

September 2021

The Husky Vet Gazette

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Veterans FYE Class – Fall ‘21

Last Chance to sign up!!

1 Credit Course for Veterans and Military Affiliated Students

Tuesdays 1:00 – 1:50p.m. in Hawley 204 (Storrs)

Want to learn about campus resources and Veterans' benefits while interacting with a tight-knit community? Want to increase your rate of pursuit and improve your GPA? Want to learn from guest lecturers and eat free ice cream?

Contact Alyssa Kelleher at Alyssa.kelleher@uconn.edu for a permission number to sign up!

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VA Work Study

Need a little extra \$\$ while going to school?

If you are using VA Educational Benefits while attending UConn, you could be eligible for the VA Work Study program. If you're interested, please contact Ericka Washington at Ericka.Washington@uconn.edu

Top things a current student loves about VA Work Study at UConn:

Stress-free job that doesn't get in the way of my education – school comes first!

Tax-free money and you can get paid to study!

Fun work environment with people who understand the challenges of our veterans and military families.

Supportive team that offer guidance freely and want me to succeed.

Opportunity to learn about veteran and military benefits from the best in the business.

WTC Tower Challenge

When? 8:15a.m. on Sept. 9th, 2021

**Where? Sherman Family Sports Complex
(behind the Field House) - Storrs**

UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs invites you to their walk in memory of those who sacrifice their lives 20 years ago during the attacks on September 11th. We will be walking 2,071 stairs in honor of those that traversed each of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center.

This is free and no registration is required.

Questions? Email us with any of your questions at veterans@uconn.edu



Fall Office Hours & Veterans Lounges

Fall Office Hours for UConn's Veterans Affairs & Military Programs is:

8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday – Hawley 100B (Storrs)

We also have online availability Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons for Web Video Meetings. Please see our website <https://veterans.uconn.edu> for more details regarding the Web Video Meetings and for any further updates as plans may change during the semester.

Veterans Lounges will continue to remain open. We ask that all students adhere to the University's guidance regarding masks, physical distancing, and hand-washing, etc.

August 13th, our office hosted a virtual Welcome/Orientation session for new students. If you could not participate, the recording of that session is available online at:

https://kaltura.uconn.edu/media/UConn+VAMP+Orientation+%26+Welcome+8_13_2020/1_pt7s3dz4

Welcome Back!

As we start another semester, I can't help but think about how different this past year has been, and what hopes I have for this year. I'm sure many of you have similar thoughts, such as wanting to see friends you haven't seen much over the past year, wanting to keep your family and friends safe, and hoping to dive back into the challenges of school, work, service, family, and more that so many in our community balance every day.

I would be remiss to not mention the withdrawal from Afghanistan, as well as the 20th anniversary of 9/11. While the VAMP (Veterans Affairs & Military Programs) newsletter is not a place to wax poetic or make political statements, I will only say that both Afghanistan and 9/11 are interwoven with my life, have defined many things for me, and are part of who I am. I know this is the case with many of you as well. In VAMP we all see and hear you, and value not only your service, but your commitment to this nation, as well as to each other.

When I think about my hopes for this semester, most of all, I look forward to seeing all of you again, as does the whole VAMP team. Please stop by our office any time, for a cup of coffee, with questions, to get help, for study space, or just to chat.

Be Safe, Be Well, and Take Care of Each Other,

Alyssa

Alyssa Kelleher

Director

Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs

Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month and there are many resources available.

Need some tips? Go to
https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/support/bethere?utm_source=bethereforveterans.com

Save the Veterans Crisis Line Contact – call, text, or chat!!



Stand Down 2021

September 22nd & 23rd

Registration for Stand Down 2021 is now open for CT Veterans (deadline Sept. 21):

<https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Veterans-Stand-Down>

Stand Down will begin with a kickoff ceremony on September 22, 2021 at 9:00a.m. and will be broadcast live via social media from the CT Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Hill Campus. This will be followed by informational webinars on Sept. 22nd and 23rd on a variety of topics, conducted by the DVA, Federal VA, State & Federal agencies, and community providers.

Veteran of the Month: Ericka Washington

The Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to recognize Ericka Washington as UConn's Veteran of the Month. Ericka recently joined the team at UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs as an Outreach Coordinator. She is working closely with the VA Work Study program in addition to being a main liaison with the staff and students at the regional campuses to ensure military-affiliated students have the resources and tools they need at all UConn campuses. Ericka shares, "I truly enjoy working with soldiers, veterans, and their families to maximize their benefits whether they are educational or retirement based."

Ericka recently retired from the Army National Guard where she served in various positions within Human Resources, with her last assignment as the Retirement Services Officer in which she assisted soldiers and their families with retirement and benefit planning. Currently, Ericka is pursuing a Master's Degree in Psychology with concentrations in Child and Adolescent Development

and Mental Health Counseling. Her goal is to open a wellness center offering different treatment and intervention methods for children and adolescents who have experienced trauma. Ericka wants her wellness center to offer mentorship, psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, rational emotive therapy, animal assisted therapy, reiki, and floatation therapy.

Ericka advises all military-affiliated students to ask for help when needed and she understands it can be difficult for current and former military members to ask for help in a time of need. Ericka explains, "There are so many resources that are not commonly known throughout our population of students and the resources available at UConn and within our office might surprise you. We are truly here to help each veteran achieve their educational goals."

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

Fall 2021 Upcoming Events	
Aug. 30	1 st Day of Classes
Sept. 6	Labor Day – No classes
Sept. 9	WTC Tower Challenge
Sept. 13	Last day to add/drop classes
Sept. 21	Fall Career Fair (Storrs - Gampel)
Sept. 22 & 23	Stand Down
Sept. 28	Virtual Fall Career Fair

