Until We Meet Again...

The Office of Military & Veterans Services was created nearly five years ago, by the dedicated efforts of the Executive Staff of Southeast and the OMVS’ Director, Jeremy McBroom. Jeremy created the framework and implemented programs and policies single handedly for the first year, before the university hired another staff member to assist in providing targeted support and services to our military-affiliated population. McBroom has invested many hours into making the OMVS what it is today, and without his tenacious efforts and dedication, the office would not be as sustainable or offer the robust services that it currently does.

As some of you may know, McBroom’s duties extend outside of the university, as he is currently serving as a commissioned officer in the Army Reserves as well. Recently, McBroom has been called to military duty to ensure our country’s deploying Service Members are properly trained and prepared. During his absence, the Outreach Coordinator and VA School Certifying Official, Amanda Woods, will keep up daily operations and continue to provide the level of services and support to which our students are accustomed. However, the Office of Military & Veterans Services, along with the rest of the Southeast community, want to extend Jeremy and his family well wishes and the best of luck during this time. We will definitely miss his leadership and friendship until he returns!

If you had to pick the greatest benefit/service offered by the OMVS to the Veteran community, what would it be?

“To me, the best service [they provide] is having a place I can be around other Veterans [whom] are also working toward their degrees. It helps make the transition to student life a little bit easier, when you know people with your past experiences are enduring the same struggles and can help each other.”

-Phillip Reed
U.S. Marine Corps
If you have ever traveled by a commercial airline, you understand the process of preflight screenings and the hassle they can create, when you are trying to board your plane. TSA has the option to use their Pre-Check lanes which makes this process slightly more bearable. If you have already registered for Pre-Check, you may choose to use the accelerated lane which allows you to avoid having to remove your shoes, belts, light jackets, liquids and laptops. Recently, TSA has made this Pre-Check option more available for members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Whether you are Active Duty, former Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, or a Cadet in the U.S. Military, Naval, Coast Guard, or Air Force Academy, you can automatically qualify for the airport screening assistance without having to apply. If you wish to register for the TSA Pre-Check, all you will need is CAC (common access card). Just enter the 10-digit DoD ID number located on the back of your CAC as your known traveler number when making flight reservations or when updating your Defense Travel System profile for official travel. If you cannot find the number on the back of your CAC, it can also be found by logging on to milConnect and selecting the “My Profile” tab. You do not have to be in uniform to use the Pre-Check option, nor do you have to present your CAC as you enter the Pre-Check lane. You cannot however use your CAC to simply enter the Pre-Check lane without preregistering for the process.

Remember that this TSA Pre-Check option can be used for personal travel and official travel alike. The Pre-Check option also extends to any accompanying family members that are under the age of 12. The TSA Pre-Check option made available to U.S. Armed Forces is a great example of the gratitude this nation has for the men and women who choose to serve. If you have any more questions regarding rules and regulations for the TSA Pre-Check you can go online to [https://www.tsa.gov/travel/special-procedures/military-travelers](https://www.tsa.gov/travel/special-procedures/military-travelers).
Military Scholarships Available

Southeast is able to offer several university-endowed, military-specific scholarships! What’s better? The application process is really quite simple: all you have to do is complete the general, university-endowed scholarship application. This is available through your student portal. The application period is currently open, and is a notification on the student portal’s homepage, just before you log into your student account. The deadline for submitting an application was March 01, 2017, so the open period has expired, but we encourage you to complete the application for next year’s award when they open again in October 2017!

FASFA

If you have not yet completed the FAFSA for the 2017-2018 school year, we highly encourage you to go ahead and do so. Early completion ensures timely processing and award of financial aid.

Recognizing Veterans on Southeast’s Campus

Michelle Lang

Veterans have always held a special place in the hearts and minds of the Southeast community. There currently are several monuments on campus dedicated to our Veteran population, to include Memorial Hall (World War II), the Indochina Conflict Memorial (Vietnam War), a World War I plaque in Academic Hall, the John Rodes Roth Memorial (WWII), and two others that are dedicated to the Civil War era. However, there lacks a single monument dedicated to all Veteran Southeast alumni.

In attempt to recognize and honor Veterans from all service eras, Southeast is planning to build a monument between Memorial Hall and Academic Hall. This monument will honor all Veterans who have sacrificed their time, treasures, and talents, in an effort to protect the freedoms and liberties of this country and its citizens. The granite monument is allegedly going to be three-and-a-half feet tall by eight feet-wide. Specifics are still being discussed, but designers have envisioned the recognition of each branch of service by their respective seals, each era of wars/conflicts in which Southeast alumni have served, an inspirational inscription, dedicated flag poles for the American and Prisoner of War (POW) flags, as well as have flag pole holes for flags of all service branches, to be used for special occasions, and a bench. Construction is anticipated to be started and perhaps completed within the next two years.

Board of Regents member, Thomas Meyer, presented this endeavor to the Board of Regents, stating that no university funds will go toward helping erect this monument. In light of this, the cost of the monument will solely be funded by the generosity of donors. With the estimated cost being $100,000, a Southeast community-wide call has recently been suggested for donations. All current Southeast student Veterans, any Southeast Veteran alumni, or family or friends of Southeast alumni who wish to recognize their Veteran(s) are encouraged to donate to the construction fund. Those who are generous enough to donate will be honored with a paver stone surrounding the monument to forever memorialize the service and dedication of themselves or the special Veteran(s) in their lives. For any additional questions, please feel free to contact the OMVS at veterans@semo.edu or 573-651-2263.
S.O.S Breakfast is Back!

The Marine Corps League: CPL Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081 is hosting its annual S.O.S. Breakfast again! Each year, the Marine Corps League comes together to cook and provide a traditional breakfast, in attempts to raise money for the organization. This year’s S.O.S Breakfast is schedule for Saturday March 18, 2017, from 0600 - 1100, at the National Guard Armory in Jackson, MO. With the price of admission at only $6.00, you’ll be provided S.O.S. (sausage gravy on toast), bacon, eggs, toast, coffee, juice & more.

Even more exciting, this year, the Marine Corps League is proud to announce that all Marines eat FREE!! In order to take advantage of the free breakfast, current or former Marines, whether Active Duty or Reservists, must provide ID as proof.

If able, please stop by and help support one of our local Veteran service organizations!

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Length</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 week</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 week</td>
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<td>12 week</td>
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<td>16 week</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
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*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.
Southeast Night At Busch Stadium

Saturday, May 20th, at 6:15 P.M., Busch Stadium is hosting Southeast Night at Busch Stadium. Join hundreds of SEMO alumni, students, faculty, staff and others at Busch Stadium to watch the Cardinals take on their Western Division foes, the San Francisco Giants. Specially-priced Loge Reserve tickets are only $25.00 per ticket and available online. Tickets include vouchers for a jumbo hot dog and soft drink redeemable at most stadium concession stands. Tickets are limited, so come show your Redhawk Pride and cheer on the Cardinals as they battle the Giants! Please visit http://m.mlb.com/cardinals/tickets/info/southeast-missouri-state-university for additional information and to order your tickets!

Hoops for Heroes

Chris Williams

Hoops for Heroes is an initiative that was created by the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), in order to honor Veterans and families in the OVC community. During an academic year, SAAC members raise money to sponsor sending at least one Veteran, along with their family members, to the OVC Basketball Championship, in Nashville, Tennessee. All honorees receive a two-night hotel stay in Nashville, up to four tickets to Friday and Saturday's tournament sessions, and gas and meal gift cards.

Southeast is one of many OVC schools that participate in this initiative. Each year, the SAAC and the Office of Military and Veterans Services (OMVS) work together to select a Southeast student Veteran for the Hoops for Heroes program. The OMVS typically puts out notifications toward the end of the Fall semester, requests interested parties to submit a very brief reason as to why they should be selected, and then notifies the winner around the week of finals. The recipient must attend a home game during the Spring semester, to be officially awarded the prize, and may also be required to meet with SAAC members, so they can get to know the student Veteran, prior to the student Veteran attending and representing Southeast at the OVC Basketball Championship games.

Southeast selected Michael Council as the 2017 Hoops for Heroes recipient. Michael is a U.S. Army Veteran, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications: Multimedia Journalism with a minor in Writing: Creative Writing. He is also an active member in the Student Veterans Organization, as well as other student organizations, and actively participates in Journey Organization’s “Write Out Loud” events. Additionally, Michael is an author, writer, poet, radio personality, and composer.
**Student Veterans Organization**

**SVO Presidency:** The SVO Presidency has again changed hands as Cole Schreiner has taken the reigns as current President. Cole is a current member of the Missouri Army National Guard and is a Criminal Justice major. He brings with him a new outlook on the future of the SVO and a much needed amount of dedication and determination.

**Upcoming Events:** The primary upcoming event for the SVO will be on Saturday March 25, 2017. It is their social event for the semester and will be a day at the shooting range. The SVO had over 400 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition donated by Don Magill, a fellow student Veteran, and the plan is to expend them all. The range day will come at minimum cost of $5.00 per person—ammunition and AR-15s will be provided (but you are welcome to bring your own weapons and ammunition if you wish), as well as free lunch. The exact time and place is still to be determined; however, more information regarding this will be put out in the future, most likely on the SVO’s Facebook page and in the OMVS.

**SVO House Work Day:** The SVO house, as many know, is still in the rebuilding phase of the construction process. A tentative workday has been scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 0900 - 1200. It will be considered a light workday, with the hopes of accomplishing yard work, debris removal from storms, and general cleaning to be completed. No further workdays are currently scheduled, as we are waiting on blueprints, permits, and measurements to be taken before we can continue working on it. If you are interested in helping with the house, please contact us at the OMVS, and keep an eye out for work days that we will post on our Facebook page or announce at future meetings. DON’T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: SEMO Student Veterans Organization!

**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:

--March 8: OMVS @ 1200
--April 12: OMVS @ 1200
March 8th: Subway Boxed Lunches
With mid-terms just around the corner, come join the OMVS as we host Subway boxed lunches. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., or until food runs out.

March 18th - 19th: Lace, Lipstick n’ Lead
This event is a shooting program for Ladies. A day and a half of food and safe gun handling. One day of classroom and a half day on the range. Breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday. Handguns and ammo provided. Cost is $50. Location is Veterans Memorial Shooting Range in Benton, MO. For additional info contact(573) 545-3901 or visit https://www.facebook.com/Lace-Lipstick-n-Lead-A-shooting-program-for-ladies-580069438839935/.

March 25th: SVO Day at the Range
The SVO is planning its first ever Day at the Range for all paid SVO members. Ammunition and AR - 15s will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own weapons and ammo if desired. Time and place TBD.

March 29th: Power of Women Luncheon & Expo
The annual Power of Women Luncheon & Expo is scheduled March 29th, from 10:30 - 11:45, followed by a luncheon. Area businesses will be present to provide information and services to students, faculty, and staff. Keynote speaker is Janet Perez Eckles, a Southeast graduate, author, international speaker, and radio host. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for female students at Southeast.

April 5th: Potluck Brunch
Who doesn’t love a brunch during middle of the week? We will be providing a complementary potluck brunch from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or until food runs out), on Wednesday April 5th. Please join us!

April 8th: Workday at the SVO’s Veterans Transition House
A tentative workday has been scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 0900 - 1200. It will be considered a light workday, with the hopes of accomplishing yard work, debris removal from storms, and general cleaning to be completed.

April 15th: Easter Egg Hunt @ the Osage Centre
Join the Cape Girardeau Parks & Recreation Department at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Osage Centre. Ages 2 - 3 @ 0900. Ages 4 - 5 @ 0930. Ages 6 - 7 @ 1000. This event will be held rain or shine at the Osage Centre. Parents should only escort smaller children during the hunt if needed, and participants must provide their own basket. Don't forget to bring your camera to get a picture of your child with the Easter Bunny!

April 22nd: Family Day at the 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.

May 5th: 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 from 1730 - 2000.

May 20th: Southeast Night @ Busch Stadium
Join hundreds of SEMO alumni, students, faculty, staff and others at Busch Stadium to watch the Cardinals take on their Western Division foes, the San Francisco Giants. Specially-priced Loge Reserve tickets are only available online and include vouchers for a jumbo hot dog and soft drink redeemable at most stadium concession stands. Find tickets at http://m.mlb.com/cardinals/tickets/info/southeast-missouri-state-university.

DID YOU KNOW...
The Subway on SEMO’s main campus offers a military/Veteran discount of a free soft drink with any sandwich purchase. Must be able to provide proper military/Veteran identification.

If you are interested in submitting a story or information to the OMVS for inclusion in future newsletters, please feel free to contact the OMVS at 573-651-2263 or veterans@semo.edu.
Southeast has several of its military-affiliated students utilizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education entitlements. While most only think of Veterans utilizing these entitlements, there are actually many children and spouses of Veterans utilizing VA education entitlement programs. One of the VA education entitlement programs is Chapter 35: Dependents Education Assistance (DEA). This entitlement is reserved for spouses and dependents of Veterans whose eligible Veteran has either been deemed permanently and fully (100%) disabled by the VA, has died while on Active Duty, or passed away as a result of a service-related condition. While CH 35: DEA provides monetary stipends for assisting with educational expenses, CH 35 recipients may also be eligible for health care insurance through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veteran’s Affair (CHAMPVA).

CHAMPVA is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. It is not to be confused with TRICARE (formerly known as CHAMPUS). CHAMPVA is a Department of Veterans Affairs program, while TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for Active Duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. In some cases, a Veteran may appear to be eligible for both or either program on paper; however, if you are a military retiree, or the spouse of a Veteran who was killed in action, you are and will always be a TRICARE beneficiary and cannot choose between the two programs.

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, you cannot be eligible for TRICARE/CHAMPUS. You must fit into at least ONE of the following categories:

- The spouse or child of a Veteran who has been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by a VA regional office,
- The surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who died from a VA-rated service connected disability,
- The surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who was at the time of death rated permanently and totally disabled from a service connected disability,
- The surviving spouse or child of a military member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct (in most of these cases, these family members are eligible for TRICARE, not CHAMPVA).

CHAMPVA also meets the minimum standards and requirements of healthcare coverage, under the Affordable Care Act. For any additional information, including the first steps taken to apply for CHAMPVA, please visit www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/318.
SEMO Buildings
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.