

MIZZOU MILITARY AND VETERANS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021 EDITION

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is a month-long celebration to acknowledge women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987.

For our March newsletter, we are celebrating the accomplishments and service of some of the University of Missouri's female military veterans.

APRIL LANGLEY



April Langley is a U.S. Army veteran and Chair of the Department of Black Studies. She also is currently the Interim Chair of the Department of English.

Langley joined the Army in 1978 and served most of her career at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, as a cartographer (map maker). She also had a secondary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) as a chaplain's assistant. Langley received an Army Commendation Medal for training and graduated first academically (and second overall) in the Primary Leadership Academy.

"Many things bring me pride about my work in the military, and one of them was that I was in the first male/female basic training unit at Fort McClellan, Alabama," Langley said. "I am also proud that, as a woman, I was able to survive rigorous training, both physically and intellectually, and graduated from the Defense Mapping School alongside engineers, when I was only a high school graduate."

While she is proud of her service, Langley will never forget the inequity among genders she experienced while serving active duty.

"I can recall hearing some really disparaging remarks and other gender biases and enduring blatant gender attacks and racial micro-aggressions while serving," Langley said. "However, I'm proud that I survived, that I worked to prove myself and when I completed my tour of duty, I could be proud of my contribution to my country."

Langley says her experience in the military prepared her for adult life. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English from Mills College and attended the University of Notre Dame for her graduate studies. She received her PhD in English in 2003.

"My experiences in the Army taught me that I could survive anything, if only I just didn't quit, and I'm proud of what I learned about myself and others — and it follows me, a first generation, black woman at a PWI in conferences and on podiums and sometimes navigating spaces and places where others might say I don't belong," Langley said. "My military training taught me to keep working, to keep striving, until I was convinced that I belong and my presence is necessary."

ALEXANDRIA LEWIS

Alexandria Lewis is a U.S. Army veteran and assistant teaching professor in the MU School of Health Professions and social work.

Lewis joined the Army in 1993, and served in the Army band, also known as the infantry band.

“I was a flute/piccolo player,” Lewis said. “One of my responsibilities included driving a bus to event locations to perform. I earned the Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver-W Bar from this role.”

While serving, she also received the Fort Rucker, Alabama, Soldier of the Month and Soldier of the Quarter. Another accomplishment that Lewis is proud of is her promotion to Sergeant (E-5).

“To become eligible to be placed on the promotion list for E-5, I had to complete a four-week residential primary leadership development course,” Lewis said. “The last week of the training involved land navigation. If a soldier failed land navigation, they failed the entire course. I am especially proud of my success with land navigation, being a flutist!”

Lewis worked extensively in nursing home facilities with a degree in social work prior to joining MU’s social work faculty in 2015.

In her role as an assistant teaching professor, she has received the 2016 Excellence in Teaching with Technology for Graduate/Professional Teaching from the MU Educational Technologies. Her educational background includes receiving her BSW from Central Missouri State University, followed by her MSW from the University of Missouri.

Lewis’ focus area is educational technology and online learning as it relates to social work. She has graduate-level education in online education through the MU School of Information Science & Learning Technologies (SISLT). Lewis earned an Educational Specialist degree (EdS) with an emphasis in Educational Technology in 2016.

“My professional history has been a journey with many pathways that led me to my teaching position,” Lewis said. “I am proud to be an educator.”



The Missouri Student Veterans Association, MSVA, is currently trying to start a MU Women’s Veterans organization on the Mizzou campus. If you are interested in joining or would like to help, contact Robert Ross at rossrob@umsystem.edu.

VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Nigelle Cochran is a U.S. Army veteran and 2020-2021 Lee Henson scholar. The Lee Henson scholarship fund was created by family members and friends to honor Lee Henson (1940 – 2013) who was MU's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator.

Cochran says that receiving the scholarship is an honor.

“One of my biggest values is that of service that extends to my community,” Cochran said. “Mr. Lee Henson, per my knowledge, was a man who also was committed to service to the community. He spent countless years advocating on behalf of students and working to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and he was a huge advocate for veterans. To receive an award in memory of such a person is a great honor.”

Cochran joined the military from a family of service. Her father, brother and grandfather served active military duty, and each one taught her about the importance of service. Cochran believes that her military experience has significantly impacted her as a person.

“I really value my military experience because it has cemented my character and the way I approach others,” Cochran said. “The military has taught me how to be efficient in all that I do, to be confident in my abilities, and it has taught me how to handle criticism so that I'm not personally upset or offended. These qualities have been beneficial to my success and survival as a graduate student, and I suspect will be very useful in my future endeavors.”

Cochran is currently a graduate student pursuing a doctorate in English.

Scholarships for Veterans

- For more information regarding the following scholarships, visit <https://veterans.missouri.edu/scholarships/>.

US Bank Scholarship Fund

- Applications are currently being accepted for the annual Missouri Unions/US Bank Scholarship fund. The submission deadline is March 31. Scholarships designated for the MU Student Veterans Resource & Support Center will be awarded to student veterans and military students currently enrolled at Mizzou.
- The Missouri Student Unions/US Bank Scholarship Fund was established in 2010, with the opening of a US Bank branch in the MU Student Center. The scholarships are intended to recognize outstanding MU students from distinct backgrounds and unique experiences. These scholarships are awarded at the end of the spring semester. A recognition banquet is scheduled for the beginning of the fall semester to recognize annual winners.
- The scholarship application is available at the following link: <https://unions.missouri.edu/sites/default/files/USBankScholarship2020VeteransCenter.pdf>
- Please return completed applications to the MU Student Veterans Resource & Support Center, N-5 Memorial Student Union no later than the March 31 deadline. You also can email all materials to rossrob@umsystem.edu.

Heart of America Patriot Foundation

<https://hoapf.org/mission-statement>

- The Heart of America Patriot Foundation scholarship aims to empower veterans through grants at colleges. These grants ease the “warrior-to-worker” transition, enabling men and women to succeed in their new role as valuable members of our civilian community.

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS

- Any enrolled military veteran, who also is a student, first responder or essential worker, is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Currently, those who qualify as a first responder or essential worker include health care personnel, fire fighters, emergency management systems (EMS) personnel, law enforcement personnel, teachers, bus drivers, U.S. Postal Service workers, utility workers, and food and agricultural workers. Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital also is including student veterans.
- To be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination through Truman VA, a veteran must be enrolled in VA health care. If a veteran is not sure of his/her eligibility status, the veteran should call (573) 814-6535 to enroll by telephone. Once eligible, the veteran must inform the clerk that he/she is a first responder or essential worker so that a vaccination appointment can be made at Truman VA, located at 800 Hospital Dr., Columbia, Missouri.
- If a veteran, who also is a first responder or essential worker, is already eligible and enrolled in VA health care, the veteran can call (573) 814-6000, extension 54300, to make an appointment to be vaccinated. The enrolled veteran must inform the clerk that he/she also is a student veteran, first responder or essential worker to be scheduled for a vaccine appointment.
- Truman VA also is offering any enrolled veteran, age 75 or older, an opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Qualified veterans should call (573) 814-6000, extension 54300, to make an appointment to be vaccinated. The veteran must inform the clerk that he/she is 75 years old or older to be scheduled for a vaccine appointment.
- If you have questions regarding this information, contact **Heather B. Brown** at (573) 814-6393.

APPLY FOR SALUTE VETERANS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society is an academic organization that recognizes student veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve members who have displayed outstanding performance in the classroom. Members are eligible for national scholarships and can nominate representatives to the SALUTE National Advisory Committee.

Interested student veterans, military students, National Guard members and Reservists can visit: <https://missouri.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/282746> for more details and/or to apply.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. March 19, 2021.

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

FOLLOW @MIZZOUVETERANS ON TWITTER

**You can now follow the
Student Veterans Resource &
Support Center on Twitter.**

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

