

MIZZOU MILITARY AND VETERANS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 EDITION

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

MIZZOU CELEBRATES EXPECTED DECEMBER GRADUATES

“Celebrating student success is an important factor in the higher education continuum and graduation is the final measure of success,” said Robert Ross, director of the MU Student Veterans Resource & Support Center.

“As Mizzou honors its December 2020 graduates, there will be about 30 graduates who are student veterans and military service members who chose Mizzou as their home for their higher education goals,” Ross said.

Prior to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, student veterans and military service members were honored at a graduation reception. During the reception, veterans and military service members receive two gifts that honor their success at Mizzou and distinguish them from other graduates: a graduation stole and a military-style challenge coin.



These gifts and the reception resulted from a four-way collaboration between the Campus Activities Programming Board (CAPB), the Mizzou Student Veterans Association (MSVA), the Mizzou Military Veterans Alumni Association (MMVAA) and the Student Veterans Resource & Support Center.

The graduation stoles are provided by the MMVAA and are symbolic of the life-long connection the new graduates have with alumni who are important members of the Mizzou family. The MMVAA Board of Directors previously voted to provide funding for the graduation stoles.

Jim Musgraves, MMVAA President and retired U.S. Navy Commander, congratulates all graduating student veterans.

“I believe student veterans are the beginning of our nation’s future,” Musgraves said. “That future is a bright one and the solutions to the problems and challenges our nation faces now, and will face as time winds on, start with education. The solutions start with you. Thank you for your service to our great nation and congratulations on your graduation!”



The challenge coins are gifts from the MSVA. The military challenge coin is a gift to someone that symbolizes membership in a group. In this case, permanent membership in the MSVA.

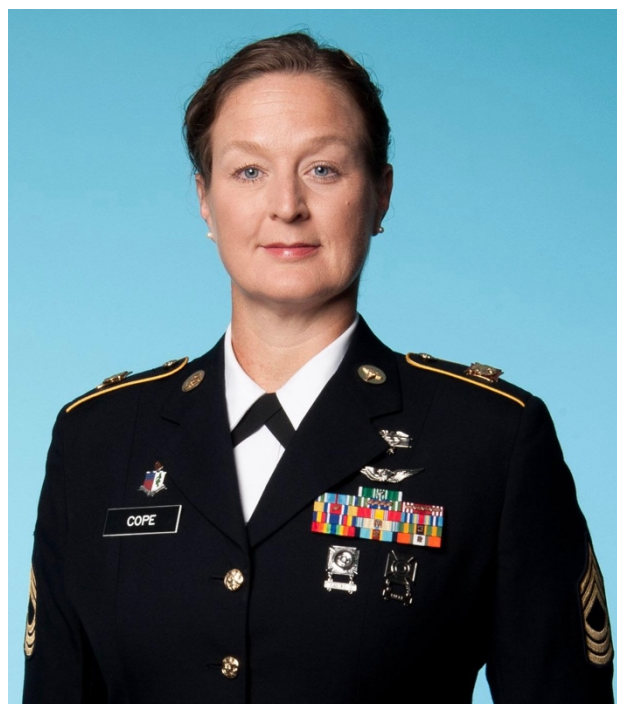
Kyle Andrews, MSVA President and U.S. Marine Corps veteran, realizes the impact student veterans have made this year.

“These last few months have been not only challenging, but eye-opening,” Andrews said. “You have not only demonstrated your ability to adapt and overcome, but you also displayed perseverance in meeting and exceeding your goals. your persistent pursuit of excellence and reception of peers will be translated to your next endeavors. The experiences you have gained here at Mizzou will forever be engrained in your memory and will create a lasting impact for others to emulate.”

The MU Student Veterans Resource & Support Center has reached out to those students listed as expected graduates for the fall semester. There are two options for receiving these gifts. One option is to visit the MU Student Veterans Resource & Support Center, N-5 Memorial Student Union, during regular business hours. The other option is to provide your name, address and service branch to veterans@missouri.edu (Attn: Robert Ross) and include December 2020 graduation in the subject line.

Congratulations to all December 2020 veterans and service members.

GRADUATING STUDENT VETERAN PROFILES



Nicole Cope is receiving a master's degree in public health through the MU School of Health Professions.

Cope is a Master Sergeant in the Army Medical Corps. She has been serving for over 23 years.

She recently completed a public health internship with the Missouri Immunization Coalition (MIC) this summer. After finishing her work as an intern, she was offered a position as its first executive director. She plans on continuing work for the coalition after graduation.

Cope received a bachelor's degree in Biology with minors in nutrition science and psychology from MU in 2015. After that, she deployed with the Army Reserve Medical Core.

Her medical team deployed to Central America, where Cope worked with underserved communities in

Honduras.

"During that deployment, we provided healthcare to communities that didn't have basic necessities like running water," she said. "That deployment was life changing and opened my eyes to the field of public health."

When Cope returned to the United States, she applied for graduate school and began her master's degree in public health.

Cope was one of the first student veterans involved in the Mizzou Student Veterans Association. She says the student veteran community on campus and MU's resources for veterans have helped her immensely.

Adjusting to the classroom as a military veteran can be extremely difficult at first, and without the MSVA the experience would have been exponentially more difficult," Cope said. "Some of my closest friends are ones that I made in that organization."

Cope is a recipient of the Missouri Returning Heroes' (MRH) Education Act, which provides an education benefit for eligible combat veterans. The law limits some charges for undergraduate and graduate students.

“Without the MRH Act and the support of the MSVA and the Student Veterans Resource & Support Center, I would not have been able to finish my bachelor’s or my master’s degree,” Cope said.

Cope looks forward to graduation and continuing her work with the Missouri Immunization Coalition.

GRADUATING STUDENT VETERANS PROFILES

Nicholas Kumburis is currently enrolled in the Crosby MBA graduate program in the Trulaske College of Business. He is an active duty U.S. Army Reserve Transportation/Logistics Officer who has been serving since 2013.

Kumburis always knew he wanted to serve.

“Almost every family member since my great great Grandfather has served in the military,” Kumburis said. “I feel it is my duty as an American to serve my country. “

During his service Kumburis has served one deployment and is currently slotted as a plans officer with the 18th Airborne Corps, which is headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Kumburis has many organizations and people to thank for supporting him while at Mizzou.

“As a student veteran everyone has been very helpful through my transition into the university, both during my break to deploy with my unit and the transition back from deployment,” he said. “Keith Herdzina, Ryan Murray, the Graduate Programs Office, MBA professors and the Student Veterans Resource & Support Center have all been supportive throughout my time with the Crosby MBA program.”

As for plans post-graduation plans, Kumburis has accepted a full time offer with Deloitte Consulting in Arlington, VA.



Krystal Saverse is graduating with bachelor’s of science in Geography. She is emphasizing in Geographic Information Science and Systems (GIS).

Saverse is currently serving in the National Guard, which she joined in 2008, while she was still in high school.

“I knew that the National Guard would provide me freedom and experience, so I decided to join,” Saverse said. “I also knew that I could eventually go back to school for my education, which was something I wanted.”

Saverse decided to come to Mizzou after researching the programs and the Student Veterans Resource & Support Center.

"I knew I was going to get the support and education I needed and was hoping for," Saverse said. "I knew the vet center would always be there for me."

As for the future, Saverse's National Guard unit is set to deploy in 2022. Saverse also wishes to eventually return to MU for graduate school.

EXPECTED STUDENT VETERAN GRADUATES

Felipe Costa
Cortez Dorsey
Tanner Hawkes
Daniel Lamm
Brandon Rose
Branden White
Adrian Ramon
John Barry
Mariah Best
Steven Todd
Bernadette Cizin
Kara Clovis
Nameri Conteh
Nicole Cope

Morgan Hendrix
Julie Landrum
Austin Orton
Austin Rucker
Krystal Saverse
Austin Simmons
Brent Tegerdine
Nicholas Kumburis
Frederick Wilson
Larry Staggs
Holli Beisswenger
Thomas Gilchrist
Julie Cox
Timothy O'Sullivan

Congratulations to all of the expected Fall student veteran graduates for all of your hard work and the accomplishments you have made during your time at Mizzou.

THE VETERANS WELLNESS CENTER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

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.

If Veterans wish to enroll for VA health services, they can call 573-814-6535 and 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 page dedicated to maintaining your mental health at this time.
<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/coronavirus/index.asp>.
- **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>.

TWITTER ACCOUNT

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ON TWITTER**

**You can now follow the
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Support Center on Twitter.**

**Follow for updates related to
veterans news!**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MU STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE & SUPPORT CENTER

*HAPPY
HOLIDAYS*

FROM THE THE MU STUDENT
VETERANS RESOURCE &
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