

THE SHIELD & SWORD

Cadets of the Ole War Skule



Preserving LSU's military history and heritage.

Spring/Summer 2016

Veterans Student Center, Military Museum Planned

LSU is planning a fundraising effort with a military focus. The initiative, spearheaded by the LSU Military Excellence Fund Commission, has two major goals – to provide a state-of-the-art Veterans & Military Services Student Center and to renovate Memorial Tower to house the new LSU Military Museum. LSU President F. King Alexander announced the projects during LSU Salutes last fall.

The president also announced commission co-chairs: Laura Leach, a principal owner of Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co. Inc. in Lake Charles and former LSU Board of Supervisors member, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Lee K. Levy, commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

“LSU wants to honor its military heroes, support its veterans and strengthen the LSU Corps of Cadets – the young men and women who are the nation’s military future,” Alexander said. “Many of our alumni – both men and women – were in Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC and were an integral part of the LSU Corps of Cadets. It was here they became part of ‘the Long Purple Line,’ and it was here they



gained leadership skills and a competitive advantage for success. It is here that many veterans are returning to complete their educations. LSU is quickly becoming the ‘university of choice’ where veterans can realize their educational dreams.”

The Veterans Center, located on Raphael Semmes Drive, adjacent to the Barnes & Noble at LSU bookstore, will serve as a dedicated space for veterans, active duty military, reservists, and National Guard members, as well as their dependents.

According to Richard Lipsey, immediate past president of Cadets of the Ole War Skule, the museum will be the repository for artifacts and memorabilia reflecting the university’s rich military history and heritage and an appropriate setting in which to honor its military heroes.

“The LSU Military Museum will

offer visitors a nostalgic stroll through the military history of the University – from its first president, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, to its last military president, LTG Troy H. Middleton – and will acknowledge the contributions of LSU men and women”

Capital donors will have a variety of naming opportunities for galleries, exhibit rooms, walls of honor, interactive computer kiosks, sponsorship of permanent and temporary exhibitions, a library, and an office. Initial plans include recognition and acknowledgment of those alumni responsible for the funding and construction of the LSU War Memorial located on the Parade Ground; exhibitions and collections related to the history of ROTC at LSU; involvement of LSU faculty, staff and students in America’s wars and conflicts; the University’s military leaders; and Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

Fall 2016 Events

August 19	Orientation for The Corps
September 1	Welcome Back Jambalaya
November 3-5	LSU Salutes
November 5	Annual Meeting
December 15	Commissioning

From the President...



On behalf of the members of the board and the Executive Committee, greetings from Cadets of the Ole War Skule. Thank you for your interest in the “Long Purple Line.” We exist to support the cadets, midshipmen, and Cadre in LSU ROTC and to encourage their continuing efforts to realize academic excellence and achieve technical and military expertise in their training. We preserve and promote the contributions of LSU’s military alumni to the nation by supporting and growing the LSU Corps of Cadets, fostering the heritage and traditions that are important to LSU’s military history, recognizing and honoring deserving veterans,

supporting LSU patriotic events, and promoting public awareness of the value of LSU’s military contributions.

There are several projects in the works that we believe will ultimately lead to significant growth in the size of The Corps and the scope of its military footprint. Among these:

- We are working with the Cadre and interested alumni in efforts to increase cadet strength to 750-800 cadets.
- Memorial Tower has been returned to its principal occupant, Cadets of the Ole War Skule, and, in the near future, it will resume its intended role of housing the LSU Military Museum.
- To support this effort, the University has committed to ensuring the success of this initiative through the LSU Military Excellence Fund Commission, with the proceeds being used to develop both a student veterans center and the museum. Later efforts will be used to underwrite cadet scholarships to reward several current cadets and recruit those students who will help us realize the desired growth in The Corps.
- With LSU, we continue to co-sponsor LSU Salutes, the University’s annual program honoring all veterans, especially those who are LSU alumni.
- We support University participation in regular commissioning ceremonies as well as the President’s Day Parade, the official Change of Command Ceremony for the LSU Corps of Cadets, and the Joint ROTC Awards Ceremony.
- We annually present Corps Achievement Awards to Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force ROTC newly commissioned officers and present scholarships honoring the memory of numerous alumni.
- We work with the Cadre to introduce new programs, such as the Ole War Skule Senior Symposium, which both honors and further educates select senior cadets and midshipmen as they make their transition to active duty.
- We have completed the appointment of committee chairs as well as an “ad hoc” committee that is finalizing revisions for our By-Laws.
- We support and encourage the return of many of LSU’s rich military traditions, including the firing of the 75 mm PAK Howitzers on game day Saturdays to welcome the Fighting Tigers into Tiger Stadium.
- We continue to support and promote the designation of LSU as the Ole War Skule – our traditional military name.

We believe strongly in what we are doing, and we hope to continue to enjoy the total support of the University administration and the LSU Board of Supervisors. We are certain that if we continue these and other efforts, we will in the near future realize our dream – a brigade-size LSU Corps of Cadets.

This is not about us – it is all about those present and future cadets and midshipmen who will proudly become part of “the Long Purple Line” and boldly serve in our nation’s armed forces.

For the Long Purple Line...

John W. Milazzo, Jr., President



Cadets Celestial

**GEN Charles
“Hondo” Campbell**
U.S. Army (Ret.)
Feb. 8, 2016
Shreveport, La.

**BG Joseph Levy Dabadie,
Jr.**
U.S. Army (Ret.)
Aug. 23, 2015
New Roads, La.

BG Wilbur Fields Joffrion
U.S. Army (Ret.)
Feb. 11, 2016
Baton Rouge, La.

Lucien Paul Laborde
Aug. 31, 2015
Hamburg, La.

**Joseph Beauregard “JB”
Olinde, Sr.**
April 7, 2015
Baton Rouge, La.

**The Honorable
Tom Stagg**
June 23, 2015
Shreveport, La.

COL Van R. Mayhall, Sr.
U.S. Army Reserve
(Ret.)
Jan. 11, 2015
Baton Rouge, La.

**Harley Jesse “Jess”
Walker**
May 30, 2015
Baton Rouge, La.

LSU Pershing Rifles: Best in the Nation

The National Society of Pershing Rifles, a military honor society for college-level students, recognized the Pershing Rifles of LSU as the “Best Company” nationwide at its annual national convention in March. The distinction recognizes the chapter that displays exceptional performance in service to the local community, as well as an outstanding commitment to military excellence and leadership development.

Members of the LSU organization traveled to Washington, D.C., to compete alongside more than 400 ROTC cadets and midshipmen representing more than fifty-five colleges and universities. The awards presentation took place at the society’s formal dinner, which featured dignitaries including Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command BG Sean Gainey and former U.S. Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs retired GEN Colin Powell. Powell is an alumnus of the Pershing Rifles organization.

Members of the company are:

Dimitri Bush, first-year mechanical engineering major, Lebeau, La.

Antonio Diaz, first-year kinesiology major, Metairie, La.

Todd Dixon, political science senior, New Orleans, La.

Roberto Duran, political science senior, Ft. Worth, Texas



Back row, from left, retired COL Clay LeGrande, Todd Dixon, Elijah Jones, Evan McMichael, Roberto Duran, Chris Scheuermann, and Jeb Barr. Front, Logan Futrell and Dimitri Bush. Not pictured, Ethan Nicosia, Landscape Architecture Junior, New Orleans, LA

Logan Futrell, first-year philosophy major, Colfax, La.

Elijah Jones, construction management sophomore, Franklinton, La.

Thomas Landreneau, general business sophomore, Spring, Texas

Evan McMichael, political science junior, Bossier City, La.

Sam Nelson, mechanical engineering sophomore, The Woodlands, Texas

Ethan Nicosia, landscape architecture junior, New Orleans, La.

Jacob Pikul, first-year mechanical engineering major, Warwick, R.I.

Blake Stewart, kinesiology junior, Baton Rouge, La.

Chris Scheuermann, information systems and decision sciences, Class of 2015, Alexandria, La.

Founded in 1940, Pershing Rifles is a student organization that serves as the official honor guard for LSU and the Baton Rouge community. The company can be seen on the field of Tiger Stadium at every home football game presenting the U.S. flag.

Culture Day – Governor and Mrs. John Bel Edwards welcomed Ugandan troops to the Governor’s Mansion in April as part of a “culture day” visit to Baton Rouge. Captain Matthew Boyd, LSU alumnus, former ROTC cadet, and a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule (back row, far left), was instrumental in arranging the visit for the troops while they were training at Ft. Polk. The group also toured the State Capitol and were introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives.



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LSU Commissions 16 Cadets at Spring Ceremony

Sixteen LSU graduates were recognized during the LSU Spring Commissioning Ceremony on May 12, in the Union Theater. Retired Lt. Gen. Terry L. Gabreski, vice commander, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, was the guest speaker for the ceremony and gave the commissioning oath.

Six graduates from the LSU Army ROTC program and six graduates from the LSU Air Force ROTC program were commissioned. In addition, four LSU students who participated in Southern University's Navy ROTC program were commissioned at a ceremony at Southern.



The oath is administered by Lt. Gen. Terri Gabreski.



Cadets of the Ole War Skule past President MG Harry "Skip" Philips and President John Milazzo present the Corps Achievement Award to new U.S. Army LT Lisa M. Lewis.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Griffin P. McDonald, recipient of the Corps Achievement Award, with, from left, Skip Philips, John Milazzo, and LSU President F. King Alexander.



Newly commissioned officers with Lt. Col. Wade Pertuit, LTC Lawrence House, Lt. Gen. Terri Gabreski, and President F. King Alexander.



Photo by Eddy Perez

LSU Salutes 2015

LSU Salutes – Eleven distinguished alumni were inducted into the military Hall of Honor on Nov. 14 during ceremonies held at the LSU War Memorial on the Parade Ground. LSU Salutes is sponsored annually by the University and Cadets of the Ole War Skule. Pictured are front, from left, William D. Shaffer, Jr.; Daniel M. Waghelstein; Robert J. Barham; Frank Harrison, representing Lt. Col. J. Logan Brown; Vaughn R. Ross, Sr.; and Louis D. Curet; back, Debbie O’Shee and Ron Mitchell, representing their father, the late Roy D. Mitchell; Brig. Gen. Bobby V. Page; Cadets of the Ole War Skule President Richard Lipsey; LSU President F. King Alexander; James E. Gerace; Jack D. Hebert, IV, representing his great-grandfather, the late Maxwell M. Merritt; and Timothy P. Killeen, representing his father, the late John J. Killeen, Sr.

Farewell Dinner – LSU and Cadets of the Ole War Skule paid tribute to outgoing Commandant of Cadets and Professor of Aerospace Studies Lt. Col. Wade Pertuit at a farewell dinner on May 2. Friends, colleagues, and cadets and midshipmen gathered at the City Club for the event to thank Pertuit his service to LSU and the LSU Corps of Cadets.



1 Color Guard Commander Cadet Logan Futrell.



2 Cadets of the Ole War Skule President John Milazzo expresses appreciation to Lt. Col. Pertuit for his leadership and service.



3 Past President Richard Lipsey congratulates Lt. Col. Pertuit.

Senior Symposium: A New Venture

Fifteen cadets and midshipmen were selected to participate in the inaugural Ole War Skule Senior Symposium in the fall of 2016. The yearlong program, limited to ROTC seniors at LSU and Southern University, will prepare the future officers for leadership assignments and responsibilities after graduation.



The program is cosponsored by Cadets of the Ole War Skule in cooperation with the ROTC Cadre. LSU military alumni will play a key role in the new venture, sharing what they have experienced and learned during military journeys.

“Through the years, we have observed that there is not sufficient time for the Cadre to adequately discuss many of the topics and challenges that newly commissioned officers will face as they enter active duty,” said Randy Gurie, executive director of Cadets of the Ole War Skule. “Many alumni have the potential to provide tremendous insights to our future officers regarding how today’s military functions and succeeds in an ever-changing world. They have knowledge, wisdom, and experience.”

Planned sessions cover a variety of topics including foreign culture awareness, defense and strategic studies, enhancing interpersonal skills, and more. The group will meet once a month in the fall and spring semesters.

April 21 Events Recognize LSU Military Heritage

The President's Day Parade, LSU's official acknowledgement of the Ole War Skule's rich military history and heritage, recognizes the many contributions made by current members of the LSU Corps of Cadets and honors their commitment to serve in our nation's armed forces. The Change of Command Ceremony is a symbolic tradition which has survived through military history and occurs at the conclusion of each semester as the new LSU Corps Commander is announced and assumes command of the LSU Corps of Cadets.

The Joint ROTC Awards Ceremony affords the University the opportunity to honor outstanding cadets and midshipmen and to recognize those who have excelled in military and academic performance in their respective programs.



1 Lt. Col. Wade Pertuit, unseen, conducts the Change of Command ceremony with Cadet C/Col. Ashley Bacon, left, and Cadet Col. Matthew Kinsey.



2 LSU President F. King Alexander makes brief remarks at the event.

3 Cadets of the Ole War Skule President John Milazzo introduces the first class selected for the Ole War Skule Senior Symposium.

4 Symposium finalists, from left, Jarrett Logan, Matthew Kinsey, Christopher Dedo, Todd Dixon, and Gabe Emerson.

5 Symposium finalists, from left, Joy Rucker, Brennan West, Blake Stewart, Zach Powers, Wesley Norton, Wendy Martin, and Jacob McConnell. Not pictured, Brian Schillecci, Brittany Haggett, and Kyle Watros.

6 Cadet C/COL Matthew Kinsey, Fall 2016 LSU Corps Commander.

7 Cadet C/Col. Ashley Bacon, outgoing LSU Corps Commander.

