

Please help the Army ROTC Society of Alumni and Friends reach their goal of \$12,000 by the end of the year!

Yes, I wish to donate to Army ROTC SAF endowment.

Please accept my gift of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$_____

Please return gift card and make check payable to "The Ohio University Foundation" and write "ARMY ROTC" in memo section
PO Box 869, Athens, OH 45701

or credit card:

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

or for online donations, visit armyrotcsaf.org

Passing the Torch:
THE LEGACY CONTINUES

ARMY | Society of Alumni & Friends

ROTC

A newsletter from your Ohio University Alumni Association

Passing the Torch:
THE LEGACY CONTINUES

SPRING 2011

ROTC Reunion Weekend for the Classes of the "Ones"

Saturday, 23 April

Welcome Back to Ohio University

Army ROTC Classes of 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971, 1961, 1951, 1941

Join the Class of 2011

at the 73rd Annual ROTC

Military Ball 6:00 P.M.,

Baker University Center Ballroom at Ohio University



The Bobcat Battalion marches in the 2010 Homecoming Parade

My dear friends and fellow Bobcats,



MAJ Kristine Wood
West Virginia National Guard

As the president of the OU Army ROTC SAF, I'm writing from a different perspective than what I have in the past. By the time you receive this letter, I will be overseas, serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Like many receiving this newsletter, I am still actively serving in our military, with great hopes of making a difference in this world.

There are several ways that you can still make a difference in the lives of cadets attending Ohio University. In 2002, the Army ROTC Society of Alumni and Friends formed in order to solidify the bonds and the strong ties that we all have toward our alma mater, and toward each other. Since that time, students and alums have connected through mentorship luncheons, branching ceremonies, scholarships, and guest speaker engagements. The OU Army ROTC Endowment, which started almost 10 years ago has grown to \$34,626.83. This is due to a small number of donors who have given large amounts of money. Since July 1, 2010, \$2500 has been given toward the endowment. By June 30, 2011, the goal is to reach \$10,000 in giving toward the OU Army ROTC Endowment. And by the end of the calendar year, 2011, our stretch goal is to reach \$12,000 in total giving toward the endowment.

Friends, believe me when I say I know how busy we all are. I also realize how the economy has impacted many. If you are able to give just \$100, or any amount, toward the OU Army ROTC Endowment, you would be making a difference! The endowment is used to provide scholarships for excellent performance in Military Science. Whether you give your time by volunteering to come back to campus as a guest mentor/speaker to the seniors or juniors in Army ROTC, or you give a portion to the endowment, you will be making an impact on the future of our great Army and Ohio University.

On a closing note, if you pray, continue to pray for the nation, our Soldiers, and our Bobcat alumni serving in harm's way. God's blessings,

Kris Wood, Class of 1993
President, OU Army ROTC SAF
kmwood@suddenlink.net

Commission Mission Increase for the Bobcat Battalion

The Commander of the 7th ROTC Brigade recently conducted a review and mission adjustment for the 38 ROTC host-programs across the Brigade's footprint of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Ohio University's Army ROTC program was tasked to increase its number of commissions from 21 to 28 beginning with the Class of 2014, the current freshman class. This is the largest mission increase of any school in the Brigade and gives OU Army ROTC the fourth largest mission in the Brigade after only Michigan State University, Ohio State University, and Western Kentucky University. This is a challenge that the OU Army ROTC is ready to accept and is on track to exceed. Only 13 schools in the Brigade

were given a mission increase; 17 schools had their missions decreased and 8 programs were tasked to maintain the status quo.

The Operations Order detailing the mission increase spoke to the longstanding effectiveness of the OU Army ROTC program by stating, "We will ... expand high performing ROTC programs' missions ... programs that have a demonstrated strong relationship with the university, demonstrated Cadet retention, past mission success, education cost balance, and university academic capability."

We are certainly proud of the contribution that the OU Army ROTC alumni continue to make to strengthen the partnership between Ohio University and Army ROTC.

SENIOR CLASS Branch Assignments

Bradford Armstrong
Active Duty - Military Intelligence, branch detailed to Armor

Katheryn Banks
National Guard - Military Police

Sarah Baugus
Active Duty - Military Police

Ryan Coomler
Active Duty - Infantry

Craig Dolhi
Active Duty - Armor

Lee Heintzelman
Active Duty - Armor

James Kovell
National Guard - Corps of Engineers

Ashley Larsen
Active Duty - Adjutant General

John Loftus
Active Duty - Signal Corps, branch detailed to Armor

Matthew Magistri
Active Duty - Military Intelligence, branch detailed to Infantry

James Moody
National Guard - Aviation

Nicholas Risher
Active Duty - Signal Corps, branch detailed to Field Artillery

Nathaniel Stetz
National Guard - Adjutant General

Michael Stewart
Active Duty - Infantry

Stephen Wolkoff
National Guard - Air Defense Artillery

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Ohio University
Alumni Association
1859
Konneker Alumni Center
52 University Terrace
Athens OH 45701-2979
T: 740.593.4300
F: 740.593.0970
alumni@ohio.edu
ohioalumni.org

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2011 Branching Ceremony and Alumni Mentorship Luncheon

Past, Present, and Future members of the Ohio University Army ROTC Battalion came together on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011 for the annual Branching Ceremony and Mentorship Luncheon for the Class of 2011. A host of distinguished Ohio University Army ROTC alumni were on hand to pin-on the branch insignia of the sixteen members of the senior class who will commission this Spring. Ohio University Alumni present included: BG (Ret) James Abraham (Class of 1943), COL (Ret) John Lusa (Class of 1953), COL (Ret) Mo Ralston (Class of 1962), COL

(Ret) Mike Mannarino (Class of 1977), LTC (Ret) Bill Loftus (Class of 1972), Mr Steve English (Class of 1984), LTC (Ret) Doug Orr (Ohio University Professor of Military Science from 2000-2004), LTC (Ret) Joe Scherer (Ohio University Professor of Military Science from 1996 to 1997), MAJ Kris Wood (Class of 1993), and CPT Jerimiah Wildermuth (Class of 2001). Two fathers were present to pin branches on their sons. Bill Loftus, class of 1960, pinned the Armor insignia on his son John, and COL (Ret) James Coomler, a current JROTC instructor in Toledo,

pinned the Infantry insignia on his son Ryan. BG (Ret) James Abraham was the keynote speaker who provided very insightful and meaningful comments about leadership and the profession of arms. Also in attendance at the event were a number of high school seniors and their parents that are considering joining the Bobcat Battalion next fall through the Simultaneous Membership Program. What a great opportunity for these prospective Cadets to see the connections that exist between Past and Present Ohio University Army ROTC Cadets and US Army Officers.



Members of the Class of 2011 showing off their new branch insignia



BG (Ret) James Abraham pins Infantry insignia on Cadet Mike Stewart and COL (Ret) Coomler pins his son, Cadet Ryan Coomler.

From the Professor of Military Science



LTC Joel Smith
Professor of
Military Science

The theme of this edition of the newsletter, *Passing the Torch*, came to life in Walter Hall Rotunda on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011. It was here during the annual branching ceremony that past, present, and future members of the Ohio University Army ROTC Battalion and US Army Officer Corps came together. At the heart of the ceremony, the members of the OU Army ROTC class of 2011 received their officer branches assignments. On hand were distinguished OU alumni and Army officers representing OU classes as early as 1943 and as late as 2001. Also in attendance were high school seniors and their parents that had come to visit OU and learn about the opportunities available through Army ROTC and the Simultaneous Membership Program of the Ohio National Guard and US Army Reserves. What better guest speaker than BG (Ret) James Abraham, the earliest grad in attendance and creator of the Simultaneous Membership Program. It was a truly meaningful event to witness the passing of the torch, in this case in the form of branch insignia, from old to new...and even more meaningful to have future Cadets witness this transition as a foreshadowing of what is to come in their futures.

There are other transitions in the works as well. I know I speak for all in extending best wishes and safety to the President of the OU Army ROTC SAF, Major Kristine Wood, as she prepares to deploy to Afghanistan for the next year. Steve English will be ably carrying the torch as the Acting President in Kristine's absence.

I want to thank the OU Army ROTC SAF for your continued support. I truly believe that your involvement and interest in the continued success of the ROTC program at Ohio University is a "combat multiplier" which impacts the development of today's Cadets and enhances our relationship with Ohio University. Thanks for all you do and I look forward to meeting many of you at this year's Military Ball in April. Go Bobcats.

LTC Joel Smith
Professor of Military Science

Upcoming Elections

OU ARMY ROTC SAF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections and further nominations will take place at the annual meeting at 1330 hours on Saturday, 23 April 2011.

The confirmed slate of nominees for the officer and board positions expiring on 20 June 2011:

President – Joe Scherer
Vice President – Mike Mannarino
Secretary – Bill Loftus
Treasurer – Mo Ralston

Board of Directors (expiring 30 June 2014):

Kris Wood
Steve English
John Lusa
Doug Orr

The continuing directors are:

Expiring 2012:	Expiring 2013:
James Abraham	Mike Mannarino
Joe Scherer	Joe Mulligan
Bill Loftus	Mark Capone
Mo Ralston	Jim McVicker

Passing the Torch. LESSONS FROM LIFE

Greetings, fellow Bobcats,

As a 1984 graduate of Ohio University and the Bobcat Battalion, I am pleased to see how impressive the ROTC program has become. It was an honor to again participate in the recent Branching Ceremony for the seniors. I recall that our branch assignments were announced in a much less formal manner during my senior year. They were posted on the bulletin board in Lindley Hall and announced in class. The formal ceremony is a much more fitting way to recognize the path on which your career as an Army officer will begin.

As you well know, the Army focuses on training. An event this month has caused me to reflect on how important training was for me and, more importantly, for one of my employees.

On February 3rd, while working in my office I was alerted that an employee had collapsed outside

and was turning blue. Another employee had already called 911 for medical assistance while I was being notified of the emergency. When I first saw the collapsed employee, I immediately knew he was in serious trouble. He was unconscious and increasingly turning blue/purple as a co-worker held his head up off of the cement. After a quick assessment of his condition I found that he had no pulse and was not breathing. I began administering CPR in an effort to revive him before the medics arrived.

I remember having crystal-clear vision in a small circle, with the outer areas blurry. I saw and knew what was happening within that small circle, but not in the blurry periphery unless I turned my head away from the victim. I know a lot of people were standing on the loading dock above where we were located, but I cannot recall who the individuals were

since they were in the blurry zone, not in my concentrated area of attention. I distinctly remember someone crying out "Oh my God, Oh my God!" when I started CPR. At that moment the dire reality of the situation had become apparent to the other employees. I also heard a woman start praying. Time was in super-slow-motion and in hyper speed at the same time. Very surreal.

My wife and I visited 'my' patient at the hospital a few days later. It was great to see him ALIVE; my previous mental picture of him was quite different. He's doing well and will have an internal defibrillator implanted in the next few days.

I haven't worn the Army uniform for many years, but I credit the training from ROTC and the Army, as well as private pilot training, for allowing me to 'hyper-focus' on the situation that had

to be addressed immediately. The last time I had CPR training was probably ten years ago. But, as the saying goes, somewhere along the way when it is really needed, your training takes over automatically. That is certainly true as I discovered that day.

Army officers are responsible for ensuring their soldiers are prepared to accomplish their particular missions. For the class of 2011: As you move closer to commissioning and service with our great Army, please remember that training for you and your soldiers should be intense and realistic in order to instill the automatic response that may be needed some day.

Best wishes,
Steve English
Bobcat Battalion, Class of 1984
Acting President,
OU Army ROTC staff

The 73rd Annual ROTC Military Ball 23 April 2011 Baker University Center Ballroom at Ohio University, 6:00 p.m. Reception

To reserve your seats at the Military Ball please mail this form along with a check for \$30 per person by Friday, April 8, 2011 to Ohio University Army ROTC, ATTN: MAJ Robert Paley, 253 Lindley Hall, Athens, OH 45701. For more information call (740) 593-1360 or email MAJ Paley at paley@ohio.edu.

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Year of Commission: _____

MEAL CHOICE: Beef ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian ____ Other* _____

Guest Name/s: _____

Rank/Title (if applicable): _____

MEAL CHOICE: Beef ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian ____ Other* _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Number attending at \$30 per person = \$ _____ Total Enclosed.

- I am unable to attend the Military Ball but would like to send a donation to sponsor a Cadet. (Please send to the same department address listed above.)
- I would like to contribute an item to the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the auction of these items will go to the cadet's own "Bobcat Battalion" Fund. Contact MAJ Rob Paley at paley@ohio.edu or (740) 593-1360.

MEAL CHOICE (All meals are \$30/person)

BEEF
Slow Roasted Beef
Tenderloin with Red
Wine Sauce

CHICKEN
Spinach & Fontina Cheese
stuffed Chicken Breast
with Bearnaise Sauce

VEGETARIAN
Portabella Mushroom
with Ratatouille

OTHER*
Special Dietary
Considerations
(please be specific)

Hotel Accomodations

Ohio University Inn
331 Richland Ave.
Athens, Ohio 45701

(740) 593-6661

10 Rooms Blocked under
"Army ROTC Alumni"

Rate: \$95

Reserve by:
Wednesday, 23 March 2011