In this issue of the UGA Army ROTC Battalion newsletter, you will read about all the amazing things our program has been doing over the course of the 2012-2013 academic year. You will also read an article written by one of the newest Alums and Army Leaders as well as learn about the volunteer opportunities our Cadets and Cadre have participated in. As always, we enjoy your feedback and look forward to seeing you back in Athens!

Scholarship and Enrollment Stats

Quick Stats for the Bulldog Battalion (UGA/GGC)

Enrolled: 110
Contracted: 62 (56/6)
Average GPA: 3.17

2013 Cadet Summer Training

5 Leadership Training Camp
4 Cultural Understanding and Language Program
4 Cadet Troop Leader Training
5 Airborne/Air Assault
19 Leadership Development and Assessment Course
1 Army Medical Internships

“I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.”
UGA Army ROTC Newest Alumnus Sounds Off! – 2LT LaChance

I can honestly say that being a part of the Bulldog Battalion changed my life and has shaped me into the strong and confident person that I am today. On May 10th of this year, I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. I switched from the Air Force to the Army ROTC in the spring semester of my junior year at UGA. There was a constant struggle to catch up to my peers both physically and mentally.

Physical training in the Air Force ROTC did not even compare with the new challenges that I faced in the Army training. I was overweight my entire childhood, but I began to lose weight at the beginning of my college career. I became stagnant within the Air Force because I was not being challenged like I had been on the UGA Rowing Team. However, once I switched to the Army I was finally able to reach my 100 pound weight loss checkpoint and become more fit than I had ever imagined possible. I quickly realized the importance of physical fitness and had the drive to better myself with every PT session offered to me. I went from barely passing the APFT when I first joined to scoring a 300 or higher on almost every APFT my last year in the program.

Throughout my Army ROTC career, I had to face obstacles that had once been unfamiliar or uncomfortable to me. I had doubts about my ability to lead

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Veterans team with UGA Army ROTC to help local Hero – Larry Druffel

Local veterans, volunteers from the UGA Army ROTC, and the “Team Depot” from Athens Home Depot Store, joined members of the Purple Heart Homes (PHH) chapter in Salem, SC to begin remodeling the home of Theodis Gant. The goal is to make the home more accessible for this decorated U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran who is confined to a wheel chair.

Theodis Gant has lived most of his life in Athens. He was very athletic and a football standout in Jersey City, NJ. In 1968, at age 18, he answered the nation’s call and joined the Army. After training, Theodis was deployed to

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Bulldog Alumni –

School year 2012-2013 has come to a close and you should be really proud of your UGA ROTC program. I am proud to inform you that in March of this year, we were awarded the Douglas MacArthur award for the best ROTC program in the entire 6th Brigade. That means that of the 39 schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico – the Bulldogs were #1. It is the first time ever that UGA ROTC has won this prestigious award – and I think it speaks for the quality of both the Cadets and the Cadre that are teaching them.

I want to do a quick recap of our Spring Semester. In March we had COL Jonathan Withington (Deputy Army Public Affairs Officer at the Pentagon) be our guest speaker at our Military Ball at the UGA Conference Center. In April we had more than 35 Cadets receive awards at our annual awards ceremony. Also in April we had our 2nd Annual UGA Army ROTC Golf Tournament. While the weather did not fully cooperate – everyone still had a great time and there were a LOT of prizes handed out. In early May we commissioned 10 Cadets as new Second Lieutenants, and we were privileged to have BG(P) Joseph Caravahlo (Commander of Army Medical Research and Material Command) as our commissioning speaker. As you are reading this newsletter we are busy sending Cadets all over the world for summer training opportunities. For example: Mongolia, Romania, Paraguay, Taiwan, Fort Lewis, Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany – to name a few.

For the last two years, we have been working and fundraising extremely hard in order to start awarding our own ROTC scholarships to deserving Cadets. We

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believe that this next year we will be able to award them for the first time – but we need your help! A majority of our money we raise is from the Bulldogs Warriors 5k race in the fall and the golf tournament in the spring. These fundraisers beef up the amount of money in each of the four separate scholarships we have established:

- In honor of 1LT Ashley Henderson-Huff
- In honor of 1LT Noah Harris
- In honor of all other Bulldog Alumni who have made the ultimate sacrifice
- In honor of all Bulldog ROTC Alumni

However, we think that you can help make the amounts of these scholarships even bigger and better. Each of you can donate at any time through the UGA website. The attached PDF slides can help walk you through the process.

We want to award these scholarships at the Annual Awards ceremony in April of 2014. Each and every Alumnus is welcome to attend – we would love to have some former Bulldogs there to represent all of you.

I hope to see you all around campus and at the ROTC building. We love having you back!

LTC Kurt P. Felpel, FA

Alumnus Sounds Off

(Continued)

others. However, the Cadre would not let me quit, which caused me to try even harder and become more confident in being able to apply everything they were teaching me. I excelled at LDAC between my junior and senior year in the ROTC program. The credit for that goes solely to the instructors that our program has been lucky to have over the years. The men and women who worked for our Battalion as Cadre, while I was in the program, sincerely cared about all of the cadets and how well we all performed. After realizing that what they taught me had set me up for great success, I gained a confidence in my own abilities as a leader. I knew that I would do whatever it took to better myself as a future officer and began to imitate the qualities that I admired in the Cadre. I had the opportunity to attend and successfully complete the Winter Phase of the Army Mountain Warfare School in January of this year. I was able to face my fear of heights with little worry, and I accomplished physical feats that had once seemed impossible to me.

After I complete MP BOLC next spring I will be headed to Germany for my first duty station. I look forward to the challenges, mistakes, lessons learned, and successes ahead of me. However, my home and heart will always be with the Bulldog Battalion. GO DAWGS!

Alumni Weekend

Who: All UGA Army ROTC Alumni & Friends
What: Homecoming 2013
When: November 9, 2013
Where: Military Bldg., Athens
Why: Reconnect with the Bulldog Nation and enjoy some Georgia Football!
Vietnam where he was attached to the 25th Division (Golden Dragon) company C, 214th Regiment. From a Fire Support Base near Cu-Chi, they were airlifted by helicopter to various Landing Zones from which they searched for Viet Cong. Over the next 18 months, he was engaged in numerous firefights. On several occasions he crawled into tunnels that the Viet Cong booby-trapped and used to evade and attack U.S. soldiers.

When a fellow soldier stepped on a land mine and was killed instantly, the shrapnel from that mine injured Theodis and several comrades, all of whom were evacuated by helicopter. Theodis was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries. He was honorably discharged in 1973 and eventually found his way to Athens where his parents had relocated. Although his injury left him with a permanent limp, a subsequent accident left him in a wheelchair.

Purple Heart Homes, headquartered in Statesville, NC, was founded by veterans who earned Purple Hearts in Iraq. PHH is composed primarily of veterans with the mission to assist veterans with service related disabilities. The organization has built new homes, remodeled donated homes, and, as in this case, remodeled veterans’ homes. Any veteran who has a service related disability or who earned a purple heart and has a need, can apply for assistance at www.purplehearthomesUSA.org.

Local veterans included Brian West, USMC (fellow recipient of the Purple Heart), Ike Eidell, also a Marine, and Duane Bruno who served in the Navy. UGA Army ROTC volunteers included MSG Doug Lister, and Cadets Maychee Zah, Nicholas Snider, Jon Tiegreen, and Mathew Tran. The Team Depot volunteer is John Streb. Veterans from the Salem, SC Chapter of PHH included two who served in the USAF and two Marines one a fellow Purple Heart recipient.

“Theodis Gant is not just some older man in a wheelchair, he is a hero who served his country, deserves our respect and the right to live in dignity” said John Gallina, founder of Purple Heart Homes, when he visited Theodis in early May.

All work on this project is accomplished by volunteers. Home Depot donated the material for the initial phase, PHH is seeking funding for the remainder of the project. Anyone wishing to donate to this project may send a check to Theodis Gant Project, Purple Heart Homes, P O Box 5535, Statesville NC 28687-5535. Those who would prefer to donate paint or wood for the deck and ramp may contact Larry Druffel (864) 944-0814 or at ldruffel@gmail.com.
We Continue to Grow! Here’s How You Can Contribute!

Donating to the UGA Army ROTC program is now easier than ever. You can make your annual contributions online and continue to help our program grow!

Each and every Cadet that is a part of this program appreciates the money you contribute. Not only are the Cadets better trained and equipped through the use of your donations, but now with the development of the Alumni Funded Scholarship Program, these future leaders will also be rewarded for their efforts in the classroom, on campus, and around the community.

To donate, visit [www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift](http://www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift)

Ensure the drop down menus read as follows:

Select Unit: Miscellaneous Accounts
Select Department: Division of Armed Services
Select Account: Army ROTC General Fund

We appreciate the time you take to stay connected to the program and the donation you make towards our continued success. GO DAWGS!

Make your donation to UGA Army ROTC today!

New Program for Alumni: Volunteer to Mentor Future Leaders

The Bulldog Battalion is looking for a few good Alumni to mentor our rising Juniors and Seniors during the 2013-2014 school year. Many of our Cadets have expressed interest in learning more about what leading is like beyond the Arch and would like to correspond with leaders like you in their branches of interest.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in being a part of, please send the following information to the email address below. The priority for matching will be given to the Seniors followed by the Juniors. If you have a preference how many Cadets you would be willing to mentor, please indicate that in your email response.

Send information to:

Tamara Wright - wright@arotc.uga.edu

Name:

Rank:

Branch:

Year Graduated:

Email Address:

Brief Intro. To Cadet: (this may include any information you wish to share about your military/professional experience, etc.)

Thank you very much for your interest. All matches will be made via email at the beginning of the Fall 2013 Semester (mid-August).

GO DAWGS!