

The Office of Veteran Affairs at the University of Florida would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Monthly Veterans Newsletter. In our newsletters we will be highlighting changes in the GI Bill, VA Hospital updates and other valuable information for our student veterans.

-UF VA TEAM



New GI Bill

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or "New GI Bill" has been enacted into law.

What does the Post-9/11 GI Bill cover?

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

If you are also eligible for chapter 30, 1606 or 1607, you may be eligible to pursue training for on-the-job training, apprenticeship, correspondence, flight and preparatory courses under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Refer to, http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH33/CH33_Pamphlet.pdf

Video Games – Effective Therapy

VA Medical Centers are using new therapy techniques to target younger patients coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. The popular gaming system Wii is gaining popularity around the nation to help veterans recover from various injuries.

Wii analytical games help improve attention and memory for veterans suffering from TBI. SPC Eric Rich, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, says "I don't have to listen to nobody, I can move at my own pace,

sit there and just look and stare. And basically figure it out by myself." For more information, <http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/amervet/>

TBI and ALS Announcements

September 23, 2008

Increased Compensation Possible for Some Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced changes in the way VA will evaluate traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and burn scars for purposes of determining the appropriate level of compensation veterans receive for these injuries. "These important regulatory changes will allow VA decision-makers to better assess the consequences of these injuries and ensure veterans are properly compensated for their residual effects," stated Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. VA has revised the Disability Rating Schedule in light of current scientific and medical knowledge in order to provide VA employees with more detailed and up-to-date criteria for evaluating and compensating veterans with these injuries. For more information, <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1582>

Student Veteran Organizations

Collegiate Veterans Society

Meeting Time: Friday at 11:00 am

Meeting Place: Turlington 2341

Contact: Dan Wojcik, danshadow@ufl.edu

Current Projects Include:

- The Veterans Memorial Fountain
- Scooters on Parade
- Changing the New GI Bill to 4 years
- Veterans Bridge Scholarship

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~veterans>

Omega Delta Sigma –Veterans Fraternity

Meeting Time: Sunday at 7:30 pm

Meeting Place: 3725 SW 3rd Place Gainesville FL, 32603

Contact: Andrew J Kisz, ufkisz@ufl.edu

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~omegadel>