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.

**VA and Military Updates:**

**Getting Veteran Students off the Sidelines**
The average traditional college student ranges in age from 18-22. In contrast, the matriculating student veteran ranges in ages from 22-42 with an average somewhere within the 23-27 age range. Many enter colleges and universities with some courses under their belt either online or acquired as part of education and training courses obtained during military service. As a result, most enter college skipping forward to their sophomore or junior year and missing the class-bonding period of a freshman year. [Read More](http://www.military.com/education/getting-veteran-students-off-the-sidelines.html?comp=1198882887570&rank=7)

**New VA Claims Coach App**
The American Legion has developed and launched a smartphone app to help veterans apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs for disability compensation. The "Claims Coach" app provides an applicant access to a certified Legion service officer, a resource guide, tips on working through each stage of the application, and a handy way to keep track of submitted documents. Read the full story on Military.com. [Read More](http://www.military.com/military-report/new-va-claims-coach-app?ESRC=miltrep.nl)

**Employment Opportunities:**

G.I. JOBS Announces 2013 Top 100 Military Friendly Employers ® List on MilitaryFriendly.com

New digital site allows job seekers to find their own Military Friendly Employers ® List The 10th annual list of Top 100 Military Friendly Employers® was released today on [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com), a new digital site highlighting companies with leading employment solutions for military. The list of 100 companies represents the top 2 percent of more than 5,000 eligible companies whose annual revenues exceeded $500 million.
In its 10 years, the Military Friendly Employers list has significantly increased the quality of corporate programs aimed at recruiting veterans. Since 2003, the average percentage of veterans hired by companies on the list has grown 138%, the average number of full-time military recruiters has grown 68% and military recruiting budgets have grown 268%.

http://www.militaryfriendly.com/

**Information Technology Consultant at Oregon State University**

This recruitment will be used to fill one full-time Information Technology Consultant competency level 2 position for Recreational Sports at Oregon State University. The Information Technology Consultant directs all aspects of the department’s primary database management system, RecTrac/WebTrac, as well as assists with several other information technology-based systems. Projects are varied and open ended. It is a service based position that is very collaborative with department staff, university support, vendors, and members. The individual also manages equipment associated with technology that supports the department. The Department of Recreational Sports is a place of passion, innovation, and excellence. We celebrate differences as well as shared interests, and strive to build a workplace that is welcoming, challenging, and fun. Our work is a blend of visioning and responsiveness, as we establish ourselves as leaders in the growing and evolving field of recreation. The successful candidate will be a confident and enthusiastic team member with creative ideas, an appreciation for differences, and a propensity for organization in thought and communication. We are seeking a colleague with a passion for wellness and a desire to promote healthy activity.

The position reports to the Associate Director of Facility and Business Operations.

https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/hr

**Office Specialist 2**

The Academic Success Center at Oregon State University is recruiting for one full-time Office Specialist 2 position. This position works directly with students and requires excellent customer service skills. Within the Academic Success Center, this position will work closely with Academic Coaching and University Exploratory Studies Program. Successful candidates will have excellent administrative skills, be able to work independently and lead a group, learn new technology quickly, and work well with diverse populations. Posting #0009954. Closing date is Nov. 30.

For a detailed position description and to apply:

jobs.oregonstate.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=61377

**Upcoming Events:**
Alternative Spring Break: Bond, Learn, Serve

1. COMMUNITY & CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
   - Discover the human face and human cost of land acquisition, colonization, and immigration by exploring the influx and interplay of different cultural groups in the Yakima valley by working with the Native American Reservation, Takama Nation, Latino migrant workers, and the City of Yakima. This trip will reveal the buried roots of our nation’s history and explore present and future implications for different cultural groups in the United States.
   - Estimated cost $445, includes 4 dinners

2. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & CONSERVATION
   - Discover the pressing environmental conservation and restoration issues in Ashland. Participants will complete environmental restoration projects such as creek restoration, planting, mulching, invasive species removal, fertilizing, trail building, and restoring bird habitats with a variety of community partners. Learn about the effects to the natural environmental and legislation that is impacting natural habitats and ecosystems.
   - Estimated cost $205, includes 4 dinners + breakfast

3. HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS
   - Travel to one of the nation’s greatest cities to work with multiple non-profit organizations that are addressing hunger and homelessness issues. The trip will include hands-on direct service work with people experiencing homelessness from diverse backgrounds. You will meet and work alongside local volunteers who have created programs to combat issues close to their hearts.
   - Estimated cost $435, includes 4 dinners + breakfast

For more information and to apply:
oregonstate.edu/cce/alternativespringbreaks
Deadline Monday, November 26, 2012
Contact: Julia Lang * Senn 158 * 541.737.3172

CCE
Center for Civic Engagement
Oregon State University
An alternative break is a trip that engages a group of students in volunteer service and learning, typically for a week. Alternative break trips originated with college students in the early 1980s as a counter to "traditional" spring break trips. Trips typically have a focus on a particular social issue, such as (but not limited to) poverty, hunger and homelessness, education reform, health and wellness, immigration rights, and the environment. Students learn about the social issues and perform projects with local non-profit and community-based organizations. Alternative breaks challenge students to critically think and react to problems faced by members of the communities in which they are involved (adapted from Break Away, [http://www.alternativebreaks2012.org](http://www.alternativebreaks2012.org)) The Alternative Break (AB) program enables students to immerse themselves in a new and different community to learn its historical, sociological, cultural and/or political background. Each AB experience is crafted in collaboration with community in order to explore the unique culture and social issues of a specific location. Teams of approximately ten students will spend the week of March 23rd to March 30th, 2013 on three different trips in Oregon, Washington, and California. Teams will engage in pre-trip planning and orientation meetings and post-trip debriefing and reflection, a structure that promotes continuous learning through the emphasis on critical reflection and reciprocity.

The AB experience encourages students to critically analyze their assumptions and mindsets through learning about the complexity of social problems. Being immersed in a community environment enables participants to experience, discuss, and understand social issues in a significant way. The learning occurs for students as they are asked to be willing to engage in difficult conversations, ask questions, examine their beliefs, make mistakes, and confront challenging issues. The AB program values holistic education and creates opportunities that inspire personal growth with focus on short-term relief in addition to long-term sustainable social change.

Benefits of participating in an Alternative Break:

- Engage in meaningful service to impact change related to an issue you care about
- Learn about and reflect upon the complexity and interconnectedness of social issues and problems
- Improve your leadership, critical thinking, and dialogue skills in dynamic real world scenarios
- Learn about options for continuing community engagement work upon your return to OSU
- Build meaningful relationships and a new community of civic-minded OSU students
- Travel to and learn about new places
- Learn, challenge yourself, and have fun!
- Develop an increased capacity to work across differences to build communities
- Gain valuable experience for your resume/CV
- Experience a program that will likely inform your future career path and lifestyle

More information and applications are available for download here: [http://oregonstate.edu/cce/alternativebreaks](http://oregonstate.edu/cce/alternativebreaks). Questions? Contact Julia Lang at Julia.Lang@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-3172.

**Veterans Resources:**

During one of my conversations with a student veteran, Andrew I learned something new about technology that is offered here at Oregon State. Information, I feel you might all benefit from. Here is the email Andrew sent me.

“Gus,
I was going to write something up as you requested, but I found that there's already a FAQ and instructional guide for accessing the "Umbrella" virtual computing lab. The link is http://oregonstate.edu/is/mediaservices/scf/virtual-lab and it provides a walkthrough for installing the required programs, etc. for using the virtual computer lab. It also contains some details on how to use the ONID file storage from home, via Umbrella.

Here is a link for the tutorial video, in case the instructions are confusing, but it's for Windows only, http://oregonstate.edu/helpdocs/faq/osu-computer-helpdesk-tutorial-videos#Remote%20Desktop%20Connection

For accessing the ONID Home Directory, instructions are provided at
http://oregonstate.edu/helpdocs/accounts/onid-osu-network-id/using-your-onid/your-home-directory

v/r,
Andrew"

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.

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