The Wildcat Battalion has had a tremendous year, full of exciting renovations, accomplished guest speakers, and successful fundraisers. Here is a look back at the exciting moments within the Army ROTC program.

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The WILDCAT Army Ten Mile Team placed 5th out of 66 teams at this year’s D.C. run.
The Kentucky National Guard was proud to present the inaugural WUKY/University of Kentucky Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Bluegrass Mud Run at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 22, 2012. The adventure run consisted of a 5K course with more than 20 challenges.

More than 400 participants ran, dove, swung and plunged through the obstacles while a crowd of more than 500 cheered them on. Funds raised by the event went to support ROTC at the University of Kentucky. The first annual Mud Run was a sensation, and we look forward to building upon this success in the years to come!

Captain Robert Andersen headed the local event, putting in a great deal of time and effort. He has an exceptional vision for the future of this event and looks forward to the event’s incessant growth. Captain Andersen articulates his gratitude for the sponsors, participants, and staff along with his ideas for the events potential.

"Huge challenge and worth every minute of it. Our program delivered again, forging many strong relationships during the process. We had over 14 rigorous, tough obstacles without any significant injuries. This is a testament to the teams planning and execution of the Mud Run. I look forward to the 2013 Mud Run and empowering our Cadets to deliver an event that is sure to top last year’s."

The Bluegrass Mud Run Recap

The first annual Bluegrass Mud Run was a great success for the program, bringing in $14,000 for the cadet fund.

— Georgia Swanson

The participants swam, slid, and climbed their way to the finish line, exhausted and covered in mud.
Mentorship Breakfast

During the fall semester we were fortunate to meet CPT Craig Mullaney. He was the guest speaker for our annual mentorship breakfast and spoke to the UK Army ROTC program, students, faculty and special guests about his leadership experiences. His knowledge was enlightening for the cadets who will follow in his footsteps as Army officers.

The University of Kentucky's Common Reading Experience is a collaborative effort between the Office of New Student & Parent Programs, the Division of Student Affairs and other campus partners designed to introduce new students to academic life at the university. The goal is two-fold: first, to bring new students together for a common reading experience and introduce them to academic discourse prior to the start of classes; and second, to engage the entire UK community in a common intellectual experience through yearlong programming.

Freshmen read a book selected for their cohort the summer before their first semester on campus. They then join a community of scholars during K Week, where they participate in small group discussions about the book with faculty, staff, and upper class students. The entire UK community engages in a common academic experience throughout the school year by attending and participating in events coordinated around the book's themes, topics, and issues.

All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to connect with one another through this common intellectual experience that will allow for critical reflection on the book and the collegiate experience.
Colonel Albright Visits UK

Colonel Wes Albright returned to his old stomping grounds; giving advice to the soon-to-be officers, and sharing memories with the KY Rangers.

The Wildcat Battalion received a visit from Vietnam veteran and UK Army ROTC alumni, Colonel Wes Albright (and his wife), on Friday, November 9th, 2012.

Colonel Albright is a highly accomplished Army officer who earned two Purple Hearts during 3 tours in Vietnam.

In 1964 a group of UK Army ROTC cadets, headed by Albright, organized the Kentucky Longrifles. The goal of the organization was to train cadets in numerous areas for their future military careers. This organization has built up through the years and maintains its mission to prepare future Army officers. Upon the colonel’s visit to the University of Kentucky, he returned the original Kentucky Longrifle patch.

After Colonel Albright left the service, he went on to be the program manager at Battelle Memorial Institute, which is the world’s largest non-profit research and development organization. He was also the Executive Director at Independent Place in Lexington, Kentucky. Independent Place is a non-profit, consumer driven, non-residential center for independent living, serving people with disabilities of all ages. Lastly, Colonel Albright was a Kitchen and Bath Designer for Home Depot. He became a leading seller of kitchens in the region for several years in a row and had his work entered in numerous competitions.

Colonel Albright had tremendous success as an Army Officer and went on to fulfill a equally successful career in the civilian world. His wealth of knowledge had a phenomenal impact on our cadets.

Kentucky Ranger Commander, Carl Hatchett, expresses his gratitude towards the colonel and reflects on his visit

“It was great to see that our founder is still an active part of the program. We appreciate that he took time out of his busy schedule to come and speak for the active ranger class. He shed light on the program’s past and also extended much needed knowledge to the future 2nd Lieutenants that will be commissioning this summer. His success is an inspiration to us all. It has been an honor to be a part of the Kentucky Rangers and the UK Army ROTC program through my four years as a cadet. I look forward to my return in the years to come and am excited to see what the future holds for the program.”

- Carl Hatchett
October 20 we had a terrific Alumni Reunion in Buell Armory, coinciding with UK’s Homecoming weekend. We enjoyed great food and fellowship and had the privilege of inducting three exceptional alumni into our Wall of Fame. Mr. James E. Dockter, (Class of 1965), BG (R) Thomas P. “Patt” Maney (1970), and COL David L. Patton (1969) inspired us with their presence and accepted the honor with grace. All three men have many years of outstanding service to their country and fellow man.

Mr. Dockter used his business acumen and values learned at UK and in the Army to establish a business in 1976 (now known as PBD Worldwide). During his active years with the company he earned many awards, and he handed off his work ethic to his three sons when he retired. In 1998, he established the Dockter Family Scholarship in Trinity High School in Louisville, Kentucky to honor his parents. His heart is one of generosity and he lives out his values daily with his college sweetheart and wife, Becky (Miller) Dockter in N. Palm Beach, Florida. He and Becky celebrated 47 years of marriage in January. They have been blessed with three sons and nine grandchildren.

BG (R) Thomas P. “Patt” Maney is a veteran of Operation Just Cause (Panama); Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti); Operations Joint Guard and Joint Endeavor (Bosnia) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) where he served with distinction. He was wounded in an IED attack and spent almost 20 months recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He retired from the Army in April, 2007. Judge Patt Maney has been a Florida state court judge since 1989. He has, among other things, led efforts to establish a VA Vet Center to serve local combat veterans, coordinated a community-based annual Stand Down for homeless veterans, and started defendant-funded programs to save tax dollars. He has been an innovator and active supporter of our veterans, and currently serves on the statewide DUI Programs Review Board and advisory committee on Pre-trial Diversion for Veterans, as well as the task force on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Veterans Issues in the Courts and the statutory Florida Defense Support Task Force. He and his wife, Caroline (UK 1971) have two daughters and six grandchildren.

COL David L. Patton is a life-time Army man. He grew up in a variety of locations around the world as an Army family member, and was commissioned in 1972 after graduating from the UK College of Law. His service career began in the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, HI where he served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Trial Counsel) on the Division staff and as Platoon Leader and Executive Officer of the 25th MP Company. He has served his country in Operation Just Cause (Panama), Operation Desert Shield (Saudi Arabia), Operation Desert Storm (Iraq) and Operation Desert Thunder (Kuwait) in many distinguished roles, earning many awards and distinctions. Colonel Patton retired after 30 years of active service in 2002. He is married to Mary Frances (Stoll) Patton and they reside in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. They have been blessed with two children, John of Gainesville, Florida and Julia of Lexington, Kentucky, and grandchildren.

We are planning to induct a couple of other deserving alumni at our upcoming Military Ball in April this year. This is our small way of honoring alumni of UK and the Army ROTC program who have given so much to their country and their communities. It is truly inspiring to share their life accomplishments.
Spring JFTX
This semester’s JFTX will be a joint effort with the University of Dayton and the University of Louisville. Our cadre is looking forward to the training and development our cadets will receive.

“This semester’s joint FTX will be a great chance for our MSIII class to work with cadets from other programs. Integrating cadets will help in preparation for LDAC, summer 2013. They will be able to put all of the military and tactical knowledge from previous semesters to the test. Their performance at JFTX will be a great indicator of their success at LDAC.”

- Major Brad Henry

“JFTX will be an excellent opportunity for the basic course to work and apply what they have learned in the classroom. The hands-on experiences will give them a great idea of what is to come in their next few years with the ROTC program. We have some exciting events set up for basic course at JFTX.”

- Major Mike Marchetti

Flashback to Fall 2012 FTX
Renovations:
The Buell Armory has undergone major renovations within the past year thanks to generous donations. More upgrades are soon to come for the Armory!

The Kentucky Rangers and the Pershing Rifles have put the final touches on their newly renovated dens. (From left to right): Ranger Den, PR Den

New garage door coming soon!

Reflections on the Buell Armory Renovations

We want to update you on the Buell Armory Renovation initiative. First, THANK YOU for your amazing support. Since last May, over 250 alumni have made contributions to the project totaling over $300K. This, in conjunction with a $100K gift from UK Athletics, allowed us to meet our $333K target, a significant milestone which triggered a $167K match from the UK Administration. Last summer, we were able to completely renovate both the Pershing Rifle and Kentucky Ranger Dens. Then in November, ROTC leadership began meeting with UK architects to finalize Phase II plans, a $500K renovation to include the following:

- Complete restroom remodel in both the basement and first floor of Buell Armory. We will expand the current space to accommodate both male and female facilities on both floors.
- Remodel Buell Armory entryways, to include new hardwood floors, drop ceilings, baseboards, doorframes, doors, and new paint.
- Remodel existing office space, to include the administrative common areas and faculty office areas. This will facilitate a new conference room for faculty use.

The approved scope of work will be released for competitive bid in March, with a projected start date of May 6, 2013. We project all work will be complete for the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester. The development campaign will run through June 2013, and ALL additional contributions will be added to the Buell Armory Renovation Fund to ensure we successfully complete all planned work. All gifts over $250 will be recognized at the Spring Military Ball and at the Buell Armory Dedication Ceremony.

It’s not too late to be a part of the renovation efforts!
Click the link to make your contribution. http://armyrotc.as.uky.edu/giving
Alumni Salute

Tracking down past Wildcats:

A look at what our wildcat alumnus have accomplished, wishing them luck and safe endeavors.

Major Joey Orr deployed to Afghanistan after he left the program last spring. We look forward to his return this summer and pray for his safety in his last few months overseas.

Top Left: The Wildcat BN’s newest commissionees; 2LT Joshua Heilmann, 2LT Gregory Ferrari, and 2LT Zachary Johnston. Congratulations, let your journey begin!

Bottom Left: LT Cody Mitchell will be graduating from IBOLC this summer. We wish him luck as he heads immediately to Ranger school, April 21st, followed by Airborne school.

Top Right: LT Richard St. Onge checked out of BWS on February 15, 2013. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for this young pilot!

Bottom Right: LT Jimmy Hornback travels overseas to Afghanistan for his first deployment. We wish him luck and know that his soldiers are in good hands!
German Armed Forces Badge For Military Proficiency 2013

Cadet Jackson Colavecchia- Gold, Cadet Matthew Ippolito- Bronze, Cadet Robert Sahms- Gold, Captain Eric Heely- Gold, Cadet Japeth DeVries- Gold, Cadet Blake Edmondson- Silver

“This year’s team put in a great deal of hard work in order to train up for the events at the German Armed Forces Badge competition. I can not put into words how proud I am of each and every cadet. This was my first year being of part of the training aspect, and I look forward to working with next year’s team. Congratulations cadets!”

- Captain Robert Andersen
Wildcat Snapshots
A day in the life of a Wildcat

Spring 2013
The Beginning of a New Chapter for the Wildcat Battalion

On behalf of the entire Cummins Family, I want to thank each of you for the last three and a half years with the Wildcat Battalion. For this “Wildcat loving, blue bleeding, Kentucky native,” the opportunity to return home to the University of Kentucky was a dream come true. This experience has surpassed my wildest expectations.

To the PARENTS...thank you for entrusting your son or daughter to our care. The Army is a family affair, and your support, encouragement, and occasional “kick in the pants” has been an essential ingredient to our mission to empower student leaders and commission the Army’s future Lieutenants.

To our UK LEADERSHIP...thank you for your untiring support to our military. Facilities, finances, recognition, and inclusion; our campus climate is a model for all of higher education to emulate.

To the ALUMNI... WOW! If we called, you answered. If we raised a need, you met it. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, and I only wish I had time to meet more. You emulate stewardship, and the Cadets have learned from your example. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!

To my CADRE TEAMMATES...you made my job easy. You taught me something new every single day, and I learned from your untiring devotion to excellence. I am proud to call you brothers and sisters, and I look forward to watching each of you soar to new heights in your future endeavors. We will all look back on these past few years with pride and joy in our team. Of note, I’d like to formally thank MSG Jason Skinner, my battle buddy and Senior Military Instructor, who also retires this summer. He is without a doubt the most professional NCO I’ve served with in 20 years, and he has served the program and the Army with distinction. I could not ask for a better partner over the past three years.

Finally, to the CADETS...you are the reason we exist. It has been my highest privilege as a Soldier to develop trained, adaptable leaders of character with a passion for service to this great nation. I am confident our Army is in good hands, and I now pass the baton to you. STAY DISCIPLINED, STAY POSITIVE, and TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

I am excited to welcome Shawn and Becky Umbrell to the Wildcat Battalion. Currently serving as the Brigade Executive Officer for 2nd SBCT at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Shawn is precisely the right leader for the job, and he brings a wealth of experience and passion to the job. Please join me in welcoming them to the Big Blue Nation!

MAJ Shawn Umbrell commissioned in May 1998 as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry from The University of Toledo (Toledo, OH). He served as a rifle platoon leader and company executive officer in 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY, from July 1999 until September 2002.

Following an assignment as a Ranger Instructor with the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Rudder, FL, he returned to Fort Campbell and commanded C Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, from June 2004 to May 2005 and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-502 from May 2005 to January 2007. During that time he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving in Southwest Baghdad. He then served until December 2008 as an Observer Controller/Trainer at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA. During that time he deployed with 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment for four months to Iraq.

After graduating from Intermediate Level Education at Fort Leavenworth, KS, in December 2009 he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where he served as the Operations Officer for 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Upon redeployment in July 2010, the 5th Brigade relagged as 2nd Stryker Brigade Team, 2nd Infantry Division. MAJ Umbrell remained in 2nd SBCT and served as the 1-17 Executive Officer, Brigade Operations Officer, and Brigade Executive Officer. He deployed with 2nd SBCT from March through December 2012 to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

MAJ Umbrell is married to the former Rebecca Michelle Meyer of Tiffin, OH. They have been married for 14 years and have two sons, Jacob (11) and Corban (6).
...And That’s A Wrap!

This year has been filled with phenomenal training for the University of Kentucky Army ROTC Program. The cadets, cadre, and alumni make this continuous development possible and their participation is greatly appreciated.

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Check out the Wildcat Battalion Facebook page for additional program information and cadet and cadre profiles.