

**URI Army ROTC Alumni Newsletter – December 2005**  
**([www.uri-rotc-alum.org](http://www.uri-rotc-alum.org))**



*In this issue:* **“Teamwork” - Alumni/Friends of ROTC support Dress Blues  
For 2006 Graduates**

**New ROTC “Hall of Fame” Members**

**March 2006 Bataan Memorial Death March Race – cadets + alumni  
Veterans Day 2005 Observance on Kingston campus**

**January 2006 Alumni Winter Gala – call for ROTC alumni/table  
News from the Cadet “Cramers Saber” battalion**

**More “*Messages From the Field.....*” (news from Alumni)**

**URI’s Newest 2LT.....**

*And more.....*

**“TEAMWORK”**

*(LTC Ret. P. Helweg '70)*

It is said an Army is akin to the ultimate team – a group of individuals working together to achieve a mission. While we are all familiar with the definition of teamwork and can quickly associate it with our army, I’d like to call attention to one very special “team” and that is the group of individuals who rally around the Army ROTC program. Yes, I’m referring to our **alumni** and many other friends of the URI ROTC program. This past year has been one of significant accomplishment and unqualified support on the part of our alumni for the ROTC program. From January through early April many of our alumni responded to a call for donations to the Cadet Fund as part of our Spring “*Rhody Ramble*” – a march along the North-South trail in Rhode Island. Several thousand dollars were raised to directly support the Cadet Fund and the programs for this academic year. Just this past month another milestone was achieved when fifteen (15) alumni stepped forward to donate complete dress blue uniforms to each of our graduating (May 2006) senior cadets. What an incredible outpouring of generosity on your part! Now, for the first time in over ten years each graduating senior will receive his/her commission wearing brand new dress blues. By the time you read this newsletter I will have joined COL Bill Babcock '68, LTC Frank Jenks '73 and MAJ JC Glick '95 at the annual Cadet Christmas gathering set for 9 December. On that night we formally announced this outstanding alumni support milestone and presented each senior cadet with their branch dress blue uniform shoulder boards. For their generosity and steadfast support of our cadets, I list the following individuals who are participating in this uniform appeal. As noted, some have donated the uniform in the name of a special individual(s). **THANK YOU** so much fellow officers and friends of ROTC for this much appreciated gesture:

## DRESS BLUE UNIFORM DONATIONS 2006

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COL William Babcock '68</li> <li>2. COL Michael Patalano '69</li> <li>3. COL Phil &amp; Judy Saulnier '62</li> <li>4. Roberta (Hon COL) Mudge '68 &amp; Robert Mudge '37</li> <li>5. Ms. Jane Stich '62</li> </ol>   | <p><b>memory</b> of 1 Lt Carmen DeCubellis<br/><i>preference</i> to Armor branched cadet<br/>honor of son LTC (P) Michael<br/>to a <b>URI</b> graduate/officer<br/><b>memory</b>: CDR Anne L. O'Donnell, USN</p>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. LTC Paul McNamara, former URI PMS</li> <li>7. MAJ JC Glick '95 &amp; Steven Glick</li> <li>8. CPT Alan White &amp; CPT Mike Gryzbowski '00</li> <li>9. LTC David Accetta '85, former URI APMS</li> <li>10. MAJ Ken Niles '96</li> <li>11. LTC Frank Jenks '73</li> <li>12. Dick Smith H'97</li> <li>13. LTC Cheryl Poppe '78</li> <li>14. LTC Paul Helweg '70</li> <li>15. MAJ Dan Lutz '94</li> <li>16/17. J. Robert Schachner '60 –two (2) uniforms</li> </ol> | <p><i>and</i> LCDR John D. Stich, USN</p> <p>Infantry branched cadet</p> <p><b>memory</b> of son Alex Accetta</p> <p>Signal branched cadet<br/><b>memory</b> of 1Lt. Carl Myllymaki<br/>female cadet<br/><b>memory</b> of 2Lt William Schanck Jr.</p> <p><b>memory</b> of 1Lt Parker Cramer</p> |

**Three new ROTC “Hall of Fame” Honorees:** Three soldiers of the URI Army ROTC program have been honored with membership in the ROTC Hall of Fame. On Saturday, 5 November 2005 in a ceremony at the University Club on the Kingston campus ***Lieutenant General (Ret) John B. “Bruce” Blount '50, Colonel William P. Babcock '68*** and former Assistant Professor of Military Science ***LTC Richard S. Schott 1963-66*** were recognized for their career professional achievement and service to URI ROTC.



### *LTG John B. Blount '50*

General Blount, a native of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, became involved in U.R.I. early. His mother was a cook in one of the University's dining Halls, while his father operated a small lunchroom nearby. An outstanding athlete in both basketball and baseball, he was selected to both the All Yankee conference team as well as the All East Team. He enrolled in R.O.T.C. while at the University of Rhode Island and, in his senior year, was named Cadet Colonel. He was commissioned a second lieutenant, infantry, in June 1950. He saw combat both in Korea and in the Republic of South Vietnam. His numerous decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge (with star); the Purple Heart; the Silver Star; the Bronze Star; the Army Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Air Medal with Numeral “9” and Valor Device; the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (Individual); and the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal. Of the many remaining awards not yet listed, one interesting one is the selection into the order of “Aaron and Hur,” a group whose goal is to enrich the religious life and the promotion of high moral precepts among those who serve in the Armed Forces of their country.

An interesting incident in General Blount's career occurred in May of 1954. At that time, during the infamous "Army Hearings" held by Senator McCarthy, Lieutenant Blount was called to testify. Senator McCarthy alleged that Lieutenant Blount was deceiving the committee. Then Lieutenant Blount not only was able to rebut the allegation, but did so in a manner which made everyone, including Senator McCarthy, laugh. Senator McCarthy thereafter commented that he could see why Lt. Blount was selected as a general's aide.

General Blount prior to his retirement served the military in numerous major positions. Included in those assignments was a tour as of the United States Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama Canal Zone. After a tour as the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the Republic of South Vietnam, he was appointed Personnel Staff Officer for that division. His next assignment was as Secretary of the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Thereafter, he served on the General Staff of VII Corps in Stuttgart, Germany, initially as Deputy Operations Officer and then as Operations Officer. After serving as the commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Support Command, he was posted as the Chief of Staff of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, Kansas. Next, he was assigned to the Office of the Comptroller of the Army as the Director, Operations and Maintenance Appropriation, a position which he held until he became the Deputy Commanding General, of the U.S. Army Training Center and of Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After being named Commander of the Training Center and of Fort Jackson, he was assigned as the Chief of Staff, TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command.) Finally, after being promoted to Lieutenant General in 1983, he became Chief of Staff, Allied Forces South, a NATO command consisting of units from Greece, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Among the many institutions that General Blount attended are the Command and General Staff College; the University of Miami, where he received a Master's Degree in management, the Armed Forces Staff College, the U.S. Army War College; and the Executive Program, national and International Security, Kennedy School of Government.

LTG Blount and his wife Joan currently reside in Columbia, SC.



*Col William P. Babcock '68*

Colonel Babcock, a native of Wakefield, R.I, enrolled in the R.O.T.C. program while a student at URI. After his 1968 graduation, he was commissioned as an infantry officer. Among other assignments, he served with the 3d BN, 8<sup>th</sup> Regt, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in the Republic of South Viet Nam. While serving in that unit, he earned the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal. After completing his initial active duty tour, he joined the Rhode Island National Guard. There, he has held a number of progressively more responsible positions, including that of Commander, 110<sup>th</sup> P.A.D.;

Battlefield Circulation Officer and S-3 of the 43<sup>rd</sup> MP Brigade; Plans and Operations Officer, State Area Command; Commander, 243<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Regional Training Academy; Chief of the Training Division, State Area Command; and Deputy Chief of Staff - Operations, Joint Forces Headquarters, Rhode Island National Guard. At present, he is the Commander of the 56<sup>th</sup> Troop Command. In 2003, he volunteered for active duty in Afghanistan, where he spent 6 months as Chief of Staff, Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan. In 2005, he volunteered for duty in Iraq, where he spent three months.

Colonel Babcock's meritorious service has earned him many decorations besides the ones already listed. Included among these other decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Rhode Island Commendation Medal. Colonel Babcock, who in addition to his Bachelor's degree has earned a Masters Degree in Education and a Masters of Business Administration, also is a graduate of a number of military schools, including the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Strategy Course, and the Army War College.

In 1993, after the Faculty Senate voted to eliminate R.O.T.C. at U.R.I., Colonel Babcock organized alumni and others to go before the Faculty Senate and speak on behalf of retaining R.O.T.C. at the University. Colonel Babcock's efforts were a primary reason for the Faculty Senate reversing itself, voting to retain R.O.T.C..

Colonel Babcock's efforts on behalf of R.O.T.C. are not limited to his success in retaining the program. He annually gives an Army dress blue uniform to a graduating cadet. Further, he created the "Lt. Carmen DeCubellis" award, an award honoring a U.R.I. graduate killed in action in 1968.

Col Babcock and his wife Judy currently reside in Narragansett, RI.



LTC Richard S. Schott: Ass't. Prof MS- 1963-66

Lt. Colonel Schott, a native of Brooklyn, New York, graduated from Syracuse University and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry in 1954. In 1963, then Major Schott was Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Rhode Island, a post he held until 1966. After that assignment ended, he went to Fort Bragg, where he qualified as a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Lt. Colonel Schott was serving as the Senior Advisor to the 4<sup>th</sup> RVN, (Tiger Division) Battalion Quang Tri Province when the post was attacked by North Vietnamese forces. During the course of the attack, Colonel Schott was grievously wounded, wounds which Lt. Col. Schott realized would prevent him from leaving the bunker from which he was resisting the assault. When it became apparent that the base would be overrun by the enemy, Colonel Schott ordered his subordinates to evacuate the bunker so as to give them

a chance to evade capture. His subordinates, adhering to the time honored traditions that wounded soldiers are not abandoned to the enemy, refused to leave him. At this time, aware that his comrades would not leave as long as he was alive, and aware that the severity of his wounds prevented him from either personally attempting to evade the enemy or his subordinates from taking him with them, Lt. Col Schott took his own life in order to give his comrades a chance to avoid becoming prisoners of war. Lt. Col. Schott's selfless act allowed two of his fellow soldiers to evade immediate capture, one of whom was able to reach friendly lines. Colonel Schott was awarded the Silver Star as a result of his actions.

In addition to the Silver Star, Lt. Col Schott was the recipient of the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge (with star), and various other decorations.

The family of LTC Richard Schott continues to make their homes in the Shepherdstown, W. Va. Community.

**Cadets AND ALUMNI (Hoah!) to compete in 06 Bataan Memorial March Race:**

Last year our ROTC cadets had such a great time competing in the Bataan Memorial Death March Race at White Sands Missile Range, NM that the turnout of cadets for the 2006 event has been overwhelming. Our alumni chapter last year helped to defray some of the air travel costs for our two cadet five person teams. Again this year it appears we will have two undergraduate/cadet teams competing the both the "Heavy" and the "Light" categories. Professor of Military Science *LTC Paul Krajewski* reports that so many cadets are interested in the March 2006 event that he will institute a competition for team qualification. A new twist for 2006 – there is a strong rumor that a few ALUMNI may also register to compete. As of this writing at least three alumni are tentatively planning to make the trip to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. For more information on this 26 mile desert "march" ( not a running marathon) race contact LTC Paul Helweg at [helweg1@cox.net](mailto:helweg1@cox.net) The event takes place on Sunday 26 March 2006. The web site for the race is <http://www.bataanmarch.com>

Shown here are a few photos of our cadets competing in last year's event:



*(URI Army R.O.T.C. team @ Bataan March Race 2005; approaching water point.....)*

### **Veterans' Day Observance on Kingston Campus:**

URI ROTC alumni and friends of ROTC, among others, gathered in front of the Memorial Union flagpole on Veterans Day to commemorate the service of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guard servicemen. Thanks to the initiative of Professor of Military Science LTC Paul Krajeski the event included veterans and alumni/friends of ROTC. Most memorable this year was the presence of WWII veteran (82D Airborne Division/507<sup>th</sup> PIR), 88 year old **1Lt Walter "Chris" Heisler**. Chris parachuted into the Normandy Beach area on June 6, 1944. Chris was joined by Korean War veteran Sergeant Major Ed Leedum, Vietnam War veteran COL Mike Patalano '69, Cold war vet LTC Paul Helweg, OEF/OIF veteran MAJ JC Glick. A university chorale ensemble performed and President Robert L. Carothers presented remarks on behalf of the university community. Shown below is a great photo of two American warriors presenting the wreath at the flagpole: **1Lt Chris Heisler** and **MAJ JC Glick '95**. Also attending were Ms. Jane Stich and former URI ROTC instructor LTC Jim Malley and his wife Joan.



*(Major JC Glick; 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and 1Lt W. "Chris" Heisler – 82D Airborne/507 PIR)*

### **Messages from the Field.....**

*(Alumni officers and friends of URI ROTC are invited to communicate with the newsletter editor @ [helweg1@cox.net](mailto:helweg1@cox.net) with updates on "you", your unit status and deployment plans, family happenings, and any other issues to be shared with all. This is your column to use)*

***Major Jamie Cherry** writes: "Best of luck to those cadets going to White Sands, NM. It is a great place. I will be unable to assist, I am deploying to Afghanistan this February for a 6 month to one year tour." She adds: "I will deploy with the 14th Combat Support Hospital from Fort Benning, Georgia to Afghanistan February 2006 to August 2006.*

*The unit will be in Afghanistan until February 2007. We have three sites to support: Bah-gram, Kandahar, and Salerno. I will work as a Nurse Anesthetist with 6 other Army Nurse Anesthetists from all over the country. A little background about the unit is they just became a CSH recently. This new unit set up a hospital for the Joint Task Force Katrina, New Orleans Hurricane Relief Efforts. I was also called to duty to assist with that mission. We had spent 6 weeks in New Orleans providing healthcare for the local civilians, volunteers and military. It was a very interesting experience. Happy Veterans Day and Take Care, Jamie Cherry MAJ/CRNA. Major Cherry can be reached at: [Jamie.p.cherry@us.army.mil](mailto:Jamie.p.cherry@us.army.mil)*

We've recently heard from [CPT James Peckham '96](#): *"Currently, I'm in Baghdad working for LTF 530 which runs logistics and gun truck operations for 3d ID and all the mail in the downtown Baghdad area. So, needless to say, things are a bit busy here mixed with high adventure. Thanks again for the invite. One day, I might actually get to*

*> attend any event at URI.....James R. Peckham Jr., CPT, TC, Seitz Annex, Iraq, SPO Trans OIC DNVT: 587-5922 AIRBORNE! "Rock On!" CPT Peckham can be reached at: [james.peckham@us.army.mil](mailto:james.peckham@us.army.mil)*



[LTC John Bradley '84](#) has been in touch recently from his duty station in Iraq. His message follows: *"Hi Paul, here is a copy of my current Bio and Pic. Give my best to all the alumni and please feel free to have the PMS refer any cadets who may be interested in a career in the Army Medical Dept. –John"* LTC Bradley's photo is below and he can be reached at [johnbradley@comcast.net](mailto:johnbradley@comcast.net) Good luck, John, and please keep in touch. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Kingston ROTC campus visit. More information from LTC Bradley: *"Thanks for the email, I didn't know we had an alumni assoc for the program. I am still*

*on Active Duty, LTC in the Medical Corps, now serving in the 528th MED DET in Iraq. Previously at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I've not been back to RI for more than a weekend in about 10 years, but would love to visit the University and the program sometime. LTC John Bradley 528th MED DET (CSC) Camp Echo, OIF APO, AE 09332 ; DNVT 302-242-0802 [john.c.bradley@us.army.mil](mailto:john.c.bradley@us.army.mil) [john.bradley@na.amedd.army.mil](mailto:john.bradley@na.amedd.army.mil) C, Behavioral Health Service, Walter Reed Army Medical Center Asst. Professor of Psychiatry, Uniformed Services University"*  
*(LTC John Bradley '84; Iraq 05)*

**LT Zack Archie '02** writes from Iraq: *"Hope all is well back at URI, I tell you at this point I wish I was there! It has been a very long year but a great learning experience overall working in combat theatre. My MOS job is Signal Corp now, I did that for about 6mos back in Garrison with my new unit which is 1-76FA. Yeah I know, as soon as I got out of Field Artillery G6 put right back in a Field Artillery unit. I am rated as the Commo&Electronics Officer under the new UA concept. We actually have two SIGO's me being the 1LT and the CPT already in the unit before me is the rated S6, he rates me.(Crazy huh??) Here in Iraq I am a Platoon leader again! I have 4 114's(gun trucks) I am responsible for, that is comprised of a TC, gunner, and Driver. The TC's are all in NCO's plus my PSG, and two of my gunners are NCO's. Our Battalion's main mission is escort missions for the US Embassy and State Department workers. They work for the IRMO office out of DC. We are one of the 15 escort platoons that gets them to and from there important meetings sites safely that are out in the Red zone. They work closely with the Iraqi ministries, however we also escort KBR personnel as well to the Baghdad International Airport,(BIAP where DMAIN located) and Southern Iraq with their semi trucks. Since I have been here in country my platoon has conducted 135 escort missions, secured over 300 state department workers and driven over 35,000 miles. We are in everyone's AO any given day of the week, so the toughest job for me is keeping up with the constant SigActs from S2and avoiding IED's.(yeah I have the Combat Action Badge now, been hit twice with IED's no injuries God bless!!) Our only days off is when a mission is cancelled or the mission load drops. We also do one week a month of Force Protection. This is the only time we are off the streets of Baghdad!! By the way I also get to deal with the headache of the Saddam Trial on my FOB! The courthouse is the other half of the building where we sleep and operate...(A security nightmare and huge IDF threath all the time). Will be home sometime in Mid January, and our block leave starts in mid February. I will be going to RI around that time, hope to see everyone at URI then. Thanks sir, hope the info helps with the newsletter!! LT.Archie"* We hope to see Lt Archie in early 2006 when he returns to Rhode Island. The following is a picture of Lt. Archie holding a \$1.6 million (US) box of cash:



We also received a message from **2Lt Chris Gardiner '05** this past June from Missouri which reads as follows: *"I just saw the newsletter on the alumni website so I thought I would send you a quick update. I am a little more than a month into what is now known*

*as Mounted OBC, formerly Armor OBC. They decided to change the name of the course because from now on 2/3 of the 2LTs in the classes will be heading towards light units with bradleys and strykers. My class is at the spearhead of this movement so the focus is still mainly tanks but oncoming classes will see the transition. I am in the pre-gunnery phase of training which is mostly PMCS, crew station training, and fire commands. It is going very well, everyone in my class is great. We have four foreign officers going through with us so it is a good experience to work with them. I am actually here with two of LTC Papadopolous's students also, which shows just how small the army is. 2LT Henry will be arriving here this week and then 2LT Baklarz the following week so there will be a small contingent of my class here. Other than that I am just looking forward to finishing up here and join MSG Brooks at Ft. Bliss, TX with the 1st Cav. Hope all is going well in RI. Very Respectfully, Chris Gardiner". Lt Gardiner can be reached at email: [chris.gardiner@us.army.mil](mailto:chris.gardiner@us.army.mil)*

**CPT Monica Gupta '99** writes: “am a URI Alum and ROTC Grad of 1999. I would be more than willing to help...I've been at Ft. Bliss for over 5 years and will be here till '07. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.R/ CPT Gupta **Monica K. Gupta CPT, ADA HHB/1-1 ADA Commander "Fit to Fight!"**

Captain Gupta was kind enough to respond to a request for support and assistance to our ROTC Cadet Teams that will be traveling to White Sands Missile Range to compete in the March 2006 Bataan Death March Race (see related story in this newsletter). Once again our alumni are there when our cadets need them. We thank Monica for her response and support when our team arrives in March. Captain Gupta can be reached at email: [monica.gupta@us.army.mil](mailto:monica.gupta@us.army.mil)

This just in from Iraq – a group photo of our URI Army ROTC soldiers: **CPT Mike Gryzbowski '00, MAJ Ken Niles '96, MAJ Dan Lutz '94 and CPT Bob Petrarca:**  
HOAH!



[LTC Mike Levesque '84](#) recently writes: “we won't be able to attend the Veteran's Day event at URI, but I would like to update you all on our current status. I've retired from active duty and will be staying here at Ft Drum where I expect to take a position in the DOL Maintenance Activity here supporting the 10th Mountain Division and reserve component units across the nine-state northeast region, including Rhode Island.

This is the bio from the retirement ceremony, held here at Ft Drum on 28 October: LTC Michael J. Levesque, Army Materiel command, 26 years Army service, awarded the Legion Of Merit. He has served overseas in Germany, Poland, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Macedonia, and Kosovo. Combat tours include Afghanistan and Iraq. LTC Levesque (URI ROTC '84) and his spouse Janice (URI '84) will reside in Evans Mills, NY. Also, attached is a photo from the retirement ceremony:



Mike Levesque, LTC(R) , URI ROTC 1984

CONGRATULATIONS Mike, good luck with your new job and please keep in touch along the way..... Mike can be reached at email:

[michael.j.levesque@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.j.levesque@us.army.mil)

**BG Kevin McBride '80** has been in touch from Iraq recently with the following: *“There are several alumni here with me that would love to join all of you for tomorrow's event. Maybe next year, as we are a bit busy over here. All the soldiers are doing well and I am proud to be given the opportunity to serve with them and for this great country of ours!! Please pass our regards to all URI ROTC and veterans! Kevin 80' "Protector 6"”* Our best to BG McBride and all the 43d MP Brigade soldiers.

Good news recently regarding **COL (P) Mike Flynn '81**. He recently writes: *“Paul, I graduated in 1981...we had a great class of ROTC grads that year...I have tracked a couple of them...but lost touch with many after they got out. I am currently in the command depicted below in my signature block. Getting selected for flag officer is an incredible honor, it is clearly something that is a true measure of those we serve with. When I was notified, I sat and thought about all the great NCOs that I served with over the years that took care of me in difficult assignments. I thought about the great men and women that continue to serve today and I thought about the commitment my own family has had to make over the years of being dragged from one assignment to another. I like the fact that I came from an ROTC assignment and from the University of Rhode Island...URI is a great school and the ROTC Program was a good program. We had a*

*number of ROTC members that were from all walks of life and were fully involved in the leadership of the campus across the board. As far as my next assignment goes, who knows...it is too early to tell at this point. For now, I will continue to serve in my current assignment and will remain deployed and focused on fighting the war we are all facing. Things are going very well in the war and we ARE winning...let there be no doubt about it. It is far from over, and the enemy is an enemy that every American must come to realize does not want us to continue to live the way we like to live, in freedom. I am not kidding. People will feel differently about the war, but do not doubt our enemy's intentions, they are not good and they will take every opportunity to attack us that they can. VR, Mike”*

Michael T. Flynn  
COL, MI  
J2, JSOC  
Fort BRAGG, NC 28307

Our congratulations to COL Flynn on his recent selection to flag officer. Please keep us posted on the promotion ceremony..... COL Flynn can be reached at email: [michaelt.flynn@us.army.mil](mailto:michaelt.flynn@us.army.mil)

A message from our erstwhile ROTC alumni webmaster from the class of 1990, [MAJ Pat Lee](#): *“Greetings from the Familee, We just spent the last 4 days at a Boy Scout Conference in beautiful Oberammergau, Germany among the Bavarian Alps and thought you might enjoy some pictures. I am off again on Saturday for 2 weeks on an Italian Aircraft carrier to do an evaluation. I just spent two weeks on a British aircraft Carrier called the Invincible sailing around the Med. I am getting a lot of ship time for an Army guy!”* Thanks for the update, Pat, and please keep in touch. Pat can be reached at email: [pandglee@familee6.net](mailto:pandglee@familee6.net)

[Justin Bednarz](#) is back in CONUS and writes: *“Things are going well, I moved to CT shortly after I got back from the war, to East Hampton. It's one town away from where I grew up in Marlborough. I bought a cottage within walking distance of Lake Pocotopaug, and I am in the process of doing a fixer upper. It's about a hundred years old, plumbing and electricity were put in after the original framing was done so nothing is where it should be. I'm still finding the old armored cable with the paper and cloth insulation for the wires. I love the challenge, though. I would love to be more active, and I will try to get the time away from work. I currently work as an internal auditor for F.W. Webb, a plumbing supply provider (we're developing a new market in fire protection supply in CT, incidentally). We have a company standard that mirrors ISO 9002, and I have to audit and develop programs for my territory to meet the standards. Thank you for staying in touch, I appreciate it. I would like to be more active, it's just that I live a bit away and having recently started the job, getting time off or getting out early something viewed with suspicion, I get enough dirty looks when I come in on Monday tired or leave early on Friday to get ready for drill. They all think I am going out to party, when in actuality I am going training.”* Justin can be reached at email: [JPBednarz@aol.com](mailto:JPBednarz@aol.com)

LTC Mike Robertson '85 writes: *"A quick update: slated to command 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, a Basic Combat Training (BCT) unit at Fort Jackson, SC. I assume command late July-early Aug '05.... A true privilege to lead/train America's Soldiers! Mike Robertson LTC, IN URI '85". "COL Tom Heaney finished command last summer and now serves as Deputy CDR for US Army South, one of USSOUTHCOM's components, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio TX. I had a chance to host him for dinner when he visited Miami last spring".* Thanks for the update, Mike, and please keep in touch. Mike can be reached at email: [roberja@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:roberja@hq.southcom.mil)

MAJ (Ret) Bob Hehl '86 has been in touch recently with the following message: *"After retiring as a South Asia Foreign Area Officer with 21yrs in March 2001 I continued working at DIA and the Pentagon J2 as an Intel Officer covering South Asia until Feb 2003 when I accepted a job offer with the FBI. I moved back home (Portsmouth) in Feb 2003 taking a job with the FBI Boston Division and was transferred to the Providence office last year. Regards, Bob Hehl URI ROTC '86"* Bob can be reached at email: [hehlr@aol.com](mailto:hehlr@aol.com) Welcome back to Rhode Island, Bob – hope to see you at our January ROTC alumni chapter meeting.

COL (Ret) Tom O'Connell '68 recently "found" us and passed along this message: *"I am a URI Grad, Class of 68, ROTC, who served 27 years in Infantry, and Military Intelligence. I am currently serving as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. I fondly remember LTC Leach as a ROTC Instructor in the 60's. He was an exceptional officer and I would appreciate his email address if you have it. I was a classmate of Leon LaPorte, also a deserving member of the Hall of Fame. Thank you. Tom"* Thank you for contacting us, Tom, and we welcome your interaction with our alumni chapter. We hope you can contact LTC (Ret) John Leach as I'm sure he'd get a kick out of hearing from you. Tom can be reached at email: [TWOCONNELL@aol.com](mailto:TWOCONNELL@aol.com)

And from Moscow.....our own COL Tim Shea informs us: *"Paul: Good copy. Best regards to all. I'm currently the Army Attaché assigned to the US Embassy in Moscow. Tim"* Please keep in touch with us along the way, Tim! COL Shea can be reached at email: [sheatc@state.gov](mailto:sheatc@state.gov)

COL (Ret) Jim Kelsey '65 has been in touch with us from sunny Scottsdale, Arizona with the following message: *"Thanks for the note on the ROTC Hall of Fame Ceremony and while I would love to attend unfortunately Scottsdale is more than a stones throw from URI. I hope that you have on your radar screen COL Thomas O'Connell (USA, Ret) (a former fraternity brother of my and a 68 graduate). Tom is currently the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. Tom ranks the CSA and equivalent to the Sec Army - not bad for a lowly COL.....!"* Great to hear from you, Jim, and please keep in touch. Jim can be reached at email: [jim.kelsey@timedomain.com](mailto:jim.kelsey@timedomain.com)  
*(Ed. Note: COL Kelsey was the first recipient of the "Cramers Saber Award" in 1965 honoring the memory of 1Lt Parker D. Cramer '59)*

1LT [John Chiappone '03](#) continues to correspond from his Afghanistan AOs. In July he wrote: *“Great newsletter once again. I always enjoy receiving them. I have relocated from Shindand, Afghanistan to Bagram, Afghanistan. We are now packing again and will be moving to different FOBs on the Pakistani border. I recently ran into [CPT Nick Boisvert RWU class of '01](#) (spelling on the last name a little off). He is an Apache Platoon Leader in the CAV. It was great to see him and catch up a little. Now we will probably be working together as well. Congrats to the new LTs. They'll love the job. V/R 1LT Chiappone '03”* We hope to hear again from John in the near future. He can be reached at email: [john.m.chippone@us.army.mil](mailto:john.m.chippone@us.army.mil)

We continue to hear much from so many of our soldiers and alumni now attached to the 3d ID. In July [Lt. Jordan Melei '04](#) was able to get this message to us from SW Asia: *“Just wanted to say greetings from Iraq. I'm going on two months now. Learning a lot everyday here. I'll get some photos to you so you can put on the website if you want. I'm up in Tikrit. [Padien](#) and [Mras](#) are up here too, but I haven't seen them yet. Hope all is well back home! Talk to you soon. LT Melei Jordan Melei - 2LT, MI - ISR PLT LDR B CO/ 1-3 BTB”* We look forward to receiving more news and those photos, LT! Jordan can be reached at email: [Jordan.melei@us.army.mil](mailto:Jordan.melei@us.army.mil)

Speaking of “Padien” (see above), we understand from [CPT Mark Padien's](#) family that Mark returned for his second Iraq tour with the 3d ID last January and is expected to return to CONUS in January 2006. Mark was made the company commander for a Pennsylvania national guard unit that is attached to the 2-7 (Mark is part of the 2-7). We understand Mark may be leaving active duty following his return to CONUS early next year and we hope to see him at a future ROTC alumni meeting/event. Below is a photo of CPT Padien in Iraq:



*(Courtesy Sue and Dick Padien)*

[CPT James Peckham](#) writes in late August 2005 from Iraq: *“Thanks for the invite, but unfortunately I will not be in the area. Currently, I'm in Baghdad working for LTF 530 which runs logistics and gun truck operations for 3d ID and all the mail in the downtown*

Baghdad area. So, needless to say, things are a bit busy here mixed with high adventure. Thanks again for the invite. One day, I might actually get to attend an event at URI..... James R. Peckham Jr. CPT, TC Seitz Annex, Iraq SPO Trans OIC DNVT: 587-5922 AIRBORNE! "Rock On!" CPT Peckham can be reached at email: [james.peckham@us.army.mil](mailto:james.peckham@us.army.mil)

Among other correspondence from our friend and former ROTC senior NCO, [SGM Carl Johnson](#) (another honorable Green Bay Packer fan and Wisconsin native....) writes this past summer: "So I'm back here for the final 5 months now, and hoping it goes fast. I'm starting to nose around for another assignment when I get back, but if I don't get what I want, then I'll put in my retirement papers. I'll need some time to figure out what I want to do in retirement, so we'll probably be in until the summer of '07 at least. I'm pushing hard to return to Cadet Command, and there's a Brigade HQs in Savannah that might need a SGM sometime in late '06. I am only guessing that our Rhody alumni are doing well. [1LT Carl Palmaccio](#) is still in the Brigade, and he's now a primary role player in our effort to train the 2d Iraqi Army Brigade Staff. They are living and working with them 24/7 at the Old Ministry of Defense complex, a loosely fortified collection of facilities several kilometers from here. They have been the target of snipers, car bombers, and mortar/rocket attack, but they're doing well. [CPT Nicole \(Nazario\) Zuena](#) continues her work on our Brigade staff as a preventive meds officer, ensuring we have clean water, and good hygiene. [CPT Mark Padien](#) is in 1st Brigade up north fighting with the 42d ID (NY, Army Reserve) and [1LT Matt Turcotte](#) is I believe in 4th Brigade on the other side of the river here in Baghdad. [1LT Zach Archie](#) is also in the Division, I just don't know where. Hope this brings you up to speed. It's been some time since we've conversed in this manner. We all appreciate your continued support. I'll save my opinions on troop reductions until after the October referendum. My best wishes, SGM Carl Johnson HQ's, 2d BDE, 3d ID (Mech) APOAE 09380" Well Sergeant Major, our GB Packers have not fared well so far this season but we appreciate your continued messages and updates from Baghdad. Please keep in touch along the way. SGM Johnson can be reached at email: [carl.johnson@us.army.mil](mailto:carl.johnson@us.army.mil) Sergeant Major Johnson also sent the photo below of [CPT Zuena & Lt Palmaccio](#):



(Courtesy SGM Carl Johnson, 3ID, 2Bde – former URI ROTC Senior NCO)

**URI's Newest Second Lieutenant:** We're pleased to include a photograph of Second Lieutenant Devin Ciminero '05 who was commissioned at Keaney Gym on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. Lt. Ciminero is an infantry officer who is a member of the RI Army National Guard. He is shown wearing his new dress blue uniform donated to him in memory of 1LT Carmen DeCubellis '68 by COL William Babcock '68. Congratulatonns to the LT.....

