

MIZZOU MILITARY AND VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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Please contact Robert Ross at veterans@missouri.edu with any questions regarding the newsletter.

PATRIOT DAY

MU commemorated Patriot Day with a gathering on the Francis Quadrangle where local first responders, veterans and the MU ROTC were joined by UM System President and MU Chancellor Mun Choi for a socially-distanced moment of remembrance.

As American flags hung from the columns, Choi laid a wreath near the MU Columns. At 9:30 a.m., the bell in Switzler Hall rang 19 times in recognition of the 19th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

This excerpt was taken from a larger story posted on the Show Me Mizzou website. To read that story, click [here](#).



COVID-19 IMPACTS ON VETERANS AND GI BILL® STUDENT VETERAN AND DEPENDENT RECIPIENTS

The VA will continue providing the same level of education benefits to students having to take courses online due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. According to the VA, if your school converts from an approved residence training course to online training for that course (distance learning) due to COVID-19, your benefits will not change. However, the law only authorizes this special authority through Dec. 21, 2020, or until your school resumes normal operations. Whichever comes first in time.

Post-9/11 GI Bill students whose schools convert to online programs from previously approved resident programs will not see reduced monthly housing payments. Current and new beneficiaries can receive the resident housing rate when in school until Dec. 21, 2020. Whichever comes first in time.

Note: Other types of changes to your enrollment status (for example, dropping a class results in a reduced rate of pursuit) may affect payments.

The VA has activated **emergency management coordination cell (EMCC)**, and have started clinical screenings at all VA facilities. [Learn about VA's public health response here.](#)

The VA offers diagnostic testing for Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care and meet the [CDC testing criteria](#). At this time, The VA is not charging a copay for testing. **For your safety, please don't go in person to a VA health care facility without an appointment.**

- The VA has a page of frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and resources for veterans at <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/>.
- For student veterans looking for more information about COVID-19 and educational benefits, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/COVID19EducationBenefits.asp>.

THE VETERANS WELLNESS CLINIC AND RESOURCES LIST

The **Veterans Wellness Center** at Mizzou provides veterans with clinical mental health services and referrals to other resources. The center is located in the MU School of Law Veterans Clinic in Hulston Hall. Veterans on and off campus can work with VA specialists on mental health needs and help with case management and enrollment assistance.

"The services of the Wellness Center are designed to make healthcare, including mental healthcare, a top priority for Tiger veterans," Angela Drake, the director of the Veterans Clinic, said. "Any veteran who is a student, faculty or staff can take advantage of this free service provided by Truman VA. We are very lucky to be working with a compassionate and caring VA medical center right here in Columbia."

The Veterans Wellness Center would typically provide enrollment for VA health care services on site, as well as behavioral health services. However, this has been postponed. If veterans wish to enroll, they can call 573-814-6535 and they can get enrolled over the phone. Veterans can also utilize the VA Video Connect for behavioral health services, if needed.

Veterans can call the facility at **573-814-6393** or call Randall Rogers directly at **573-814-6278** to set up VA Video Connect appointments.

- **To get information about your VA Benefits:** You can obtain this information directly from the VA by one of these methods: You can submit your request by e-mail to the VA through the *Ask A Question* link on <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov>, or contact a benefits representative at 1-800-827-1000 Monday-Friday.
 - The VA has a list of helpful apps related to mental health [located here](#), as well as a [page dedicated to maintaining and enhancing your mental health and wellbeing](#) at this time.
- **MU Student Veterans Resource and Support Center**
 - veterans@missouri.edu.
- **Columbia Vet Center** 4040 Rangeline Street Suite 105 Columbia, MO.
 - 573-814-6206
- **Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital** 800 Hospital Drive Columbia, MO.
 - 573-814-6000 main number
 - 573-814-6486 number for mental health services

- **Veterans Crisis Line:** For immediate, free crisis counseling please contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Serves all veterans, all service members, National Guard and Reserves, as well as military family and friends.
 - 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 for main number
 - Text 838255 for the text chat
 - 1-800-799-4889 support for deaf and hard of hearing
 - Chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>.
- The [MU Psychological Services Clinic](#) is offering remote therapy for anyone who wants help coping with stress and anxiety.
- You can also take a [Mental Health Assessment Online Screening](#) or visit [Ask Listen Refer](#).
- Visit stufftodo.missouri.edu to access regular guided yoga and meditation sessions.
- University employees can access the [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP), which provides counseling services and occupational stress programs.
- Employees may also choose to connect with a provider from the comfort of their homes with the [behavioral health services](#) available through university insurance.

NEW MSVA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND PRESIDENT KYLE ANDREWS

The Mizzou Student Veterans Association has a new executive board for the Fall 2020 semester and the new president is Kyle Andrews.

Andrews is an undergraduate student at Mizzou studying biochemistry.

Before coming to MU, Andrews was in the U.S. Marine Corps for four and a half years. He served as a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) specialist. Andrews experienced worldwide deployments in his role, as well as different leadership roles.

"I grew up around the Marine Corps, so it was almost like a call home," Andrews said. His father also served in the Marine Corps.

Now, Andrews is looking forward to getting more students involved in the MSVA and spreading awareness.

"One of the things I'm really focused on is getting more people involved. I want people to know who we are," he said. "We are striving to promote veteran involvement and the positive things veterans are doing on campus, and that's really important."

The student veteran community on campus has a strong bond and is unified through common experience with other veterans all over the world.

"Veterans have connections all over the world, and we are really just a tight-knit community," Andrews said. "If anyone would ever need anything anywhere, I or someone I know would help them out."

Andrews says that the Mizzou Student Veterans Association is an extremely valuable resource that has helped him while he's been in college.

"The Mizzou Student Veterans Association will always be there, too," Andrews said. "They are always extremely knowledgeable and caring about what vets are experiencing."



Andrews looks forward to leading the MSVA this year along with the other members of the MSVA executive board.

Along with Andrews, the MSVA executive board includes—

- **President- Kyle Andrews**
- **Vice President- Christian McKinzie**
- **Treasurer- Andrew Barton**
- **Secretary- Nigelle Cochran**

NEW MU ARMY ROTC PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE- TARA BRADLEY

LTC Tara Bradley is the new MU Army ROTC professor of military science. She officially took over the role last month.

Bradley is now a department chair for the Department of Military Science and Leadership and is the primary instructor for the senior cadet members of the Army ROTC program. She also manages University curriculum for the minor in military science and leadership.

Bradley was commissioned from the ROTC herself to start her career in the Army.

“Because of my ROTC experience, I thought I could potentially provide some purpose and direction,” Bradley said. “I also wanted to give back to the cadets the way my own cadre did to me when I went through the program.”

Bradley is an Army military police officer with experience in law enforcement, security operations, and operational planning. Her overseas experience includes multiple combat deployments to Iraq, serving in host nation partnership roles, intelligence support roles and operations execution.

Before her new role as MU Army ROTC leader, Bradley was the chief of operations for a 78-person team at Fort Leavenworth. This role helped develop and prepare her teaching skills to instruct MU cadets.

Bradley is especially grateful for the opportunity to teach senior cadets and work with them on an individual basis.

“Working with cadets one-on-one on their leadership and communication skills is really important, and being able to restructure a lab for a cadet who has alternative requirements is a great thing that I’m happy to do,” Bradley said. “There’s so much freedom to tailor their educational experience.”

Bradley’s cadets have maintained an optimistic outlook, even with the number of COVID-19-related setbacks.



"We've maintained a flexible mindset. Flexibility is instilled in soldiers and leaders, and cadets are just learning that a year ahead of their post-graduate experience," Bradley said. "All of the cadets have been adaptable."

Moving forward, she says the one thing she hopes to achieve with her cadets is teaching them the value of service and humility.

"Ideally, they are better citizens with a service-minded nature when they are done with the program," Bradley said. "No matter what they do in terms of their military journey, being service minded and caring for other human beings is what I want my cadets to take away from this."

A NEW CO-CHAIR OF THE MU CHANCELLOR'S MILITARY AND VETERANS STANDING COMMITTEE- CHRISTINE HOLT



Christine Holt is a new member of the MU Chancellor's Military and Veterans Standing Committee. She also serves as co-chair.

Holt's involvement with Mizzou began in 2015, studying leadership under the guidance of former Provost and interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes. At the end of her fellowship year, she began as her role as Associate Provost which she held until 2018.

Holt has been serving as Chief of Staff since then, and also took on the role of Interim Chief Diversity Officer for the UM system in 2019.

Spreading awareness of the student veteran community at Mizzou is very important to Holt.

"I am extremely humbled by the service that our veterans have given to this country," she said. "I am passionate about giving back to the community because they've given so much to us, and I see it as an opportunity to help student veterans navigate their

educational journey."

When Holt served as the interim dean of students at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), she provided oversight for the unit responsible for certifying students veterans' G.I. Bill® benefits. That's when she got to know student veterans on a personal level.

Holt knows she is going to learn a lot in her new role.

"I'm looking forward to learning about student veterans' needs and how we can support them," Holt said. "I just see this as a great opportunity to help those who have done so much for this country, and I am very privileged to do so."