This newsletter was created for the intent of keeping you informed of the Military and VA Communities. This newsletter is also a tool to communicate events and resources both at OSU and the community at large. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in the articles are not those of the Oregon State University Veterans Advisor Office or its counterparts.

I want to encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone who is interested in receiving this newsletter on a continuous basis can sign up at http://lists.oregonstate.edu/. The name of the newsletter is “VetsNews”.

Before you launch into the other stories I thought I would share this one as a reminder of the level of service, we as veterans commit to on a daily basis.

**Jobless Vets Save Robbery Victim, Nab Suspect**

CINCINNATI -- A homeless man and another who was recently homeless are being hailed as heroes for coming to the aid of a man who was being robbed in downtown Cincinnati. Gary Wagner was being attacked at an ATM when the two men intervened and wrestled him free, police said. One of them stayed with Wagner while the other ran after the suspect and stood in front of his car until officers arrived. "I think it was a courageous and unselfish act," said Cincinnati police Capt. Gary Lee. "It's a perfect example of what can happen when the citizens and police work in partnership." The Cincinnati Enquirer reports that both men are military veterans who didn't know each other before the Monday encounter. David Hale just got off the streets, and Chad McClain -- who ran after the suspect -- is living at a shelter.


**VA Updates:**

**Students Veterans of America partnering with The HSC Foundation to power the National Veterans Center in Washington, DC**

The HSC Foundation has awarded Student Veterans of America (SVA) a grant to assume the management and operation of the National Veterans Center (NVC) starting in January 2013. The National Veterans Center is located within the National Youth Transitions Center (NYTC) in Washington, DC. SVA is an active member of the National Youth Transitions Collaborative, a group of 40 plus like-minded organizations involved in NYTC programming. SVA is also represented on the Leadership Council, the executive body of the Collaborative.

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=p7yorrca&v=0015cP8tOwYycVntt5BdmUn2KtgnyOrkFZWGQ_cGbDZ30CyKooXjIflem6rZzo4EvSOP588dKGYHKGJ0wtZ0F5VldzLCGI2AlhYDSO4tcUWsURS_E_hhxWMIQ%3D%3D

**VA fellows improve health services for U.S. veterans**

A few years ago, Emory built a pedestrian bridge to join its campus with that of the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), a university partner for more than 60 years. In 2012, those ties grew stronger with the launch of the National VA Quality Scholars Advanced Fellowship program at the Atlanta VAMC by Emory nursing and medical faculty. Now one of eight programs nationwide, the
program trains leaders who can develop new knowledge, or innovative applications of existing knowledge, to improve health care services for U.S. veterans.

http://news.emory.edu/stories/2013/01/hspub_VA_fellows/campus.html

Why Higher Education Is More Difficult For Veterans

When a high school senior is deciding which college to attend, he or she has an army of people ready to help. Parents. Guidance counselors. College admission officers. Friends. Most all of them have been through the process already. But veterans say things are different for them. And despite one of the most attractive benefits of military service is the assistance paying college tuition, vets say it can be difficult to get the advice and help they need. “It took me more than a semester to figure out my GI Bill benefits,” said Ryan Galluci, deputy legislative director with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Galluci said only 58 percent of veterans knew they were eligible for college benefits, according to a survey. Student Veterans of America hosted a conference in Orlando this week to discuss the issues and how to solve them. Among the biggest items on veterans’ wish list? That more states allow veterans access to in-state tuition rates.

http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2013/01/04/why-higher-education-is-more-difficult-for-veterans/

Veterans Bills Become Law

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, two veterans bills, H.R. 4057, the Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012, as amended, and S. 3202, the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 were signed into law by President Obama. Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs issued the following statement: “During the 112th Congress, we came together with the higher education community and the Veterans Service Organizations in our commitment to ensuring that student veterans are getting the very best out of the GI Bill. The enactment of H.R. 4057 only strengthens the educational benefits afforded America’s veterans, and will give them access to the best available information as they make life-changing decisions about higher education.


Burn Pits

Burn pits have operated widely at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan. On Jan. 10, 2013, President Obama signed a new law (218 KB, PDF) requiring VA to establish a burn pits registry for Veterans who may have been exposed to burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will announce how to sign up once the registry is available. The new registry will enhance VA’s ability to monitor the effects of exposure and keep Veterans informed about studies and treatments.

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp

Military Updates:

Entire DOD workforce faces furlough threat

About 800,000 Defense Department civilian workers still face the possibility of three-week unpaid furloughs on a rotating basis if Congress fails to deal with the coming threat of sequester in two months, Pentagon officials said Wednesday. “There could be up to 800,000 facing some kind of furlough” after the fiscal cliff deal reached by Congress on New Year’s Day put off until early March agreement on how to address more than $1 trillion in cuts mandated under the process called “sequester,” said George Little, the Pentagon’s chief spokesman.
Upcoming Events:

April 9, 2013 – Veterans Resource Day for Staff Connections Program.  
More details to follow.

Veteran Resources:

Google-SVA Scholarships  
The Google-SVA Scholarship program is focused on rewarding high caliber student veterans pursuing a degree in the Computer Science field. The goals of the Google-SVA Scholarship are to:

1. To identify high-performing student veterans in the Computer Science field, and to reward achievement and encourage further study through the scholarship program.
2. To affect the retention of student veterans in the Computer Science field by providing recognition and funds needed for university expenses, such as tuition, books and lab fees.
3. To help foster communities of students through Google sponsored events like the Annual Scholars' Retreats. The Scholars Retreat is an all-expenses paid retreat for the scholarship winners for that academic year. It provides an important networking opportunity for the top students from all over the US to meet with each other, and with Google engineers in a personable and fun environment.

http://www.studentveterans.org/?page=Google_SVA_Scholars

OSU Veterans on Facebook  
http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAtOregonStateUniversity.

OSU Veterans Website:  
http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:  
http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx

Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:  
http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx

OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:  
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-and-Family-Student-Association/25373662133527

Thank you and have a great day.

Gus L. Bedwell  
Veteran Resources Coordinator  
Oregon State University  
Office of the Dean of Student Life
Veteran Resources Coordinator Staff News Letter

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Room B102C, 102 Kerr Administration Building
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2130
Phone: 541-737-7662
Fax: 541-737-8123
Email: gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu