LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past decade, higher education has become one of the top priorities for transitioning service members and veterans. This is largely due to the opportunities provided by the current Post-9/11 GI Bill. Recognizing the positive contributions student veterans can make in the classroom through their leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and drive, Chancellor Kent Syverud committed - during his inaugural speech in 2014 - to once again make Syracuse University the “best place for veterans”.

Chancellor Syverud understands that an investment in today’s student veteran is an investment in our nation’s future. In the three short years that the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) has been on campus, great strides have been made to further cement Chancellor Syverud’s commitment to the current generation of veteran and military-connected students.

This report chronicles what the OVMA team has accomplished over the last 12 months, based on our lines of effort: education, employment, programs, campus culture, and development. These designations represent the strategic initiatives of the OVMA that effectively leverage Syracuse University’s strengths - leadership, resources, alumni, community partnerships, supporters, faculty, and staff.

As a veteran myself, I could not ask for a more rewarding and gratifying opportunity to serve my fellow veterans. To that end, with the support of our alumni, partners, and friends, I look forward to continue contributing to the higher education goals and aspirations of our military-connected students.

Ron Novack
Executive Director
Office of Veteran and Military Affairs
EDUCATION
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY’S MILITARY/VETERAN RELATED RANKINGS

Syracuse University was once again recognized for its distinguished history of serving veterans and military families. Military Times’ Best for Vets: Colleges 2018 report, released in November 2017, ranked Syracuse University as the #2 private school in the country and #6 overall for service members, military veterans and their families.

Additionally, the second consecutive year, the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s cybersecurity program was ranked #1 by Military Times.

#2 RANKING

MILITARY TIMES

Syracuse University

SPRING 2018 MILITARY CONNECTED ENROLLMENT

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PAST MILITARY CONNECTED ENROLLMENT

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*Spring census data provided by The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

“THE BEST PLACE FOR VETERANS™”

2017/2018 OVMA ANNUAL REPORT
Robin Evans, a first-year in the College of Law, and Katie Piston, a doctoral candidate in the bioengineering program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, have been named 2018 Tillman Scholars. The newly named class of 60 U.S. service members, veterans and military spouses across the nation will receive more than $1.3 million in scholarships to pursue higher education degrees from the Pat Tillman Foundation (PTF).

“The 2018 Class of Tillman Scholars is a diverse, innovative group of people dedicated to making an impact in their chosen fields; from nursing practice and water conservation to business administration, public policy and beyond,” says Marie Tillman, board chair and co-founder of PTF. “We are proud to support this newest class of Tillman Scholars, empowering them to make an impact in their own communities and around the world.”

Evans grew up an impoverished child in Kansas. The first in her family to serve in the armed forces, she initially enlisted to repay her undergraduate student loans and planned to only serve a few years. Evans went onto serve as a logistician, providing fuel, food, ammunition and maintenance support to soldiers for 22 years, through 14 relocations and multiple deployments and leadership roles. She is set to retire as a lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army and will begin law school at Syracuse University this fall.

Inspired by the adoption of her son from Ethiopia, Evans has become a passionate advocate for both domestic and international adoption reform. Evans plans to use her degree to start a nonprofit that will ensure comprehensive pre-adoption education, post-adoption support and the necessary training for those who serve children and families in order to better understand the adoption and foster care experiences.

Piston is a Navy spouse and proud granddaughter of a WWII veteran. While earning an undergraduate degree at Purdue, she experimented with the design of “smart” military helmets and spent six years observing orthopedic surgery at the local VA hospital.

Inspired by those who bravely serve, Piston is pursuing a doctoral degree in bioengineering at Syracuse University in an effort to advance the treatment of serious diseases, including cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and traumatic brain injury. She is part of a team researching nanocarriers to deliver lifesaving medications to patients with neurodegenerative diseases and infected wounds. In addition to her research, Piston serves as a teaching assistant and research mentor for undergraduate engineering students as well as a personal trainer and fitness and yoga instructor.

“Both Katie and Robin embody the strength, character, academic excellence and incredible potential for which Tillman scholars are known and we are proud to celebrate them as they receive this prestigious honor,” says Michael Haynie, vice chancellor for strategic initiatives and innovation and executive director of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families. “Being a Tillman partner and supporting their charge to empower active-duty service members, veterans and their spouses while having not one, but two notable scholars within our academic community at Syracuse affirms the hard work of so many as we remain steadfast in being the best place for veterans and their families.”

—Dr. Mike Haynie
Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation; IVMF Founder & Executive Director
HONOR STUDENTS

ROTC Students Prestigious Awards & Honors
Two Syracuse University Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) cadets achieved prestigious honors during the spring 2018 semester. Cadet Battalion Commander Ashlynn Borce was accepted into the prestigious Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy and Cadet Bethany Murphy was awarded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship.

Borce ’18, a senior health and exercise science major from Honolulu in the School of Education, was accepted into the prestigious Army-Baylor University doctoral program in physical therapy (DPT). Borce, who will begin the program in fall 2019 while serving as a second lieutenant, will study at the historic Fort Sam Houston, home of military medicine, in San Antonio, Texas. The DPT program is part of the Army Medical Department Center and School, as well as the Health Readiness Center of Excellence. The Army will fund Borce’s doctoral study in addition to her salary as a second lieutenant.

As an active member of Syracuse Army ROTC, Borce was a member of the Command Team and previously traveled to Mongolia for the Army ROTC’s Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program mission, helping teach English to the Mongolian military.

Murphy ’20 is a first-generation environmental engineering major from Massachusetts. In addition to being a student in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and a member of Syracuse Army ROTC, Murphy volunteers at the Syracuse’s Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) and is involved with Engineers without Borders (EWB) and Global Student Embassy (GSE). She will travel to Guatemala this year as part of a GSE research team working to provide clean drinking water to a community in a remote part of the Central American country.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Executive Officer Jacqueline Page was named one of the twelve 2018 Syracuse University Scholars. This is the highest undergraduate honor the University bestows. Page graduated this spring with a Bachelor’s in International Relations and Television Radio Film, with minors in Chinese Studies and Strategic Management.

In addition to U.S. Army ROTC, Page was an active member of University Union, Circle K International, Syracuse University’s Wishmakers, Sailing Club, and Women’s Club Lacrosse.

“This year was an amazing year of accomplishments for the Syracuse Army ROTC program, which included the privilege to develop and support these three amazing young leaders. They represent the diverse and high caliber of individuals in ROTC who strive for excellence and achieved their goals. They stand out among their peers as they live the Army Values and possess the characteristics and attributes of those destined to be our Nation’s leaders. It is an honor and privilege to be able to support them in their development and in pursuit of their goals through ROTC at Syracuse University.”

—LTC Jason Warner,
Professor of Military Science,
Army ROTC
CONFERENCES

2018 Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference
Syracuse University sponsored twenty student veterans to attend the 2018 SVA National Conference in San Antonio, TX. Syracuse University boasted the largest Student Veteran Organization student chapter in attendance and in total had over thirty people at the conference. Leaders from OVMA and the University presented on best practices in higher education, and led a panel discussion about the role on-campus resources play in maximizing student veteran networks, resources and the importance of professional networking as well as critical financial literacy training.
2018 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students (SMCS)
Syracuse University leaders shared “best practices” with other universities on making professional graduate degrees more veteran-friendly at the 2018 NASPA SMCS in New Orleans, LA. The Syracuse University team also presented a detailed poster outlining a simulation project currently underway on campus. The “VET-SIM: Designing Simulations to Support Transitions from Military Service to Collegiate Study” is an effort to support veterans and strengthen their pathways through collegiate study.

2018 Council of College and Military Education (CCME) Professional Development Symposium
The OVMA leadership and IVMF research team took part in a presentation on successful pathways for tracking veteran and military-connected students within institutions of higher education at the 2018 CCME symposium in San Diego, CA. Syracuse University’s team shared its latest innovation on the Military Data and Stats Hub (Mil-DASH).

Tennessee Veterans Education Academy
A team from Syracuse University’s OVMA and IVMF were invited by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services in March 2018 to share best practices in higher education. The workshop focused on best practices, tools, and innovative breakthroughs with more than thirty institutions of higher education across the State of Tennessee.
Syracuse University’s Chancellor Kent Syverud and Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie were invited to participate at the Bush Institute’s Stand-To: A National Veterans Convening in Washington, DC in June 2017. Chancellor Syverud appeared on a panel consisting of high-profile leaders in higher education, including Margaret Spellings, former Secretary of Education and president of the University of North Carolina system, and Admiral (ret.) William McRaven, Chancellor of the University of Texas System. The panelists discussed some of the most pressing issues facing veterans and their families as identified by a working group led by Vice Chancellor Haynie.

2018 NASPA Annual Conference
The OVMA and IVMF team took part in a presentation focused on the ‘Veteran Employment through Modified Graduate Management Tracks’ (VET-MGMT) research and best practices on veteran friendly campuses at the 100th annual National NASPA Conference in Philadelphia, PA.
WHAT IS A SIM?
• A simulation is a one-to-one interaction between a learner and a carefully trained actor.
• This model is drawn from medical education’s use of simulations with standardized patients.

WHAT IS A VET-SIM?
• Veterans engage in multiple simulations with standardized college peers, instructors, staff persons, and teaching assistants.
• For example, consider the veteran – new to campus – who engages in a simulation with a standardized college peer, who asks questions and makes assumptions about PTSD.
• SimIQ software supports video-recordings of each veteran’s simulations, for her/his individual analysis.
• Whole-group debriefings support veteran cohorts as they collectively debrief on the simulation in which they all individually participated (Dotger, 2015).
• This model of one-to-one simulations and whole-group discussions takes place over a span of approximately six weeks.

THE RESEARCH
• Military veterans transitioning from service to collegiate study often face unique barriers to collegiate success.
• Feeling as though universities do not recognize the value of the skills they learned in the military and how they transfer onto a college campus, many student veterans may feel isolated, anxious and/or misunderstood (Barry, Wadsworth & Whitman, 2014; Zoli, Maury & Fay, 2015).
• Additional factors, including financial burdens, family obligations, expiration of GI Bill benefits, challenges to wellness and dis/ability, and conflict between employment and school, may further contribute to the difficulty veterans may have entering and completing higher education.

VETERAN SIMULATIONS
Benjamin Dotger, professor of teaching and leadership in the School of Education, partnered with OVMA and IVMF to create Veteran Simulations (VET-SIM), a simulation model of real-life challenges experienced on campus by student veterans to help veterans navigate and overcome barriers to collegiate success.

MILITARY INFLUENCE ON POST-SERVICE ASPIRATIONS
73% REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY SERVICE EXPERIENCE PROMOTED THEIR INTEREST IN EDUCATION
68% OF SERVICE MEMBERS SURVEYED STATED THAT THE MILITARY PREPARED THEM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
VETERAN COMMENCEMENT

Syracuse University recognized graduating student veterans with a ceremony and reception in the Miron Room of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications on Friday, May 11, at 10 a.m. During the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie, and Mike Frasciello, Dean of University College, presented graduates with a red, white, and blue honor cord to wear proudly with their regalia. The graduates represent 46 different majors from all of the University’s schools and colleges with the masters of business administration and masters of public administration programs boasting the largest enrollments. The ceremony included an address from keynote speaker, U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Dwayne Murray ’97.
You choose this school for a reason and you have every reason to be proud. Wherever you go don’t be shy about sharing your orange pride, you never know who you will encounter. You are part of a family and family always takes care of family.

—Dwayne Murray ’97, LTC, U.S. Army
Syracuse University’s Whitman School of Management is home to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP). This program represents a unique cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. In collaboration with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, participants complete the program with a Master of Business as well as a Master of Public Administration.

2018 Defense Comptrollership Program Graduates
2017 SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT

Syracuse University hosted the Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP) for the fourth time during an intensive one-week academic boot camp from July 14-22, 2018. The Warrior-Scholar Project coordinates immersive academic preparation courses for enlisted military veterans of any skill level at America’s top universities. This year, the WSP at Syracuse University hosted 14 veterans.

The program is designed to help military veterans develop and rediscover the skills and confidence necessary to successfully complete four-year undergraduate degrees. The boot camp was run by a team of student veterans, and taught by university professors and graduate students. An intensive syllabus composed of both classic and modern scholarly works guided participants as they learned how to frame their ideas in an academic context, think critically, and formulate scholarly arguments.

TRANSITIONING MILITARY VETERANS TO UNIVERSITY LIFE

OVMA partnered with Hendricks Chapel for the second year to host the Transitioning Military Veterans to University Life program. This program is designed to provide newly admitted undergraduate student veterans with the resources and peer advisors necessary to make a smooth transition into a college setting. This program commences with a two-day pre-orientation during the start of the fall semester. Sunday evening, student veterans and their families attend a dinner, a campus tour, and are introduced to campus resources. The next day they are introduced to advising, housing, childcare, veteran resources, and academic and social/engagement opportunities on campus. At the completion of the orientation process, each student is connected with a PAVE peer advisor, who assists the new student veteran throughout the academic year. Fall 2017 had a cohort of 13 students, who did exceptionally well academically. Syracuse University’s overall undergraduate GPA average is 3.27. The average GPA of the student veterans participating in the Transitioning Military Veterans to University Life program was 3.45.
The Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (P.A.V.E.), a national project, matches student veteran peer advisors with incoming student veterans to help as they transition to campus life. This is Syracuse University’s second year with a PAVE team on campus. This past year our team’s 12 peer advisors assisted 62 student veterans. The connection between the established and incoming student veterans helps improve the student’s sense of connectedness to the University, creates a source of support and a way to help identify any concerns that can be directed to the appropriate resource.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

The Office of Financial Literacy at Syracuse University partnered with OVMA to offer a custom financial literacy program for student veterans. This program was led by Financial Literacy Coordinator and U.S. Navy Veteran, Derek Brainard.

The Office of Financial Literacy, a unit within Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs, was named one of the best programs in the nation by LendEDU. Syracuse ranked No. 2 in the Top 50 College Financial Literacy Programs, moving up a spot from last year’s ranking. LendEDU assesses programs based on a number of workshops and resources available; access to one-on-one financial consultation; and incentivizing programs available.

Complete Rankings for the Top 50

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WOHL FAMILY VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

The Wohl Family Veterans Legal Clinic provides representation to veterans and their families who are seeking benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or upgrading a military discharge through the various military branches. The clinic leverages law students, who engage in fact investigation, drafting persuasive letters and briefs to the various governmental agencies to advocate for clients. In addition to client representation, the clinic engages in community outreach at the local VA hospital and at the Veterans Outreach Center in Utica.

MILITARY VISUAL JOURNALISM

The Newhouse School is home to two Department of Defense-sponsored programs that teach active-duty service members photojournalism and broadcast journalism. The government students enrolled in the Military Photojournalism (MPJ) and Military Motion Media (MMM) programs are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force as mass communication specialists, photographers and videographers. They come to Newhouse for 10 months to learn how to become better storytellers, taking 30 credits of coursework in communications, photojournalism, photography, broadcast and digital journalism, design, sound and documentary production.
NEW STUDENT VETERAN ORIENTATION

In August 2017, OVMA welcomed new student veterans to campus with a New Student Veteran Orientation and Resource Fair. New students had the opportunity to meet with valuable resources from across campus as well as connect with peers from the Student Veteran Organization and Peer Advisors for Veteran Education.

VETERANS DAY (VET DAY WEEK ALUMS)

Veterans Day celebrations began early with the annual Veterans Day Fun Run and Walk hosted by the Army and Air Force ROTC programs. The annual Veterans Day ceremony took place at 11am inside of Hendricks Chapel with guest speaker U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Cynthia Pritchett (Pictured right).

Throughout the week leading up to Veterans Day, OVMA highlighted many influential veteran alum, including:

**Eileen Collins ’78**

Eileen Collins graduated from Syracuse in 1978 with a bachelor of arts in mathematics and economics and earned a commission through Air Force ROTC as an U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant. At just 23 years old, Collins became the U.S. Air Force’s first female flight instructor. Collins was the second woman ever accepted to the prestigious Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Upon graduation in 1990, NASA selected her for the astronaut program. At NASA, she famously became the first woman astronaut to both pilot (1995) and then command (1999) a Space Shuttle mission. Under her command, the shuttle Columbia made history when it deployed a $1.5 billion telescope into orbit to enable deep-space exploration of exploding stars, quasars, and black holes.

**Dan D’Aniello ’68**

Dan D’Aniello graduated from Syracuse University magna cum laude with his bachelors degree in transportation economics in 1968 and was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma, an honor society for business students and scholars. Drafted in the U.S. Navy that same year, D’Aniello spent the next three years serving as a supply officer before continuing to Harvard Business School. He received his M.B.A. in 1974 and was also a Teagle Foundation Fellow.

With his partners William Conway Jr. and David Rubenstein, D’Aniello cofounded the Carlyle Group in 1987. They used politically connected advisors such as former President George H.W. Bush and former British Prime Minister John Major to buy defense-oriented firms, turning them around and selling them for profit.

Currently, D’Aniello serves as Chairman of the Board for the Carlyle Group, running the firm’s daily operations. D’Aniello also serves as Vice Chairman of the American Enterprise Institute’s Board of Trustees, in addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Syracuse University, and on the Corporate Advisory Council of the Whitman School of Management.
**Rorke Denver ’96**

Rorke T. Denver graduated from Syracuse University with bachelor of arts in 1996. While at Syracuse University, he was an All-American lacrosse player and captain of the varsity lacrosse team.

Denver has run every phase of training for the U.S. Navy SEALs and led special-forces missions in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and other international hot spots. He starred in the hit film Act of Valor, which is based on true SEAL adventures. Denver has authored two *New York Times* bestsellers, *Damn Few: Making the Modern SEAL Warrior* and *Worth Dying For: A Navy SEAL’s Call to a Nation*. Denver was most recently seen on FOX’s American Grit.

Denver is an honor graduate of the United States Army Ranger School. In addition to his Syracuse University education, he earned a master’s degree in Global Business Leadership from the University of San Diego.

**Albert Lee Gaines**

Gaines began his journey in higher education at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri; however, in the thick of World War II, he transferred to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

With much reluctance and through great adversity, Gaines became a member of the now world-renowned Tuskegee Airman in his early 20s. Prior to the Tuskegee Airman, there were no black U.S. military aviators. When Congress forced the U.S. Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit in 1941, Gaines was able to complete the course. He graduated from Tuskegee University as a Second Lieutenant and progressed to the rank of Captain as a pilot, bombardier, and eventually flight instructor.

During the height of WWII, Mr. Gaines was one of the few Tuskegee Airman to join the ranks of a unit known as The Red Tails. This elite group developed a feared reputation among German pilots having been accredited for shooting down 106 enemy aircraft and never losing a plane under escort. It was only later in 1952 that Gaines and several other Tuskegee Airmen were acknowledged for their success.

With support from important figures, Gaines was accepted and attended Syracuse University—Gaines would call this his “Jackie Robinson moment.” Gaines retired from IBM in 1999. He continued to be a legal activist at the Montrose VA Hospital and even ran once for county executive. Gaines fully retired in 2003.

**Lorimer Rich ’14 H’40**

Lorimer W. Rich graduated from Syracuse University in 1914 with a degree in architecture, and immediately went on to serve with distinction as a U.S. Army infantryman during World War I. During his career, Rich designed the E.I. White College of Law, Watson, Marion and Shaw Dormitories, and the renovated Archbold Gymnasium for his alma mater, Syracuse University.

One of Mr. Rich’s most famous works is the design of the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery—a commission he won through national competition early in his career. Lorimer also designed the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldiers, at North James and Liberty Streets in Rome, N.Y. as one of his last works.

Later in his career, he became a critic in design at the School of Architecture of Columbia University, and in 1940 was awarded an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Syracuse University.

Upon his passing in 1978, Lorimer W. Rich is buried in Section 48 of Arlington National Cemetery, directly behind the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Memorial Amphitheater.
STARS AND STRIPES TAILGATE

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2017 Syracuse University and the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs hosted its fourth annual Stars and Stripes Tailgate inside of Manley Fieldhouse prior to the SU vs Wake Forest men’s football game. During the tailgate, service members and their families from the Fort Drum community, student veterans, and Syracuse University veteran community members participated in activities including a raffle where participants won items donated from around the Syracuse community. The tailgate had a record attendance of almost 700 participants, nearly half of which traveled from Ft. Drum.
2017/2018 HOME TOWN HEROES

The following service members and veterans were honored at select athletic games during the 2017/18 season:

- September 1, 2017: U.S. Army veteran and inaugural Tillman Scholar Captain Ryan Gross
- September 9, 2017: U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Katelyn Hunter
- October 7, 2017: U.S. Marine Corps veteran Katherine Quartaro
- October 13, 2017: U.S. Army veteran and Syracuse University Army ROTC Cadet Colin Santacroce
- October 27, 2017: U.S. Navy veteran and Syracuse University employee Derek Brainard
- November 10, 2017: U.S. Army veteran and Syracuse University student veteran Chloe Miliken
- November 11, 2017: U.S. Army veteran and Syracuse University alum Modesto “Mike” Chemotti
- November 16, 2017: U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Syracuse University employee Deanna Parker
- November 25, 2017: U.S. Army Veteran and Syracuse employee Ed Kiewra
- April 21, 2018: U.S. Army Veteran and Syracuse employee Jim Hopkins
CHANCELLOR’S REVIEW

Chancellor Kent Syverud and leaders from Syracuse University and its Office of Veteran and Military Affairs were joined by special guests, alumni, community members and educational partners to host the 101st Annual Chancellor’s Review. The celebration included an awards ceremony and public review of the ROTC cadets in the Carrier Dome on Friday, March 9.

“Syracuse University’s ROTC cadets are smart, hardworking and civic-minded,” says Chancellor Syverud. “They have a deep sense of purpose, and they make the campus community a better place. It is a privilege to help prepare them for national service. And we will be here to support them when they return to civilian life, through our National Veterans Resource Center and other veteran-focused initiatives.”

Syracuse University is committed to building on its long legacy of supporting the nation’s veterans and military families. For example, the University has the longest, continuously running Army ROTC program in the nation and is consistently placed among the best universities for veteran rankings.

Celebration attendees viewed the current ROTC members perform drill and ceremony in formation as they are reviewed by Chancellor Syverud. Cadets were also presented with awards celebrating their many achievements throughout the year.
“SEPARATED” is a collaborative effort between members of the Syracuse Stage artistic staff and participating Syracuse University student veterans which portrays the real life experience of each student’s journey from service to civilian life. SEPARATED premiered in 2016 at Syracuse Stage. What started off as a one-night production funded by a grant from Campus Compact and the MLK Day of Service, turned into a four-time production, reaching hundreds of people. The production was so popular that it toured to New York City for a one-night show open to SU alumni and friends at the Paley Center.

STACY PEARSALL—VETERAN PORTRAIT PROJECT

Syracuse University Military Photojournalism program alum and internationally renowned photographer Stacy Pearsall came to campus during the week of Veterans Day 2017 to take photographs of Syracuse University student, faculty, and staff veterans for her Veterans Portrait Project.

Following her visit to Syracuse, Stacy travelled to New York City where she was a guest on the Today Show. During the live show, Stacy met her new service dog Charlie. Charlie was a frequent guest on the Today Show as part of the “Puppy with a Purpose” segment.

PARTNERSHIP WITH FT DRUM

Lift for Life
On July 19, 2017 Syracuse University football held its fifth annual Lift for Life as players grouped into donation teams and battled it out in drills at Manley Field House. Soldiers from Fort Drum’s 2nd Battalion 87th Infantry Regiment joined Syracuse Football players for conditioning drills during Lift for Life event. The event raised more than $11,000 for rare diseases.

Youth Football Day
On August 14, 2017, SU Football hosted children and families from the Fort Drum community for a Youth “’Cuse Camp”. During the youth day, football players ran the children through drills and activities. Players spoke to children about the importance of being in school and signed autographs following the day’s activities.

Chancellor Visit to Ft Drum
Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud and Dr. Ruth Chen expanded on their commitment to veterans as they toured Fort Drum on December 21, 2017 with Major General Walter Piatt, Commanding General at Fort Drum’s 10th Mountain Division. This was the first time Chancellor Syverud and Dr. Chen had visited the Fort Drum community.
On February 5, 2018, Syracuse University announced a $20 million gift from U.S. Navy veteran and Life Trustee Daniel D’Aniello ’68 and his wife, Gayle. This gift, one of the single largest gifts in University history, will support construction of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC), a first-of-its-kind facility that will house the OVMA, IVMF, Air Force and Army ROTC, and other veteran and military connected offices and initiatives. The NVRC will open in spring 2020.

Army veteran Todd Torrance, the owner of ZeroPoint Aerial, launched and operated the inaugural drone flyover to feature site preparation at the NVYRC site on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018.

To follow the progress of the NVRC, visit NVRC.syr.edu.
Novack, Executive Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA), to bring the Disability Service Liaison program to Syracuse University. Currently, there are only four other DSL programs in place on college campuses across the country. LeGrand says he was in the perfect place as the program started at the national level. He wrote the policy for the program at SU, and that policy has been adopted by other universities across the nation.

“I help them navigate the system, help them access care at the VA hospital or through Tricare and connect them with available resources,” he says. “And, if my schedule allows, I will walk the student veteran to the Office of Disability Services and wait in the waiting area while they meet with a staff member—just to show that they have someone who supports them.”

Packages

The Student Veteran Organization at Syracuse University prepared over 100 care packages for shipment to military members deployed overseas. The SVO originally planned to send out 50 packages, but the response from campus was so strong that they were able to send twice as many boxes.

SVO Ball

The Syracuse University Student Veterans Organization (SVO) hosted its fourth annual SVO Ball and Awards Banquet celebrating the successes of student veterans. Over $1,600 in proceeds from the event were donated to Clear Path for Veterans, a local veterans’ resource and community center. The SVO welcomed Jeff Cleland as the keynote speaker. Cleland, who is the director of organizational excellence with the Maryland State Highway Administration, holds a B.A. in policy studies from the Maxwell School and is completing the executive M.P.A. at Maxwell in December 2018.

Student Veterans of America NATCON

Syracuse University sent over 20 student veterans, staff from the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs

Kierston Whaley ’17 G ’18, 2017/18 SVO President, performs the National Anthem during a Syracuse University Men’s Basketball Game.
(OVMA), the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), and University admissions to attend the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in San Antonio in early January 2018. Syracuse boasted the largest Student Veteran Organization student chapter in attendance and in total the University had over 30 people at the conference.

During the conference, leaders from OVMA and the University led a panel discussion about the role on-campus resources play in maximizing student veteran networks, resources and the importance of professional networking as well as critical financial literacy.

KEIKO OGURA VISIT
Syracuse University welcomed Keiko Ogura to the Syracuse University campus on October 27, 2017. Ogura, only eight years old at the time, survived the 1945 atomic bomb drop on Hiroshima. Ogura spoke with Army and Air Force ROTC cadets about her experiences followed by a question and answer session.

CBT ROTC PANEL
Syracuse University ROTC alumni who returned to campus in September 2017 for “Coming Back Together 2017” visited Army ROTC cadets and hosted a leadership panel. Cadets were able to speak with current and former leaders who were commissioned from the Syracuse ROTC program and shared best practices from their experiences.

12 STRONG
Mark Nutsch, the Green Beret commander who led his 12-man team on a 2001 covert mission to Afghanistan, spoke to audience members and fielded questions following a screening of the movie “12 Strong”. The movie follows real life events in which Nutsch led a small team of U.S. Special Forces to Afghanistan, where they rode to war on horses to fight the Taliban. Nutsch earned a Bronze Star with valor for his bravery. He is now a consultant to Special Operations Command. The event was hosted on campus by University Union, in partnership with OVMA and the IVMF.

WHAT’S BREWIN’
In collaboration with the IVMF, OVMA was featured in multiple “What’s Brewin’” episodes. “What’s Brewin’” are short interviews that are shared on OVMA and IVMF social media outlets monthly. OVMA features included a National Service Dog Month episode with Ben Brickman, Syracuse University student veteran and SU football player and his dog Riley, Veterans Day Week highlight episode, and a graduation weekend feature.

BEN BRICKMAN- STUDENT VETERAN FOOTBALL WALK-ON
In 2013, student veteran, Ben Brickman went from serving in the Marine Corp to enrolling in a community college. While attending community college, Brickman found a love for football, a sport he had never formally played. In January 2017, Brickman’s first semester on campus at Syracuse, he started asking Roy Wittke, director of football player development, about a potential tryout. The Orange typically hold tryouts in the fall, but eventually Wittke gave Brickman his chance. Brickman quickly earned the respect of his teammates, especially given his experiences in the military. He made the team because of his relentless desire to finish things, which he developed as a Marine.
**Employment**

2017-2018

**Yearly Review**

**Syracuse University Veteran Career Services**

**Placement**

2016-2017

100%

Successfully achieved 100% placement for 2016-2017 for those student veterans seeking employment or continuing education.

**Employers that hired Syracuse University student veterans** in 2017-2018

- Harris
- Trest solutions
- GE
- SparkCharge
- Varian Medical Systems
- Target
- InMotion Hosting
- University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
- Cisco Meraki
- Pixel & Whitney (a division of UTC)
- Lockheed Martin
- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
- Syracuse University
- Pratt & Whitney
- World Wide Tech Services
- SRC
- EMOTO LLC
- Leech Carbo 
- U.S. Army
- Air National Guard
- Monticello Central School District
- Hillside Family of Agencies
- New York City Mutual
- National Civil Defense Institute
- FBI
- Consumer Services of Madison County
- JPAC
- DOD
- Air Liquide
- Qualcomm University
- NVR, Inc.
- Enlighten Operational Excellence
- Oregon Food Bank
- City of Syracuse
- Eaton
- West Gen, LLC AND Anything Bar Best, LLC
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- City of Newhaven
- Fairham Family Services
- Lumenart Inc
- DXC Technology
- Syracuse University
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Statewide Fiscal Systems
- Defense Logistics Agency
- Aqua America
- General Dynamics Mission Systems
- FOX News
- News10NBC
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Special Operations Command

**Average Salary**

- 2016-2017
  - $62,455
    - Average (weighted) salary: All Student Veterans
  - $62,121
    - Average Undergraduate Salary: Student Veterans
  - $62,569
    - Average Graduate Salary: Student Veterans

Note: The average undergraduate salary for all Syracuse University students is $50,776 in comparison to the starting salary of Syracuse University undergraduate student veterans at $62,121.

**Student Engagement**

- 588
  - Total student veteran counseling interactions conducted by Veteran Career Services for FY. Counseling interactions include job/internship search strategies, interviewing tips, mock interviews, networking strategies, choosing a major, career exploration and resumes/career letter reviews.

- 13 Schools & Colleges
- 18 Degree Levels
- 117 Majors

**Gender**

- 429 Male
- 86 Female

**Class Levels**

- Undergraduate: 235
- Graduate/Law: 215
- Alumni: 68

- 86 Total number of student veterans who attended 5 Veteran Career Services workshops during FY.

**Events**

- 2017-2018
  - Veteran and Employer Meet-n-Greet Fall 2017: 26 Student Veterans
  - 15 Employers
  - Spring 2018: 41 Student Veterans
  - 31 Employers
  - NYC Veteran and Employer Networking Event Spring 2018: 28 Student Veterans
  - 28 Employers

Note: For 2017-2018, we saw an increase in the number of employer recruiting events for employers seeking to hire Syracuse University student veterans as part of their veteran recruiting strategy. These veteran recruiting events directly influenced the hiring of student veterans into job/ internship opportunities and expanded student’s industry knowledge and professional networks.

**Get Connected and Engaged**

- Student Veteran Resume Book
- Student Veteran Listserv
- Employer Partner Listserv
- Weekly SU Veteran Career Services Student Newsletter
- SU Veteran Career Services Website
- Student Veteran Career Education Resources
In 2017, the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs established its advisory board; a collective of dedicated, accomplished individuals who serve as critical partners to the University’s effort to create and sustain new programs, initiatives, and opportunities with the goal of cementing Syracuse University as “the best place for veterans.” Board members include:

- Mr. Paul M. Dottle P’14 P’18
- Air Force ROTC Cadet Zachary Harter
- CSM (Retired) Gary I. Ginsburg ‘72
- Ms. Cydney Johnson ’77 G’96
- Mr. James P. Lee ’75
- Mr. Adam LeGrand ‘18
- Mr. Kenneth L. Quaglio G’91
- Ms. LaVonda N. Reed
- Mr. F. Glenn Richardson G’89
- Mr. Mark E. Westervelt P’18

“It is an honor to serve on the OVMA Advisory Board. Our group is inspired by the University’s legacy and enduring commitment to veterans and their families and we are excited to establish Syracuse as the nation’s premier university for education, research, and employment of veterans, military-connected students, and family members.”

—Paul Dottle, OVMA Board Chair
DOTTLE FAMILY ROTC CADET ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This year’s Dottle scholars were chosen through a competitive process that explores the applicant’s academics, citizenship, physical aptitude and potential to serve successfully in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. The following cadets were awarded this year’s Dottle Family Scholarship:

**U. S. Army ROTC**
- CDT Jarrod Pierce ’18
- CDT Kristopher Dendtler ’18
- CDT Matthew Goetz ’20
- CDT Sebastian Burns ’20

**U.S. Air Force ROTC**
- CDT Hillary Bridge ’20
- CDT Daniel Egert ’21
- CDT Kyle McDermott ’21
- CDT Nikolas Sarisky ’22

The Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship allows both ROTC programs the ability to recognize deserving cadets in need of financial assistance. In doing so, the scholarship(s) ensure that the University’s ROTC programs continue to train the brightest and the best future military leaders in the country.

**BOSTON STAFF RIDE**

Syracuse University senior Air Force ROTC cadets participated in a staff ride to Boston this year. Cadets were afforded the opportunity to study historic sites and military events as well as develop their understanding of military decision making. The staff ride included tours of Hanscom Air Force Base, Bunker Hill, the USS Constitution, the Minute Man Museum, Paul Revere’s capture site at Lexington, the Old North Bridge and Concord.
BASKETBALL GAME

Syracuse University Air Force ROTC cadets attended the Flyin’ Irish basketball tournament at Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. The Syracuse Air Force team operated as the Det 535 “Flying Orange.” Air Force ROTC Cadets attendance for this event was made possible by the Dottle Family ROTC Support Fund.

CAMP OSWEGATCHIE LEADERSHIP EVENT

Freshman and sophomore cadets of Syracuse Army ROTC participated in a two day team building and leadership development retreat at Camp Oswegatchie, NY. These cadet underclassmen conducted a low and high ropes course to further build their self-confidence and overall team cohesion. In addition, the cadets participated in several team building exercises designed to test their mental agility, communication skills, and their overall leadership ability.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITIES COMMITMENT TO VETERANS: ALUMNI EVENTS

OVMA hosted alumni events in both Greenwich, CT and Washington D.C. Veteran and military-connected alums from Syracuse University as well as past IVMF program participants were in attendance to learn more from Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie about Syracuse University’s ongoing support for the veteran and military-connected community.
The “Veteran Legacy Fund” was designed to provide a philanthropic way for supporters to contribute to the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs. We would like to thank the donors of the Veteran Legacy Fund listed below for their gifts and continued support:

Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle

Members of the Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle are a powerful group of supporters who shape the future of veteran and military-connected students and employees at Syracuse University. Members make a five-year pledge of $1,000 or more annually to the Veteran Legacy Fund.

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ABOUT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Syracuse University is a private research university of extraordinary academics, distinctive offerings and an undeniable spirit. With a gorgeous campus in the heart of New York State, a global footprint and a history that dates to 1870, we embrace diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. Our student population includes nearly 15,000 undergraduates and 5,000 graduate students, representing all 50 U.S. states and 123 countries. Our proud commitment to veterans and their families is unrivaled in higher education. Home to 11 schools and colleges, Syracuse University blends the foundational power of the liberal arts with the intense focus of professional programs. We offer undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees in Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering and Computer Science, Sport and Human Dynamics, Information Studies, Law, Management, Citizenship and Public Affairs, Public Communications, and Visual and Performing Arts.

A medium-sized city situated in the geographic center of the state, Syracuse, N.Y., is approximately a four-hour drive from New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Toronto and Montreal. With a metropolitan population of 700,000, Syracuse is a center for cultural, recreational and artistic events, including the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse Stage, Symphoria, Destiny Mall, multiple sporting events, and festivals including Jazz Fest and Winterfest. The outdoor enthusiast will enjoy having the Adirondack Mountains, the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, and the Thousands Islands Region within easy driving distance of the Syracuse campus.

OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) serves as Syracuse University’s “single point of entry” for all veteran and military related programs and initiatives. It collaborates and coordinates with the university community and stakeholders to best serve veterans, military-connected students, and military family members who are students or employees at Syracuse University.

By offering a diverse range of programming, support, and resources specifically focused on our student veterans and their families, OVMA seeks to make the Syracuse University campus more veteran friendly and relevant for every student veteran.

COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING AND HIRING VETERANS
Syracuse University has a long history of engaging veterans and the military-connected community through its educational programs, community outreach, and employment programs. After World War II, Syracuse University welcomed more than 10,000 returning veterans to our campus, and those veterans literally transformed Syracuse University into the national research institution it is today. The University’s contemporary commitment to veterans builds on this historical legacy, and extends to both class-leading initiatives focused on making an SU degree accessible and affordable to the post-9/11 generation of veterans, and also programs designed to position Syracuse University as the employer of choice for military veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members.

COMMITMENT TO A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY
Syracuse University maintains an inclusive learning environment in which students, faculty, administrators, staff, curriculum, social activities, governance, and all other aspects of campus life reflect a diverse, multi-cultural, and international worldview. The University community recognizes and values the many similarities and differences among individuals and groups. At Syracuse, we are committed to preparing students to understand, live among, appreciate, and work in an inherently diverse country and world made up of people with different ethnic and racial backgrounds, military backgrounds, religious beliefs, socio-economic status, cultural traditions, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. To do so, we commit ourselves to promoting a community that celebrates and models the principles of diversity and inclusivity.

EEOC
Syracuse University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law to the extent prohibited by law. This nondiscrimination policy covers admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs, services, and activities.