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The Office of Veteran Affairs at the University of Florida would like to welcome you to the April edition of our Monthly Veterans Newsletter.

-UF VA TEAM



Certification for VA benefits for 2009-2010

The new forms for requesting certification are ready. Once you have completed your summer registration, you may visit www.registrar.ufl.edu/va/forms.html for all of the appropriate forms.

If you are a dependant or a Reservist who has not served 90+ consecutive days on active duty, you may request certifications for the entire 2009-2010 academic year. If you served over 90 days on active duty, we ask that you only request certification for the Summer semesters at this time. Currently, the VA is anticipating receiving applications in May and Fall enrollment certifications in July. We will send an update about New GI Bill applications as well as a certification request form for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 at a later date.

GI Bill Benefits while Studying Abroad or as a Transient Student

If you will be participating in Study Abroad or will be a transient student during the 2009-2010 academic year, please come by the VA Office in 222 Criser Hall. We can discuss your situation with you and determine if you are eligible to receive GI Bill Benefits as well as provide you with any required forms.

Adding a Minor or Second Major?

If you will be adding a minor or a second major that will add hours to your degree program, you must have your individual program approved by the VA State Approving Office. You will need to complete VA forms in addition to the required UF forms. Please come by the VA Office in 222 Criser Hall to discuss your plans and to pick up the necessary forms.

Florida Student Scholarships for Dependents

It's that time of year again. The Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Program is once again taking applications for their 2009-2010 Scholarships for Children and Spouses of

Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers. This is a scholarship specifically for Florida residents.

For complete eligibility details, please access:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/CDDV.htm>

To complete the application, please access:

https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/ua/SAWSTUA_uaform.asp

New Scholarship Offered

The Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) recently announced it will award 10 scholarships of \$3500 for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

Each year, since 1984, MOAACC has awarded scholarships to descendants of military personnel and MOAACC members living in Brevard County. According to the website, selection is based on academics, leadership, work experiences, and extracurricular activities. This scholarship is offered to students who have completed at least 2 years in a four-year program.

For more information, check the chapter's website at www.moaacc.org, or stop by the Office of Veterans' Affairs at 222 Criser Hall.

VFW Meet and Greet Barbecue

The local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will be holding a Meet and Greet for student attending the University of Florida who are veterans of the current conflicts. The event will be held on April 2nd, 2009 at 6 pm.

The VFW is a veteran advocacy group with chapters across the country. It offers services such phone cards to military personnel and hospitalized veterans, projects to help Reserve and National Guard units, and sponsors events on patriotic holidays. The VFW also provides over \$3.4 million in scholarships and incentives to its student veteran members. VFW's Gainesville chapter, Post 2811, is seeking to attract new veterans from operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to join their organization.

VFW Post 2811 will provide free food and reasonably-priced drinks at the event. Anyone interested in the Meet and Greet should let Justin Levine know (jblevine@ufl.edu) by noon on April 2nd, so the VFW can make adequate catering arrangements.

Operation Gator Gratitude in Full Swing

Operation Gator Gratitude, sponsored by the Collegiate Veterans' Society, Omega Delta Sigma, and Gator Community Outreach, has been going on for 3 weeks now. Operation Gator Gratitude is a joint effort to put together care packages for UF students currently deployed. Suggested donations include foot powder, deodorant,

bar soap, trail mix, Gatorade powder, socks, and playing cards. An entire list of suggestions is available in the Office of Veterans' Affairs in 222 Criser Hall. The event officially wrapped up Friday 3/27, but we will continue to accept donations through the end of the Spring 2009 semester. We would like to give a special thanks to everyone who has already contributed.

Please drop off any donations at the Office of Veterans' Affairs in 222 Criser Hall. If you have any questions, stop by to request a flyer or call 392-1374, ext 7413.

Up to date New GI Bill information

We encourage all veterans attending the University of Florida to access the Question and Answer section located at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. The Department of Veterans Affairs has not yet finalized applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The UF Office of Veterans Affairs will keep you apprised of these updates as they are released by email and through our website.

Are There Other Benefits Student Veterans Are Eligible For?

Yes! The VA has many benefit programs for new veterans. For example, veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom are entitled to 5 years of free health coverage through the VA, as well as disability compensation, affordable life insurance, and a home loan guarantee. Also, the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center offers several counseling programs to assist new veterans and their significant others. In addition, the Florida State Department of Veterans Affairs has some benefits for which you may be eligible.

For more information, contact an officer in the Collegiate Veterans Society, either at the Office of Veterans Affairs or at their weekly meetings (see information below).

Student Veteran Organizations

Collegiate Veterans Society

Meeting Time: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: 1st Floor Conference Room, Tigert Hall

Contact: Justin Levine, jblevine@ufl.edu

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~veterans>

Omega Delta Sigma – Veterans Fraternity

Meeting Time: Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: ROTC Building, 2nd Floor

Contact: Andrew J Kisz, ufkisz@ufl.edu

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~omegadel>

For archived newsletters, please access: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/va/news.html>