

December 2020

The Husky Vet Gazette

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Important Dates

December 8th to 13th – Reading Days

December 11th – Last day to withdraw (extended)

December 14th – Final exams begin

December 20th – Final exams end

December 23rd – Semester grades due at 4pm

January 19th – First day of Spring 2021 Classes

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Important VA Update:

Due to COVID-19, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced in April 2020 that the agency was suspending collection actions and extending the terms of current repayment agreements until December 31, 2020. In addition, VA stopped printing and mailing monthly patient statements for medical care and prescriptions as of April 6, 2020. Printing and mailing of monthly patient statements is expected to resume in January 2021.

During the month of November 2020, letters were mailed to all Veterans with account balances that include the amount owed to date. The letters reiterate to Veterans that paying on the balance is voluntary at the time of receipt. An outgoing call campaign also commenced in November which includes Revenue Operations staff reaching out to Veterans with a greater than \$3,500 copayment balance, accrued since April 2020.

Debt relief programs are available to Veterans.

Veterans can visit this website for additional information: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/pay-copay-bill/financial-hardship/>

Job Opportunities:

Are you, or someone you know looking for a job?

Connecticut's Department of Labor has resources for anyone struggling to find a job.

Veterans can contact Jon Pierce directly at Jon.Pierce@ct.gov and he assists any Veterans, especially those with major trauma, injuries, disabilities, or who are homeless. Or, Veterans can call (860) 848-5257.

Anyone who isn't a Veteran, but who is in need of assistance can call (860) 848-5200.



Leaving on Active Duty Orders?

Are you in the Guard or Reserves and you're being called up on Active Duty Orders or leaving UConn for military training?

Be sure to read through the guidance and information available on this new webpage:

<https://veterans.uconn.edu/active-duty-orders/>

This webpage includes details regarding educational benefits and steps to take when planning to return to UConn after you've fulfilled your orders.

NEW - Veterans Affinity Group

UConn's Center for Career Development has launched the Veterans Affinity Group online. What is the Veterans Affinity Group? This webpage is designed with career resources specifically for Veterans and Service Members.

Live Online at:

<https://career.uconn.edu/channels/veterans-and-service-members/>

Resources on this website include:

- blog posts on various career topics
- connect with a career coach
- articles about career development/searching
- schedule an appointment
- ideas for growing your network



Reminder – Submit Your Form D

Are you registered for classes for the Spring semester and/or for the Winter Recess?

Be sure to complete the Form D available online at <https://veterans.uconn.edu/> once you're registered for classes. This needs to be completed for each semester, so that UConn knows what benefits to certify/process.

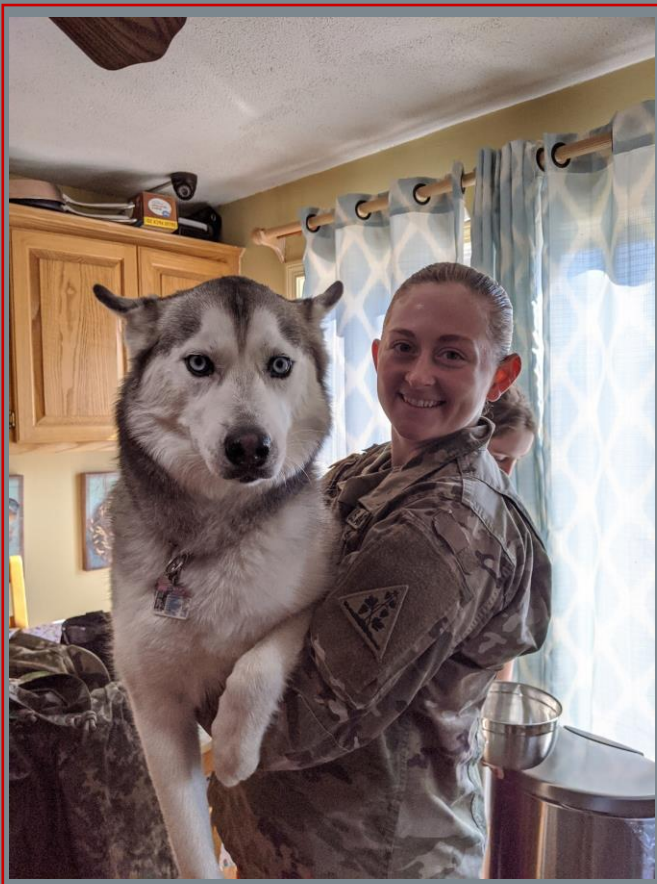
Questions? Email UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs at veterans@uconn.edu

Highlights: Veterans Day Ceremony

If you missed the Veterans Day Ceremony at UConn last month you can still view it online at:

<https://youtu.be/Mrb-zisjpc>





Veteran of the Month ***Isabel Poole***

The office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to honor Isabel Poole as UConn's Veteran of the Month. Isabel is a sergeant in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Over the summer, Isabel was called up on active duty to assist with the COVID response in Connecticut. Her unit built a field hospital at the Hartford Convention Center with over 700 beds for patients and they equipped the area with electrical sources and nurses stations and dividers to decrease cross contamination between patients.

After that, Isabel was assigned to monitor the Task Force Surgeon email, which was a full-time job, funneling questions/databases/briefs to the right people and all in a timely manner. She was responsible for creating detailed reports of every soldier/airman that was tested in the state to ensure proper documentation. The experiences were highly meaningful to Isabel, since she was put in a position to work with officers of high prestige and many years of experience which she had not had the privilege to work with before.

This Fall, Isabel has continued in this position full time while attending the University of Connecticut for her Bachelor's degree in Allied Health. She enjoys being a UConn student because of the community aspect, and the VA community more specifically. She says, "there are so many varying backgrounds and personalities, which allows for a well-rounded environment of great people; if you need help with something, there is most likely someone you can go to and trust within this community to assist you."

Isabel would advise other military-affiliated UConn students "to not be afraid to ask for help when you need it; the VA department is there for exactly that and they truly want to help you so take advantage of that because not all colleges are as lucky as this one is."

We always welcome nominations for Veteran of the Month. If you would like to nominate a student, faculty, or staff member for "Veteran of the Month," please contact Nikki Eberly at Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu with the name of the person and reasons for your nomination.