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 Military & Veteran Resources Office.

If you know other Student Veterans who could benefit from information in the newsletter please have them sign up for the **STUVETSNES Listserv**.

**VA Updates:**

‘Delay in treatment’ a factor in more than 100 deaths at VA centers

As controversy swirls around the Veterans Administration over deaths caused by delayed care, an investigation by the Dayton Daily News found that the VA settled many cases that appear to be related to delays in treatment. A database of paid claims by the VA since 2001 includes 167 in which the words "delay in treatment" is used in the description. The VA paid out a total of $36.4 million to settle those claims, either voluntarily or as part of a court action.....


More Information on the ‘Delay in treatment’ investigation is in the following articles.

- **New York Times:** Allegations of deaths due to delayed care have not been verified says independent IG  Mr. Griffin also indicated that the most serious allegations — that as many as 40 veterans died because of delays in treatment while they were on illicit waiting lists in Phoenix — had not been verified.

- **Navy Times:** IG preliminary results: of cases reviewed, none conclusively show that the delays contributed to their deaths  [Mr. Griffin] added that the review to date has pulled together an initial list of 17 people who experienced delays of care in Phoenix, although none conclusively show that the delays contributed to their deaths. “It’s one thing to be on a waiting list. And it’s another thing to conclude that as a result of being on the waiting list, that’s the cause of death,” Griffin said.

- **AP:** Watchdog: No proof treatment delays killed vets  “It’s one thing to be on a waiting list, and it’s another thing to conclude that as a result of being on the waiting list that’s the cause of death, depending on what your illness might have been at the beginning,” [Inspector General Richard] Griffin told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

- **Wall Street Journal:** VA Inspector General Says No Evidence Yet Linking Deaths to Wait Times  The acting inspector general for the Department of Veterans Affairs said no evidence had been found so far of patient deaths attributed to long wait times at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. “We didn’t conclude, so far, that the delay caused the death,” said Richard Griffin at a Senate hearing Thursday on the state of the VA’s health care.
Fellow Veterans and Family Members,

After 38 years in The Army, I am now honored and privileged to serve as your Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA remains committed to providing the high quality benefits you have earned and deserve.

Allegations of VA employees’ misconduct have surfaced over the last several weeks, beginning with scheduling delays at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. As I testified before Congress on May 15, I take any allegations about patient safety or employee misconduct very seriously. The reports of Veterans’ negative experiences while seeking VA care are of great personal concern to me. I fully agree with President Obama’s statement on May 21, 2014: “If these allegations prove to be true, it is dishonorable, it is disgraceful . . . .”

In response to these allegations at the Phoenix VA Medical Center and a number of other facilities, the VA Office of Inspector General is conducting a comprehensive, independent review. In addition to the IG’s independent review, I ordered the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to conduct a nationwide audit of all other major VA healthcare facilities to ensure understanding of, and compliance with, our appointment policy. That audit is being conducted now by more than two hundred senior VHA staff. All teams are independent of the facilities they are visiting. You and your families deserve to have full faith in your VA, and we intend to earn it every day.

As President Obama made clear to the American people May 21, 2014, “Every single day, there are people working in the VA who do outstanding work and put everything they’ve got into making sure that our Veterans get the care, benefits, and services that they need.” I echo that praise and commend the hard work and dedication of the vast majority of our VA employees, many of whom are Veterans themselves. Every year, dedicated employees are prepared to provide care for over 8.9 million Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Every day, VHA conducts approximately 236,000 outpatient healthcare appointments—about 85 million last year.

Since 2009, we have enrolled two million more Veterans in high-quality VA healthcare, reduced Veterans’ homelessness by 24 percent, and provided Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to more than one million student Veterans and eligible family members. We have opened up new presumptives for Veterans to receive long overdue care for exposure to Agent Orange, for combat-related PTS-D, and for Gulf War illnesses. And, we have decreased the disability claims backlog by over 50 percent in the last 14 months. We will meet our goal of eliminating the claims backlog in 2015.

Every VA medical facility is accredited by The Joint Commission, an independent, non-profit organization that ensures the quality of U.S. healthcare through intensive evaluation of more than 20,000 healthcare organizations. In 2012, The Joint Commission, recognized 19 VA hospitals as top performers, and that number increased to 32 in 2013.
Since 2004, the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey has consistently shown that, on average, Veterans who use VA healthcare award our hospitals and clinics a higher customer satisfaction score than patients give private sector hospitals. When asked if they would use a VA medical center the next time they need inpatient or outpatient care, 96 percent and 95 percent of Veterans, respectively, indicated they would. Veterans across the Nation are receiving quality care from VA. We must encourage other Veterans to seek it.

Notwithstanding these accomplishments, VA will do even better. If any allegations under review are substantiated, we will act.

As we approach our observance of Memorial Day and its special significance to our Nation, VA is re-doubling its efforts, with integrity and compassion, to earn your trust.

As President Obama said, Veterans have “done their duty, and they ask nothing more than that this country does ours—that we uphold our sacred trust to all who have served.”

And, we will.

Eric Shinseki

Military Updates:

Coming Back with Wes Moore on PBS
Coming Back with Wes Moore, a new series executive produced by best-selling author and former Army combat veteran Wes Moore, airs in three parts on consecutive Tuesdays beginning May 13, 2014, on PBS (check local listings). The three episode series tells the story of Wes Moore’s search for answers to some of the most difficult questions related to returning from war. Moore’s journey takes him into the personal lives of different soldiers as they attempt to reintegrate back into society, establish new identities, and – for many – find a new mission.

Each episode focuses on a different stage of coming home: “Coming Back” (May 13), “Fitting In” (May 20) and “Moving Forward” (May 27).

For more information and to see episodes go to this website: http://www.pbs.org/coming-back-with-wes-moore/home/

Employment Opportunities:
PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS/
VETSWORK PROGRAM

VetsWork GreenCorps
AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: VetsWork GreenCorps Member

Project Sponsor: Umatilla National Forest
http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla

Mt. Adams Institute Mission: VetsWork is a program of the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI). MAI’s mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research. Learn more at: www.mtadamsinstitute.com

Project Location: 401 W. Main St. Ukiah, OR 97880

Position Summary: This is an exciting opportunity that combines hands-on work experience and skills training in partnership with the Umatilla National Forest Service, Mt Adams Institute, and AmeriCorps (The Corps Network). Successful candidates will be enrolled in Mt. Adams Institute VetsWork GreenCorps Program and will receive USFS training in safety, chainsaw, tool use, wildland firefighting, and crew organization. Veterans will work on fuel reduction, leadership training, and exposure to fire suppression. The experience and training in the Veterans Green Corps program is designed to prepare participants for a variety of positions with the Forest Service.

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):
1. Willingness to work long hard hours in all weather conditions.
2. Repeatedly lift upwards of 50 pounds
3. Ability to use hand tools (these are often heavy tools like pulaskis, chainsaws, etc.)
4. Support the Integrated Vegetation Management by participation in fuels reduction, thinning and prescribe fire applications.
5. Participants will attend basic “Fire School” where they will receive training and certification in the following courses:
   a. I-100 – Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
b. L-180 – Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service

c. S-130 – Firefighter Training

d. S-190 – Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior

e. S-211 – Portable Pumps and Water Use

f. S-212 – Wildland Fire Chain Saws

6. Possible trail construction

7. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.

8. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.

9. Wear an MAI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements:

1. Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation. Must comply with MAI Personal and Organizational Vehicle Use Policy detailed at the end of this position description.

2. The duties of this position require that the member meet prescribed physical requirements as measured by the Work Capacity Fitness Test at the arduous level. To meet the arduous level the member must be able to walk 3 miles within 45 minutes while carrying 45 pounds.

3. The member must have the following gear or equipment:
   a. NFPA Rated Leather Work Boots (Ex: Whites Boots, Hawthorne, & Danner Brands)

4. Must not engage in any prohibited activities as outlined in the Member Service Agreement

5. Must have served in US Armed Forces, including Guard and Reserves and have a DD214 with an honorable discharge.

6. 19 to 35 years of age at beginning of service term.

7. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.

8. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.

9. Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
10. Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Register and a national FBI fingerprint check.

11. Regular and reliable attendance.

12. Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full time education awards only. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform MAI of any previous service in an AmeriCorps program, regardless of whether or not they completed the previous term(s) of service. MAI is not liable for providing an Education Award to a member if they are not eligible under the Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps guidelines.

Preferred Qualifications:
1. Natural resources management work experience
2. Demonstrated ability to work on a team
3. Experience living and working outdoors
4. First Aid and CPR
5. Demonstrated communication skills

Member Benefits Include:
1. A taxable living allowance (before taxes) of $250/week, ($5,000 for 20 week position).
2. Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of $2,114. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
3. Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
4. Low cost housing is provided for this position. Approx. $140 per month
5. Eligibility for non-competitive hiring status under the Public Lands Corps authority for 120 days after completion of the term.

Transportation Information:
1. Organizational vehicle is available for service activities.
2. Personal vehicle is recommended for non-service time.

Mt. Adams Institute Partners With Umatilla National Forest to Start a Wildlands Firefighting Training Program for Veterans.
Media contacts:

- Brendan Norman
  Executive Director
  Mt. Adams Institute
  Brendan@mtadamsinstitute.com
  509.395.3462

- Katy Gray
  Umatilla National Forest
  kathrynlgray@fs.fed.us
  541-427-5335

**Title:** Mt. Adams Institute Partners With Umatilla National Forest to Start a Wildlands Firefighting Training Program for Veterans.

**Description:** Mt. Adams Institute and the Umatilla National Forest are excited to announce a new wildlands firefighting training program for military veterans ages 19-35. The VetsWork GreenCorps program will train 17 military veterans for potential careers in wildlands firefighting and prevention.

The program entails 20 weeks of hands-on training in which participants will receive U.S. Forest Service training in safety, chainsaw, tool use, wildland firefighting, and crew organization. Veterans will work on fuel reduction, leadership training, and exposure to fire suppression. The experience and training in the VetsWork Green Corps program is designed to prepare participants for a variety of positions with the Forest Service.

"The VetsWork GreenCorps program is intended to support military veterans as they transition back into civilian life by providing them with this opportunity to explore a potential career in service to public lands and the natural resources that abound in our region", states Brendan Norman, Executive Director of the Mt. Adams Institute.

Participants will be based out of the North Fork John Day Ranger District in Ukiah, Oregon. The program begins on June 2, 2014. Interested applicants should contact the Mt. Adams Institute at recruitment@mtadamsinstitute.com or review the position description at http://www.mtadamsinstitute.com/jobs/

**About Mt. Adams Institute:** Mt. Adams Institute is a nonprofit organization serving Oregon and Washington with a mission to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research. More information about the organization
About Umatilla National Forest: The Umatilla National Forest in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington is administered from the Forest Supervisor's Office in Pendleton, Oregon and four Ranger Districts. The Forest Supervisor, assisted by a professional and technical staff, is responsible for all activities affecting the 1.4 million National Forest acres. District Rangers and their staffs accomplish on-the-ground management of forest resources. More information about the forest can be found at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla

Upcoming Events:

Everyone Matters @ OSU Pinning Ceremony – June 2, 2014
The Everyone Matters @ OSU Campaign and the Office of Equity and Inclusion is now accepting nominations for the “Everyone Matters @ OSU Advocates Award”. Please nominate staff or faculty that have exemplified the mission and principles of Everyone Matters @ OSU & the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

Everyone Matters @ OSU is a campus-wide initiative encouraging inclusivity and non-judgment of others. At Oregon State University we treat each other with civility, dignity and respect. We are a community of individuals who all have value.

An inclusive university community is achieved and sustained by seeking a diversity of people and perspectives, valuing our differences and ensuring equitable opportunities. We are guided by the interdependent principles of Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity.

Nominees will be awarded a professional Everyone Matters @OSU lapel pin in recognition to their contributions to the OSU campus community.

Pinning Ceremony:
June 2nd, 11:00-12:30pm in the MU Quad

Please submit your nominations here: https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_bdRWALumm6b5Q8D
Deadline for nominations: May 28, 2014

Nominees and nominators will be contacted with more detail about the pinning ceremony on May 30th.

Resources:

Last week to Apply for this Scholarship:
The Grateful Nation Scholarship Awarded to a Woman Who Has Served in the Armed Forces
The Zonta Service Foundation of Corvallis is accepting applications for its Grateful Nation Scholarship. This scholarship offers $2,700 per year, $900 per quarter to help cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies charged to a recipient’s account at Oregon State University-Corvallis.

CRITERIA
The Grateful Nation Scholarship will be awarded to a female OSU undergraduate or graduate student who has served in one of the armed branches of the U.S. military since September 10, 2001, and: 1) has received an honorable or general under honorable discharge from the service, 2) was assigned to a unit that deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan or was sent individually to Iraq or Afghanistan, and 3) was awarded one of the following medals:

Prior to April 30, 2005, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
After May 1, 2005, the Iraq Campaign Medal or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal
If an Air Force veteran who was not awarded one of the two above medals, has orders showing TDY (temporary duty assignment) to an assignment in Iraq or Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) or Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
OR
To a female OSU undergraduate or graduate student who has served in one of the armed branches of the U.S. military since September 10, 2001 and who has 0 percent or greater service connected for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to combat exposure or military sexual trauma
OR
To an unremarried spouse of a soldier who died while on Active Duty, weekend drill, or Annual Training since September 10, 2001.

Preference will be given to a female veteran who meets the above mentioned qualifications and: Served in a unit exposed to combat, and was decorated for the combat by a specific combat badge or award, including but not limited to:
Purple Heart
Commendation Medal with V device
Bronze Star with V device
Silver Star
Combat Action Badge
Combat Medics Badge
All medals and time in service should be verified by a DD214 or a DD215.
Selected recipients must be enrolled and attend classes at the OSU campus, and be full time (minimum of 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students) either solely at OSU, or in combination with OSU and partner courses.

Download the scholarship application

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 23, 2014.
Let’s Talk

“Let’s Talk” is a program that provides confidential consultation to Veterans and ROTC Cadets at OSU. It’s free!

This service will be available on Mondays from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Spring term weeks 2-10 in Snell Hall on the 5th Floor.

1. All Let’s Talk consults will occur in 30-minute increments (11:00, 11:30, 12:00, and 12:30).
2. Call in to 541-737-2131 to preschedule - you’ll request a Let’s Talk appointment and provide your Student ID number and first and last name to hold your appointment.
3. Arrive 5 minutes before your appointment and then talk with Beth for about 30 minutes.

The goal is to walk out with a plan and resources to address your concern.

Speaking with a counselor consultant can help provide insight, solutions, and information about other resources.

Let’s Talk is not a substitute for formal counseling and doesn’t constitute mental health treatment, but the counseling consultant can listen to your specific problems and introduce you to what it’s like to speak to a counselor.

No topic is off limits. Common concerns include:

- stress
- sadness
- worry
- relationships
- academic performance
- family problems
- financial struggles

Who should visit Let’s Talk?
Any Veteran at OSU or ROTC Cadet can come to a Let’s Talk consultation, but it’s the best fit for student veterans or cadets who:

- Aren’t sure about counseling or wonder what it’s like to talk to a counselor;
- Aren’t interested in ongoing counseling but would like the perspective of a counselor;
- Have a specific problem and would like someone with whom to talk it through; or
- Have a concern about a friend or family member and would like ideas about what to do.

Questions about Let’s Talk?

Contact Beth Wasylow, PhD, Licensed Psychologist at 541-737-2131 or Beth.Wasylow@oregonstate.edu

The Let’s Talk Program at Oregon State University is based on the Let’s Talk Program at Cornell University.

What happens at a visit to Let’s Talk?

When you two meet, the counselor consultant will listen closely to your concerns, possibly ask questions and provide, support, perspective and suggestions for resources.

How is Let’s Talk different from counseling at CAPS?

Counselors at CAPS provide ongoing counseling, which usually consists of weekly or bi-monthly 45-50 minute appointments. Let’s Talk is not formal counseling; it is a service where student veterans and cadets can have an informal consultation with a counselor consultant from time to time.

Need help with an urgent mental health crisis? CAPS offers 24-hour crisis intervention services for enrolled students or for those who are concerned about an enrolled student. If you are feeling desperate or thinking about suicide, or you’re afraid for the wellbeing of someone you know, you can call CAPS at 541-737-2131.

I think I have a problem that would benefit from counseling, but I don’t know anything about it. Would going to Let’s Talk help me figure out what to do?

Absolutely. The counselor consultant will help you talk through your issues and help you determine the best way to get help. If you feel comfortable with the counselor consultant, it is sometimes possible to meet with her at CAPS in an on-going way.

Let’s Talk visits are confidential. Are there any limits to confidentiality?

Conversations are confidential, with a few very rare exceptions. Counselors may need to share information in an emergency when there is an immediate threat of harm to self or others. Counselors are required by law to report when a minor, elderly person, or someone otherwise incapacitated and unable to act on his/her own behalf is being abused. Let’s Talk counselors keep brief written notes of their contacts with students, and in the event that there is an emergency or a student is referred to CAPS, other CAPS staff may see these notes. Finally, these notes can be released in the unlikely event of a court order.

The student veteran or cadet will co-develop and co-sign a brief record of contact.

Let’s Talk visits are never reported on a student’s official university record.

We don’t want anything to be a barrier to students accessing help. If you have further questions about confidentiality, we encourage you to discuss them with the Let’s Talk counselor consultant.
New OSU Office Hours for Benton County Veteran Service Officer (VSO).
If you are interested in accessing and applying for other VA benefits such as medical, disability, VA home loan information, etc., come see the new Benton County VSO, Mary Newman. Mary will be on campus in my office (Registrar Office) the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 1:00 to 4:00. Here is the schedule for the rest of spring term.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 15, 2014</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 5, 2014</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 19, 2014</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:00</td>
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If you are interested in an appointment please call Mary at 541-758-1595 or email Veterans@ocwcog.org.

Stuvtensnews Listserv
http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/stuvetsnews

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

OSU Veterans Resource Blog
http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/veterans/

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
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