Welcome back from the OMVS

Greetings and welcome back to campus. The OMVS has been working over the summer to plan out this year’s events and we believe that you will be pleased with what is offered. Be sure to check out the scheduled events page in this edition of MILPOP. There are no costs associated with many of our events, so please engage your “will to do” and join us. We always have several social/fun events as well as volunteer opportunities to help veterans in need.

Further, there is a WWII traveling memorial ship that is scheduled to dock in Cape Girardeau from September 29–October 3rd. More information on this exciting event can be found in this MILPOP.

You will also find information on “Engage in 8” in this edition. Engage in 8 is a concerted effort by the university to offer numerous student engagement opportunities, during the first 8 week of classes. One of the pivotal events for Engage in 8 for the OMVS is Patriot Day. We work with Campus Life to place nearly 3,000 US flags on the lawn of Academic to memorialize the fallen, due to tragic events of September 11, 2001 (Volunteer’s needed). The university also sponsors a speaker for the event. More information can be found inside.

As always, we are here to assist our military-affiliated population in any way that we can. We have “The Will to Do” when it comes to offering service to population. Do you have will to do?

What’s one of your favorite things about the OMVS?

“I like that I am able to talk to people who have had similar experiences and can relate to being a non-traditional. Also a lot of SVO members know the territory and that is useful.”

-Derek Shoemaker
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
Do you have the will to….

Engage?! Are you new to Southeast Missouri State University? Do you want to get more engaged in student activities on campus? Well SEMO has a great program at the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester called “Engage in 8”. This program allows for students to experience an array of events on campus. You can see a theatre production, join a student organization, or even go to worship. It does not matter what your nationality, sex, or type of religious background is, there is probably an event scheduled that may appeal to you!

“Engage in 8” starts Thursday, August 18th, with New Student Move-In Day. One of the more recognized events to kick off the semester is the Welcome Back Picnic, scheduled for Sunday, August 21, from 4 - 6 p.m., at the Show Me Center. Freebies from local organizations and businesses, as well as free food will be available. Please take a moment to review the events scheduled and find an event during “Engage in 8” to get involved in your Southeast community. You can find additional information about events at http://www.semo.edu/pdf/nsp_Engage_in_8.pdf.

Do you have the will to…..

Attend Patriot Day events?! This year, the OMVS and Campus Life are sponsoring Patriot Day activities to honor the victims of September 11, 2001. Two thousand nine hundred seventy-seven American flags will be on display in front of Academic Hall from September 11-12.

Also, the University has invited Mr. Byron Pitts to speak at Academic Hall Auditorium on September 12 at 7:30pm. The event is free and open to all.

Mr. Pitts is a multiple Emmy award-winning Journalist and co-anchor of ABC’s “NightLine”. He was the CBS’ lead correspondent at Ground Zero following the September 11th attacks. Please join us and support our Patriot Day events.

What is the “Do you have the will to…” campaign?

Trying to figure out why the university is hung up on the “Will to do” kick? Well here’s the official guidance:

“The Will to Do” conveys the essence of today’s Southeast students who are tenacious and enterprising, while practical and self-assured in their skills and prepared to launch extraordinary careers in an evolving workforce.

Essentially if you “have the will to do…” you can accomplish it here at Southeast.

The OMVS wholeheartedly supports the “Will to Do” campaign and will assist anyone in the development of “The Will to Do”.

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LST Memorial
325

FACTS:
- Only remaining LST out of the over 1,000 manufactured during WWII.
- The LST Memorial was a participant in the D-Day invasion, at Omaha Beach, on June 6, 1944.

MISSION
- To educate its visitors to the role of the LST in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.
- To preserve the memory of these ships and all the countless heroic men who died in battle during the service to their country.
- To bring honor to the American ship building industries that produced them, the crews who served and defended them, and those who were carried by them.

A piece of WWII-era history makes its way along the Mississippi River to Cape Girardeau this fall!

The LST Memorial 325 was a participant in the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Launched in 1942, this ship is the only remaining LST out of the over 1,000 manufactured during WWII.

The LST Memorial 325 will be available for tours at Cape Girardeau’s riverfront September 29 - October 3, 2016. More information about the LST Memorial can be found by contacting the OMVS or by visiting the following sites.

- http://www.visitcape.com/lst
- http://www.lstmemorial.org/

Volunteers Needed!

The LST Memorial 325 is a non-profit organization. The ship it operates, the LST 325, last docked in Cape Girardeau in 2003. During the time it was here, over 30,000 people traveled to our area to visit this phenomenal piece of history. Having said that, the LST Memorial 325 is certainly in need of volunteers when it docks on 29 SEP, until it departs on 3 OCT. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact the OMVS at 573-651-2263 or veterans@semo.edu.
Certifying Early Saves!

Amanda Woods

For any student utilizing VA education benefits, whether it’s your first time or you’re seventh, it really is in your best benefit to submit your VA Certification Request through your Southeast student portal as early as possible, to avoid delay in processing and payment. You can submit your VA Certification Request as early as 24 hours after you’ve been enrolled in classes. Waiting until the last couple of weeks before classes start can mean the difference between paying your entire student account up front or paying a smaller portion of your account balance, especially if you’re using CH 33: Post 9/11 or CH 31: Voc Rehab.

For students utilizing any other VA education benefit, please remember that your student account payment cannot be deferred, and you’ll need to either pay your account in full or set up an installment payment plan with Student Financial Services, so you’re not assessed a late fee and eventually dropped from classes. This also goes for any student that may be CH 33 eligible but not at the 100% payment tier.

Regardless of your VA education benefit, it’s always a good idea to keep an eye on your student account and quickly address any concerns you may have about the application of your VA education benefit to your account. Although the OMVS does work hand-in-hand with SFS, we do not have visuals on student’s financial accounts, so any account-specific questions will need to be directed to SFS at 573-651-2253. Should you have any additional questions about your VA educational entitlements, please feel free to contact the OMVS at our office, via email at veterans@semo.edu, or via phone at 573-651-2253.

Good luck to all of our military-connected students this semester!

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VA Rate of Pursuit

Trying to figure out if you’ll receive your maximum payment from the VA? Here’s some handy information when planning your schedule for the upcoming semesters.

**VA Rate of Pursuit (full-time, undergrad)**

- 4 week term = 3 credits
- 6 week term = 4 credits
- 8 week term = 6 credits
- 12 week term = 9 credits
- 16 week term = 12 credits

*Graduate is a little different, so if you have questions, contact me.*

Overlapping terms is always allowed; however, please keep in mind that any portion of the term you’re not considered full-time, you will receive a prorated payment from the VA.

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Homecoming 2015
Tips for Academic Success

David A. Smallwood, PhD

Congratulations on your decision to further your education at Southeast Missouri State University. As a former faculty member here at Southeast, and also a military veteran, I want to first state that I too was once in your “boots”, making the transition from the military to civilian/student life. I would like to also add that you are now embarking on another of life’s challenges, becoming a student after a successful military background. One of the first things you will notice is how things appear a little strange. I can assure you that you will survive as many of us before you have done. No, you will not have to deal with company runs, PT, or road marches, as they will now be replaced with courses, notebooks, homework, final exams, and our friend the Moodle system!

As a former faculty member and student advisor, I was also faced with providing tips for academic success at the university level. One can actually consider these as your method of dealing with the transition to being a student. Over time, I began to write the tips down and made copies for all veterans that visited me in my office. When asked by students how to survive and be successful, I would always remind them that a university is one very large obstacle course in which there are always new wrinkles that come about. The difference is that this obstacle course is a lot easier to manage and get through if you keep these tips handy and read over them from time to time to remind you. Remember, you can do it!!

1. Always go to class! While it may seem to be a given, there will be those mornings when you feel like sleeping in and missing class. DO NOT FALL INTO THIS TRAP or you will lose out on information.
2. Keep up with readings and assignments. Never fall so far behind that you are unable to catch up.
3. NEVER be afraid to admit if you do not understand something course-related. Go to your instructor for help, they are there to help you and actually appreciate it when students ask for it.
4. Utilize the math labs and the Writing Center on campus. You will receive one-on-one attention that will give you an advantage with your courses.
5. Try to form study groups (seek out other Veterans in your courses or students near your age-group).
6. Frequently go to your courses’ Moodle pages for any assignment changes or updates. This will also mainly be the place you will submit homework or writing assignments.
7. Ask questions in class. Remember this philosophy: The only bad question is the one that is never asked. You will not only be helping yourself by asking questions, but, also the rest of the class. Be smart and be bold.
8. Always remember that you are not facing the transition challenge alone. All students have challenges with courses and adjusting to being university students. Be confident in your abilities and bold enough to admit problems with courses to your instructor.
9. Use the Student Veterans Organization as your support system. You will immediately find a connection with other Veterans that can give you valuable advice and tips. The [Office of Military & Veterans Services'] office staff will also be able to explain resources available to you on campus.
10. Keep pushing forward and never give up. Think of the university as a continual PFT in which now a 300 score is always there every time.

Hooah and good luck on facing and overcoming your newest challenge in life as a university student. You can and will be successful and will get to walk across that stage to receive your degree.
The Student Veterans Organization (SVO) is comprised of military and military-affiliated individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families.

The SVO is a chapter of the Student Veterans of America and is a certified non-profit organization whose primary mission is to support our Veterans and their families.

**Community Service**

The SVO is trying to get more involved in the community.

As a 501c3 organization, we are required to do community service and we will keep updates for opportunities on our Facebook page.

**Newest/Upcoming**

- Check out our FB page for future SVO Transition House workdays

**Get Involved**

SVO participation and membership are simple: Come into the OMVS and talk with an SVO officer. Membership cost is $10 per semester and goes to fund a fun event for the members.

**SVO Meetings**

Our SVO meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at the OMVS (UC, Rm 302), at 1200. Please mark your calendar for the following meeting dates:

- September 14: Veterans Center @ 1200*
- October 12: Veterans Center @ 1200*

*Times and dates are subject to change. Every effort will be made to notify members of schedule changes.

Things happening in the Fall 2016 semester:

- **September 10 & 11** — United Way - United days of caring house work day
- **November 5** — Homecoming parade & pig roast
- **TBA** — SVA national convention 2017 @ Disneyland in California
- Other events to be discussed at the meetings and the SVO video to complete.
Current Events and Important Dates

August 15th: Pick Up Textbooks
Textbook Rental begins distributing rental textbooks. Please bring your student ID and class schedule to assist with the process. Textbook Rental is located in the basement of Kent Library.

August 21st: Welcome Back Picnic
Don’t miss this year’s Welcome Back Picnic! It will be held at the Show Me Center, from 4 - 6 p.m. There are freebies and food in the Show Me Center from Cape Girardeau businesses and organizations, University departments, and student organizations.

August 22nd: Fall 2016 Semester Begins
The traditional, fall semester officially begins on August 22, 2016.

August 31st: OMVS Welcome Back Brunch
After finishing the first week of the Fall 2016 Semester, the OMVS would like to invite students, faculty, and staff to join us on a back to school brunch. 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., or until food runs out.

September 10th-11th: United Way Days of Caring
Join the SVO and United Way as they work together to help with renovations on the SVO’s Veterans Transition House. Every hand will help in the process of making a home for student Veterans in need.

September 12th: Patriot Day Speaker Series
Join the SEMO community for the first speaker series of the year. Mr. Byron Pitts to speak at Academic Hall Auditorium on September 12 at 7:30pm. The event is free and open to all.

September 15: Boxed Lunches
With the first month of the fall semester completed, come join the OMVS as we host a Boxed Lunch. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., or until food runs out.

September 24th: Family Day at Ropes Course
Bring your family and enjoy a fun day at the Family Day at the Ropes Course. The course location is near the Abe Struber Track and Field complex. We will have signs up to help guide you to our location. Free food and fun will be provided! 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 29th - October 3rd: USS LST 325 Tour
The LST Memorial 325 will be available for tours at Cape Girardeau's riverfront September 29 - October 3, 2016. Local events surrounding the docking are in the works and an airplane display will be at the Cape Regional Airport.

October 5th: OMVS Open House with Boxed Lunches
The OMVS office will be turning four this year and would like you to come by and see what we have to offer. We will also be serving a complimentary boxed lunch to students, faculty, and staff in the OMVS. Hope to see you all there!

October 20th: Mid-Semester Brunch
Now that your Mid terms are completed, come join the OMVS for a mid-semester complementary brunch. Please stop by and join us from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., or until food runs out.

November 5th: Homecoming Parade & Pig Roast Tailgate
As has been tradition, the SVO and OMVS are participating in the Homecoming Parade, which will be followed by a pig roast and tailgating, just in front of Houck Stadium. All student Veterans, Service Members, and their families are invited to join in both events! We’re looking for maximum participation, so contact us for more information!

November 7th: Veterans Day Luncheon
The OMVS will be hosting its annual Veterans Day Luncheon, in appreciation of all of our Southeast Veterans, to include faculty, staff, and students! Please join us for a free lunch and short presentation.

December 9th: OMVS Splash Bash
As a means to provide our military-affiliated students with a stress-free evening before Finals Week, the OMVS is hosting its annual family pool party! Free food, games, music, and fun will be provided, so please bring the family and/or a few friends and join us at the Aquatic Center.
Farewell, CPT Mele. Welcome, CPT Branson!

For nearly the last four years, CPT Tyson Mele has been the officer in charge (OIC) of the MO Army National Guard’s Show-Me GOLD (SMG) program here at Southeast, as well as the Chair of the Military Science department. CPT Mele established SMG, during the Fall 2012 semester. Since its inception, thanks to his dedication and leadership, the program has nearly tripled in size and continues to draw prospective students to Southeast, both to obtain their academic degree, as well as learn how to become an effective leader and officer. As we all know, as with any military component, change is inevitable, and it is now time for CPT Mele to relieve his command to the incoming OIC, CPT Richard Branson. We will greatly miss CPT Mele and appreciate all the hard work and dedication he’s put in, not only in the SMG program, but also with the Southeast community, especially with the OMVS. We wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors!

The incoming OIC, CPT Richard Branson, took over leadership of the SMG program, at the beginning of August. Southeast, as well as the OMVS, already had a great working relationship with CPT Branson, as he was the MO Guard’s Education Service Officer, prior to assuming command of SMG, and worked with our office and institution on numerous occasions to assist our student Veterans with their education benefits. We believe he’ll bring a unique prospective to the program and a thorough knowledge of education benefits, which will greatly assist all candidates in the program. We warmly welcome CPT Branson to our Southeast ranks and wish him the best of luck as well!

What is Family Day at the Ropes Course About?

Have you challenged yourself lately or miss having your courage tested by the military? Well this course will! Southeast’s Ropes Course is great way to help build confidence and communication skills for people off all ages. Being anywhere from 30 to 40 feet off the ground, teams will learn to help each other out to be able to complete the course as a whole team. If you are concerned about you or your family member’s safety, don’t be. This course has a trained facilitator on hand and you are required to use ropes, harnesses, and helmets when utilizing the course. There is also a zip line and high swing available to experience, so please bring your family and come on out and join the OMVS on September 24th, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free lunch will also be provided. Please RSVP at veterans@semo.edu, so we can ensure to provide enough for everyone interested! For any additional questions, please contact the OMVS at 573-651-2263.
OMVS Military Crossword #1

Across
1. overseas "vacation"
2. OEF
3. what has to be done
4. doing what is right
5. being the best
6. started 14 June 1775
7. world’s finest
8. aim high
9. defend America’s borders

Down
1. deployed service member
2. 1% of the countries population
3. protection
4. like a dog
5. brave
6. doing for others
7. the few the proud
Office of Military and Veteran Services

The Office of Military and Veteran’s Services (OMVS) supports military and veteran students as well as their dependents in their endeavors to seek academic and personal success. The OMVS offers a myriad of services and referrals including, but not limited to, assisting transitioning service members to the academic setting, counseling and processing VA educational benefits, tuition assistance, and the transferability of military coursework. Referrals to on and off campus services to include student services, Disability Services, tutoring, counseling and Veteran Affairs services, as well as other state and federal resources and services. Their mission is to serve all military-affiliated students and their families. The OMVS is located in the University Center, room 302, and can be reached by calling (573)651-2263. The website is www.semo.edu/veterans.