



Husky Veterans



Ignite Competition Ongoing!

The IGNITE competition is still going on and we need your help! IGNITE, a crowd funding competition sponsored by the UConn Foundation raises money for veterans programs at UConn and is supported by YOU! The goal of this competition is to encourage charitable giving among current students and recent alumni ('03-'13). Twenty organizations are competing in this year's competition for the chance to win the \$10,000 grand prize donated by alumnus David Barton '61. The competition continues till April 6th and all donations are welcome! All raised funds will go towards future veteran events and programming on campus.

To donate, please visit the link on the home page of our website: veterans.uconn.edu/donate or contact Ashley Marshall for more info.



Important Update for Faculty & Staff

We recently became aware of an issue concerning UCPEA members and faculty in AAUP who are military veterans hired between July 1984 and June 1997 and enrolled in the Alternative Retirement Plan but are now moving to the Hybrid Retirement Plan. Anyone who makes the ARP to Hybrid switch actually follows the rules for military purchase connected to the SERS time period in which they were originally hired. UCPEA's counsel has confirmed that members who are veterans hired during the specified time period prior to July 1, 1997 will receive state credit for their military service at no cost. The form will be revised, but in the meantime, veterans seeking to move to the Hybrid Plan should use the Tier 2 purchase form to "purchase" their military service. HR should have that form, but it can also be downloaded at the following link: <http://www.osc.ct.gov/rbsd/retirement/forms.html>

Once on the page, scroll down to where it says "CO-922" under "Purchasing Unit," and click on "Word Format" to download the form.

If you have more questions, please contact your Union Representative in AAUP (if faculty), or if you're an UCPEA member contact Mike White, UCPEA VP for Collective Bargaining.

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Upcoming Events:

- *Spring Career Fair: April 3rd*
- *Survey Ends: April 4th*
- *IGNITE Competition ends: April 6th*
- *Fresh Check Day: April 26th*
- *May Social and Farewell: May 1st*
- *Final Exams: May 5th—10th*

May 1st Lunch Social—Hail and Farewell!

Please come and join us for an end of year lunch social in Arjona 339 on Thursday, May 1st. This will be an opportunity to take a break from studying for finals in addition to saying farewell to our graduates! We will be congratulating our graduate assistants in the office, in addition to welcoming our new staff for next year, 2014-2015. The food will be potluck-style. We will have plenty of food, but you are welcome to bring a dish to share.

Who: All Students, Staff, and Faculty veterans

What: Lunch Social/Hail & Farewell

When: Thursday, May 1st 11am-2pm

Where: Arjona 339

Cost: Free! Please bring a dish if you desire but we will have plenty of food!

For more information or questions contact Nikki Cole at Nikki.Cole@UConn.edu or 860-486-3802.

Summer Internship Opportunities

If you, or someone you know, is majoring in Business, Actuarial Science, or other Mathematics-related field, please contact Nikki Cole at Nikki.cole@uconn.edu right away.

Our office has been receiving requests from companies in the area who are seeking student veterans, specifically in the above-mentioned majors, for paid summer internships.

There are many great summer internship opportunities available, but you will need to act right away.

Call for Applicants!

Our office is additionally looking to assist veterans seeking future careers, job placements, and internships in all majors! Our office routinely is contacted by companies looking to hire veterans or provide veterans, specifically, opportunities for training within their corporation.

We need YOU to come to us with your resume and transcript so we can work together to find you the best opportunity available.

Additionally, our staff has excellent experience at resume critiquing and development as it applies to translating military service to professional capabilities.

Come talk to [Nikki Cole](#) to learn more!

Veteran of the Month

There are over 200 faculty and staff veterans that work at the University of Connecticut and many are highly involved in supporting the veteran student population on campus. Our office is committed to recognizing not only the students but also faculty and staff that go beyond their day to day duties to support veteran students and make their time at UConn as enjoyable as possible. This month we would like to recognize one of those University Employee's as the Veteran of the Month!

We are pleased to recognize Dan Kowalchik as the March 'Veteran of the Month.' Dan is a Navy veteran that has worked at the University of Connecticut for more than 17 years in Financial Aid, the veterans financial aid office, and now in our own Veterans Affairs and Military Programs office as the benefits manager.

Dan has always gone out of his way to support and assist the veteran students at the University from financial counseling to networking support services throughout the University. We are proud to recognize Dan as the Veteran of the Month! Thank you Dan!

If you would like to nominate a veteran at UConn for 'Veteran of the Month,' please contact [Nikki Cole](#).



Graduation Cords for Veterans

Graduation Cords (Red, White, and Blue in color) are available for student veterans who are graduating. These cords are available, **at no cost**, if you served in the military, and will be going through the May 2014 Commencement Ceremony.

Please stop in at Arjona 342 and pick-up your graduation cord (Monday – Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.).

These cords commemorate your successful completion of your degree program here at UConn, as a student veteran. If you have any questions about the graduation cords, please contact Nikki Cole at Nikki.cole@uconn.edu or call (860) 486-3802.



Interested in Getting Involved?



The UConn Veterans Student Organization (VSO) is comprised of student leaders who provide fun & supportive activities and events for fellow student veterans to connect with each other. This can be a great way to meet and work with other student veterans at UConn. For the Fall semester, the VSO is planning a military themed late-night in the Student Union, a veteran speaker series, a veteran Q&A panel, as well as several social events to bring the community together.

If you are interested in being a part of the VSO for next year (2014-2015) please contact Nikki Cole at Nikki.Cole@UConn.edu

Last Chance to Participate in Survey-April 4th

Sarah Chotkowski, who is writing a thesis about racism and racial integration in the United States military as part of her Master's in Social Work at Smith College School for Social Work (Northampton, MA), is looking for your help. Specifically, Sarah is looking for veterans (people who have served, but are no longer serving in any capacity) of the U.S. Military to take her survey. A link to the survey is attached below.

The study is anonymous and participation is voluntary. If you meet eligibility criteria and are interested in participating please follow the link for more information: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/militaryracism>

This survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and will remain available online until April 4th. If you know anyone who is eligible and might be interested in participating, please feel free to pass the information along as well. Thank you in advance for your help with Sarah's research.

Bunched Finals

While finals seem a long way off, preparing for them should start today! A priority should be to ensure you DO NOT have bunched finals. Check the finals schedule for your classes as found here: http://www.registrar.uconn.edu/storrs_final_exam.pdf.

Next, check the Office of Student Services and Advocacy's site for information on bunched finals:

http://www.ossa.uconn.edu/finals_rescheduling.html.

They define bunched finals as:

1. Three exams in one calendar day
2. Four exams in two calendar days
3. Three consecutive finals over 1-2 days

Rescheduling of an exam due to bunched finals must be completed by April 25th!

Step Up for Vets

Are you in the process of applying for internships or your first job after graduation? If so, please be aware of the Step Up For Vets Program which provides an incentive Connecticut Employers to hire veterans. When a Connecticut employer of any size hires a veteran, they may be eligible to receive wage reimbursements up to \$12,000 during the first 6 months of employment.

To qualify, individuals must have been a member of the Armed Forces, and have been honorably discharged after not less than 90 days of service or earlier if separated from service due to a documented service-connected disability.

If you have more questions about Step Up for Vets program, please contact Dave Kennedy at dkennedy.ctwbs@ct.gov or at (860) 786-6321.



Offers Wage Subsidies to companies of any size that hire an unemployed Veteran

Spring Career Fair—April 3rd

The University of Connecticut Spring Career Fair is coming up! This year's Spring Fair will occur on Thursday, April 3rd in the Student Union Ballroom and feature local, state, and federal employers seeking students from all majors! A full list of reserved companies for the Spring Career Fair can be found on the [Center for Career Developments website](#).

We highly recommend you attend, even if you are not graduating this semester, to get a feel for what companies are looking for and perhaps to secure an internship! Additionally, our office is reviewing resumes and we would be thrilled to help you translate your military experience and university coursework into a stunning, marketable resume.

When: April 3rd, 11:00am—2:00pm

Where: Student Union Ballroom

Remember to come by Arjona to have your resume reviewed and see what veteran specific opportunities are available!



Norwich and New London Area Vets—Announcing the BOOTS to SUITS Mentorship Program!

We are partnering with Avery Point to publicize a new initiative for our current junior and senior veteran students who are seeking employment. This mentoring program will team you with a New London are Chamber of Commerce member for mentoring and exposure to networking events.

Please contact Martha Young at the Avery Point campus at Martha.Young@uconn.edu or 860-405-9017 to participate in the BOOTS TO SUITS program. All junior and senior vets are eligible to participate.



Summer Benefits Processing

VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

CHAPTER 31:
VOCATIONAL REHAB
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

CHAPTER 33:
POST 911 GI BILL

CHAPTER 30:
MONTGOMERY GI BILL

CHAPTER 1606:
MONTGOMERY GI BILL-
RESERVES

CHAPTER 35:
SPOUSE/DEPENDENT
EDUCATION ASSIST PROGRAM



While summer may seem a long ways away, the registration for summer courses has already opened! Those students intending to utilize their VA benefits, or the new extension of the State Veterans Tuition Waiver, should submit their paperwork to our office ASAP! This includes Form D's and other verification documents to ensure your benefits continue without a delay into the summer. It is important to note that delays in submitting your Form D to our office can result in stipend delays. As a reminder:

No advisor signature is required

Forms can be faxed/emailed in

Accuracy counts

Submit your Form D to our office in Arjona 340, through email at:

veterans@uconn.edu, or fax 860-486-5283.

Organization

OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MILITARY PROGRAMS

337 Mansfield Road
Unit 1264
Storrs, CT 06269-1264

Phone: 860-486-2442
Fax: 860-486-5283
E-mail: veterans@uconn.edu

Serving those who have served

The Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs is responsible for all benefits, events, support, and outreach for veterans at the University of Connecticut. Additionally, our office works closely with the two resident ROTC Departments on campus to support their mission of training and preparing top ranked students for leadership in the United States Army or Air Force. The University of Connecticut has a long history of support for its veterans and military members and our office seeks to build upon this.

If you or a member of the community are interested in assisting with any of our efforts, or have new ideas of your own, we encourage you to come forward and see how together we can make UConn the premier destination for veterans and service members in the United States.

Find us online:
veterans.uconn.edu

Donate at:
Veterans.uconn.edu/donate



ROTC students line up in this mid-1920s photo of the interior of Hawley Armory. Built in 1914, the Armory was used for many campus and community activities.

University Archives

Our Staff

Our staff is comprised of civilian and former service personal all focused on the mission of supporting our veteran and military population here at UConn. We encourage you to check out the web-site, veterans.uconn.edu, to learn more about all of our programs, services, and activities. Below is some of the basic contact information for our staff to provide you easy means of asking questions or clarifying points.

Director	Kris Perry
Executive Assistant	Nikki Cole
Asst. Director for Benefits	Dan Kowalchik
Veteran Services Specialist	Kevin Evringham
Senior Policy Advisor	Ashley Marshall
Main Email	veterans@uconn.edu
Main Phone	860-486-2442

