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### **The Office of Veteran Affairs at the University of Florida**

**would like to welcome you to the November edition of our Monthly Veterans Newsletter.**

**-UF VA TEAM**



Additional information on any of these articles may be obtained at the Veterans Affairs Office in 222 Criser or by phone at (352) 392-1374, ext 7413.

### **UPDATE: New Post 9/11 GI Bill Rule Changes**

Previously the Office of Veteran Affairs notified students receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill and additional aid, such as Bright Futures and Purple Heart, that the VA would only pay the portion of their tuition and fees not covered by their other aid. Recently, the policy was modified by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and now only aid affiliated with the federal government (EXCLUDING Title-IV funding) and Department of Defense aid will reduce Post-9/11 tuition and fee payments. If you were affected by this change, the VA will pay the full amount of tuition and fees you are entitled to, and any payments already made by your other aid would be transferred to you once University Financial Services receives your tuition and fee payment from the VA. The exceptions to this would be those that receive Tuition Assistance, ROTC funding, Nurse Trainee Scholarship or any other federal government or military grant (not including Title-IV funds). We will continue to keep you informed of changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill

### **If You Still Have Not Been Paid**

As of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, about 15% of UF students that had applied for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits had begun to receive their payments. Overall, approximately 66% of all students eligible for benefits have been paid. If the delay in receiving payments has caused a problem for you, please come by our office to discuss the options that are available to assist you. If you do not receive any payment by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, please stop by or contact our office. The November 20<sup>th</sup> Tuition Deferment deadline will be enforced for all students who have received VA payment. Plans are in place to extend the deferment deadline for any VA benefit recipients who have not been paid by the November 20<sup>th</sup> deferment date.

### **Spring Certification and Expected Delays**

Due to the delays experienced in the fall term, the University of Florida Office of Veteran Affairs is highly recommending that all students receiving or planning to receive VA benefits in the Spring 2010 semester come in and complete their enrollment certification request as soon as they register for classes. Based on our experiences this fall semester, we believe processing times will be shorter if students submit their certification request as soon as they advance register. Certification forms are available online at [www.registrar.ufl.edu/VA](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/VA)

## Stop Loss Reimbursement

The Department of Defense recently announced that military service members who were ordered to serve beyond their End of Active Duty Service date under the "stop-loss" clause are eligible for reimbursement for every additional month (s)he was held due to stop-loss. For more information, please check:

<http://prhome.defense.gov/mppoepm.html>.

## Veterans Banquet

The Office of the University President has invited all military veterans to the Veterans' Day Banquet to be held at the President's House on November 10, 2009. The event will be from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, and will include a catered dinner. Guests are welcome, and uniforms are authorized. Those not wearing uniforms are asked to wear business attire.

## Are You Aware of All Your Benefits?

There are many benefits offered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs of which you may be unaware. Benefits for veterans may include free or low-cost medical coverage at VA hospitals, disability compensation, home loan guarantees, and low-cost life insurance. Dependents may be eligible for CHAMPVA health coverage, and state and private scholarships for military dependents.

## Collegiate Veterans Society (CVS) Supporting Bikers on Parade

CVS will be helping to run the annual Bikers on Parade event on November 15, 2009. It has been recently announced that this will be the final year that we hold Bikers on Parade. Bikers on Parade is a local motorcycle parade that helps raise money for local charities, including the American Red Cross, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. This year, CVS is in charge of registration, and we are pleased to announce that we have nearly doubled our volunteer numbers from last year. If you are still interested in volunteering, or would like to attend the event or request further information, please contact a CVS officer (contact information found below).

## Student Veteran Organizations

### Collegiate Veterans Society

**Meeting Time:** Fridays at 12:00 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** Meet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room at Tigert Hall. Please be on time. Normally, we meet at the Office of Veterans Affairs in 222 Criser at 11:45 and then head to Tigert Hall.

**Contact:** Justin Levine, President [jblevine@ufl.edu](mailto:jblevine@ufl.edu)

Ernesto Rancel, Vice President [enrencel@ufl.edu](mailto:enrencel@ufl.edu)

Andres Martinez-Alegria, Secretary and Treasurer [kubeenyets@ufl.edu](mailto:kubeenyets@ufl.edu)

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

### Omega Delta Sigma – Veterans Fraternity

**Meeting Time:** Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** ROTC Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Contact:** Ben R. Farias [farias1@ufl.edu](mailto:farias1@ufl.edu)

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

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