota's Army ROTC program, Cadet Tomczyk has held the positions of Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant, and was the assistant OIC for the Buddy Ranger Challenge team. He has competed on a variety of specialty teams, participated in multiple Cadet boards, attended various color guard functions, and will be taking on the S3 staff position in the fall of his senior year. He is currently the acting Platoon Leader for 4th Platoon at the 322nd Support Maintenance Company in Arden Hills, MN. Cadet Tomczyk's short-term military goals include successfully completing his duties as Gopher Battalion S3, commissioning into the Infantry, completing Airborne, Air-Assault, and Ranger school, and successfully completing his first duty station assignments. His short-term academic goals include graduating from the University of Minnesota with a GPA of 3.75, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Actuarial Mathematics, and completing two more actuarial exams. His short-term personal goals include becoming an Associate in the Society of Actuaries. Cadet Tomczyk's long-term military goals include becoming a Lieutenant Colonel in the Minnesota National Guard and commanding a Battalion. His long-term academic goals include becoming a Fellow in the Society of Actuaries and completing his Ph.D. in Mathematics or Statistics. His long-term personal goals include securing a principal analyst actuary position at Securian Financial, starting a family, and climbing Half-Dome in Yosemite National Park. Cadet Tomczyk's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and the American Legion award for Military Excellence. He was also a Ft. Lee School of Ordnance Honor Graduate. Cadet Tomczyk is the #1 Cadet in his cohort.
MSIV Staff Ride
By Cadet Madison Warner

Fort Ridgley, MN - On February 26th, the MSIV Class of Gopher Battalion traveled to St Peter, MN to conduct their annual staff ride. The purpose of a staff ride is to learn about military history in a hands-on and applicable way to further the professional development of leaders. This year, the Cadets conducted a battle analysis on the Dakota War of 1862. Part one of the analysis was at the Treaty Site History Center. Cadet Matthew Hageman, a senior, comments, “I found the Treaty Center and guided tour to be extremely beneficial and educating. We got the perspective of the battle beforehand, but adding the cultural aspect was enriching.” The second part was conducted at Fort Ridgley, the site of many battles of the Dakota War (pictured right). Seniors of Gopher Battalion were able to apply their acquired knowledge to a battle that occurred underneath their feet. Cadet Mitchell Verbeten adds, “This exercise helped prepare us for future critical thinking skills as second lieutenants.”

Joint Military Athletics Competition
By Cadet Alec Farrell

Minneapolis, MN - JMAC, also known as Joint Military Athletics Competition, is an annual competitive athletic event between the three branches of ROTC at the University of Minnesota - Army, Navy, and Air Force. This year it was conducted on February 8th and hosted a variety of sports such as volleyball which was led by Cadet Lee; track and field, led by Cadet Warner; the relay team, led by Cadet Gross; basketball, lead by Cadet Farrell; and the soccer team, led by Cadet Weddle. It was an exciting day for all as the teams performed exceptionally well. We are proud to announce that the University of Minnesota’s Army ROTC won JMAC for the first time in over 50 years. Cadet Farrell reflects, “Other than JMAC being fun, it really helps bring the programs together. At this point in the year we know each other well, but after spending a day playing team sports against the other branches it boosted our esprit de corps.” JMAC is not just about proving which branch is best, but about bringing all branches together and fostering the spirit of teamwork, a skill we must learn for joint operations in our future.
Congratulations to Awards & Scholarships Winners

Our Army ROTC Cadets are regularly recognized by prestigious University Alumni, Scholarship Foundations, and Department of Defense Agencies for their outstanding leadership potential and diligent efforts to better themselves and others. Whether it is a certificate of appreciation or full tuition and fees, these scholarships truly recognize the continued support and respect your choice to join our Profession of Arms and what it means to the community. We would like to congratulate the students who have been recipients of awards over this past semester and to those future Golden Gopher Battalion members who have won and accepted Army ROTC scholarship. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the 2020 Fall semester.

2020 Awards and Scholarships

**MSIs**
Matthew Giambrone - The USAA Spirit Award
Jacob Henriksen - The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award and The Army Superior Cadet Award

**MSII**
Natalie Miller - The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award
Grant Collinge - The American Legion Military Excellence Award
Lorien Gunsolus - The American Legion Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Award
Colton Rossow - The William T. Harris American Legion Leadership Award
Addison Scufsa - The Reserve Officers’ Association Award
Christina Theis - The AUSA ROTC Medal
Luke VandenBergh - The Army Superior Cadet Award and The General Society of The War of 1812 Award
Kellie Schmidt - The American Legion Military Excellence Award and The Ruth Kemp Vialpando Scholarship Award

**MSIIs**
David Bornstein - The Sons of The American Revolution Award
Caleb Brooks - The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award
Samuel Christensen - The American Legion Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Award
Quinne Johnson - The Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction Award
Paul Hockert - The Army Superior Cadet Award
Timothy Pease - The American Legion Military Excellence Award
Sabel Peterson - The Reserve Officers’ Association Award
Alyssa Rathke - The Veterans Of Foreign Wars Award

Jesse Sattler - The Military Officers Association Of America Award
Cameron Tomczyk - The Armed Forces Communication and Electronic Association Award and The National Defense Transportation Association Award
Tyler Wood - The Flower And Garden Club Of Ft Snelling Award

**MSIVs**
Brooke Buehler - The American Legion Military Excellence Award
Gabriela Marick - The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award
Grace Nielson - The Daughters of The American Revolution Award and The George C. Marshall Leadership Award
Madeline Pantalion - The Reserve Officers’ Association Award and The Ruth Kemp Vialpando Scholarship Award
Lucas Manke - The Army Superior Cadet Award, The Singh / Mcconnell Award, and The Army Aviation Association Top Cadet Award.

2020 National Scholarship Winners:
Alyssa Abke - University of Minnesota
John Cleary - University of Minnesota
Michael Conn - University of Minnesota
Anna Decker - Bethel University
Margaret Fliszar - University of Minnesota
Raine Hoge - University of Minnesota
Olivia Ley - University of Minnesota
Matthew McCormick - University of Minnesota
Aislin Rogers - University of Minnesota
Alexander Sauter - University of St. Thomas
Jerome Schreiber - University of Minnesota
Zachary Upham - University of St. Thomas
Rhiannon Walton - University of Minnesota
Alexander Wimmer - University of Minnesota

Spring 2020 Campus Based Scholarship Winners:
Natalie Miller - University of Minnesota
Colton Rossow - University of Minnesota
Sights from Spring 2020

Cadets conducting an exercise activity team during a building event

Cadet Olson doing Physical Training during COVID-19

Cadets Farrell, Bulver, & Pantalion conducting a quarantine ruck march

CDT Morrow using an Ahkio sled during platoon movement

Cadet Lindstrom in Annecy, France during study abroad trip

MSIVs raising the 1st Place trophy during the 2020 JMAC
If you know someone who has the potential to be an Army officer, tell them about us! They don’t have to be from Minnesota!

We have great opportunities for high school and in-college scholarships. Current enlisted Army National Guard and Reserves enrolled at the University of Minnesota are also eligible to participate in Army ROTC and may be eligible for additional scholarship and DoD programs.

Call (612) 625-3062 or email arotc@umn.edu for more information.