ABOUT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Syracuse University is a private research university that advances knowledge across disciplines to drive breakthrough discoveries and breakout leadership. Our collection of 13 schools and colleges with over 200 customizable majors closes the gap between education and action, so students can take on the world. In and beyond the classroom, we connect people, perspectives and practices to solve interconnected challenges with interdisciplinary approaches. Together, we’re a powerful community that moves ideas, individuals and impact beyond what’s possible.

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 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.
Over the past year, the Syracuse University Office of Veteran and Military Affairs adjusted to the policies put in place to protect public health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We did so by providing added virtual support, addressing financial pressure by awarding scholarships, and celebrating our student’s success online. As we turn a page to a “new normal” we have begun to reimagine how we provide the support we offer to our military-connected students.

While we have certainly missed gathering on campus, we have been offered an opportunity to meet our military-connected students where they are at: in their homes, classrooms, and around the world. We have heard stories about our students coming together for the greater good, continuing their service to others. Out of the hardships faced throughout the pandemic, we have seen a community united by the bonds of service. As we look forward to a year of coming together in person, we will continue to serve our military-connected students in-person and online.

This report chronicles the OVMA team’s accomplishments over the last 12 months, based on its lines of effort: education, employment, programs, campus culture, and development. These designations represent the strategic initiatives that effectively leverage Syracuse University’s strengths - leadership, resources, alumni, community partnerships, supporters, faculty, and staff. It is my hope that this report is a reminder of our military-connected students’ achievements in both academic excellence and community service, which enriches our university and reflects what it means to serve our country and our communities while exemplifying what it means to “Be Orange.”

The military-connected students detailed in these pages reflect the very best of Syracuse University’s student veterans. As a veteran and Syracuse University alumnus myself, it is an honor to serve and be part of this amazing community by enabling their success in higher education and beyond. Go Orange!

Ron Novack, G’20
COL (Ret.), U.S. Army
Executive Director, OVMA
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY’S MILITARY/VETERAN RELATED RANKINGS

The Military Times’ annual “Best for Vets” college rankings continues to recognize Syracuse University as one of the best private schools for veterans. Syracuse is the only school among the top five private schools to have a formal military support system. This system consists of a dedicated team of military and veteran-specific advisors, including admissions, academic affairs, veterans’ benefits, and career services. The Office of Veteran Success provides support for academic assistance, counseling, and more. In addition, our students have a 90 percent graduation rate and a 100 percent job placement rate for those seeking employment.

“Syracuse University has an intimate understanding of the needs and priorities of military-connected students, veterans and their families. This ranking represents the best of our combined efforts—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—to engage and welcome our nation’s veterans,” says J. Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation.

“Syracuse University has an intimate understanding of the needs and priorities of military-connected students, veterans and their families. This ranking represents the best of our combined efforts—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—to engage and welcome our nation’s veterans,” says J. Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation.
OPERATION VETERAN PROMISE

Decades of research conducted by Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families shows that veterans have a tough time transitioning out of the service. This is especially the case after their first term of service. “We’ve seen the data from our own IVMF [research] just how stressful that transition process can be,” said Jessica Calhoun, Assistant Director of Veteran and Military Admissions at Syracuse. “You don’t know what you’re going to be doing. You’re returning to civilian life, not the regimented experience that you had.”

Given those experiences, Syracuse University has created a brand-new pipeline program called Operation Veteran Promise. It is specifically for high school seniors heading into the military right after high school. When they get into this program, they will have a guaranteed admission at Syracuse University when they complete their initial term of service or are honorably discharged. The program is available for students who graduate on or after spring 2021 and complete an initial term of service on active duty, in the reserves or the National Guard. Students need to graduate high school with at least a cumulative unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 to be eligible.

VETERAN’S COMMENCEMENT

The Syracuse University student veteran commencement was unable to be held in person due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, but that did not stop us from celebrating our student veterans and their academic achievements. Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Michael Haynie and guest speaker retired Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kubala, Director of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law, recorded special messages for the Class of 2021 military-connected graduates.

“With the title of alumni comes responsibility...after you walk across that stage and receive your diploma, your mission is to continue to tell the Syracuse University story...Embrace your role as an ambassador of all things Orange. Represent why Syracuse University is the best place for veterans,” Lt. Col. (Ret.) Elizabeth Kubala, Executive Director, Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic.
ROTC COMMISSIONING

This past May, twenty-one U.S. Army and eight U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets officially became the next generation of military leaders at Syracuse University’s Annual Commissioning Ceremony held at the National Veterans Resource Center’s K.G. Tan Auditorium.

“This year’s commissioning cadets thrived in unprecedented circumstances and were instrumental in Syracuse University’s COVID-19 response. This year’s class gave back and helped ensure not only their successful completion, but that the entire campus could remain open during the health crisis,” says Col. (Ret.) Ron Novack, Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs at Syracuse University.
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2021 Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference

Syracuse University student veterans and staff attended the 2021 Student Veterans of America conference virtually from February 19-20, 2021. This year, the Syracuse University Student Veteran Organization was one of three finalists for Chapter of the Year.

Employment Landscape

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Veteran Career Services collaborated with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families on a series of presentations on the current employment landscape for veterans amidst the COVID pandemic. The presentation included information on veteran employment statistics followed up with actionable steps that veterans can incorporate in support their jobs search. The presentation was featured at the Student Veterans of America conference and IVMF’s VETNET.

Featured Engagements and Representation

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Veteran Career Services participated in numerous national-level organizations and conferences. These efforts highlighted best practices that support student veteran career pathways to employment. Veteran Career Services was featured in several blog posts and presentations. Most notable was serving as a Co-Lead for the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Veteran Affinity Group. The group provides professional development and resources to individuals serving or recruiting student veterans. Veteran Career Services was also interviewed by NACE on ways employers can successfully recruit veterans and steps that higher education practitioners can take to support the career development of their student veteran population.

OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

PROGRAMS

2021 Military Visual Journalism Graduates
For the sixth year in a row, Syracuse University hosted the esteemed Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP), a no-cost academic boot camp for first-year student veterans. Normally held on campus to allow for a comprehensive campus experience, the 2020 program was moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.


“Considering the COVID-19 health pandemic and the consequences it has imposed on colleges and universities, this year’s Warrior Scholar Project is especially important in helping student veterans succeed in new, non-traditional, and virtual learning environments,” says Col. (Ret.) Ron Novack, Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs at Syracuse University.
OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BETTY AND MICHAEL D. WOHL VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

KEEPING OUR PROMISE, HONORING THEIR SERVICE

Founded in 2015, the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law is now in its sixth year of providing quality legal advice to veterans in Syracuse and across New York State. The Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) provides legal representation to veterans and their families who are seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs or upgrading a military discharge through the various military branches. The VLC is staffed by student attorneys in their 2L or 3L year at the College of Law, many who are veterans themselves or who have a connection to the military and a passion for serving veterans.

The VLC serves two critical functions on the Syracuse University campus. First, VLC provides legal advice to veterans and their families. Second, it provides a training opportunity to empower law school students as veteran advocates. Student attorneys at the VLC learn about veteran’s law, military law, and federal administrative law. Student attorneys manage actual veteran clients and their cases, engage in fact investigation, draft persuasive letters and briefs to the various governmental agencies, and orally advocate for clients.

This past year, the global pandemic challenged the traditional model of legal service delivery. However, student attorneys embraced new lawyering skills and continued to zealously represent the community’s veterans. The VLC began the academic year by participating in a virtual National Bootcamp, collaborating with Veterans Legal Clinic students and practitioners from law schools across the country. Students quickly adapted to a hybrid learning model and found innovative ways to meet and counsel clients remotely. The VA shifted all Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) hearings to virtual tele-hearings, which provided many students the opportunity to represent their clients before Veterans Law Judges. Student attorneys practiced in federal court by preparing briefs for appearances before the Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Truly practicing law at every level, students also teamed up with the University of Missouri to draft an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding a complex benefits appeal for a Vietnam era veteran.

As a champion for justice with the College of Law, where interdisciplinary perspectives and innovative programs meet an expansive professional network to solve the most complex challenges of our time.
VISION

VISION (Veterans Issues, Support Initiative and Outreach Network) is a student-run College of Law organization that provides Syracuse University College of Law students an opportunity to engage and assist veterans in the community. This year with COVID-19 restrictions, VISION took the opportunity to engage the campus community about its mission and outreach initiatives. In the fall semester, the VISION student leaders, 3L Alexandra Calhoun and 2L Ryan Marquette, presented an informational update on the club’s activities to the Syracuse University Veteran’s Affinity Group to better inform partners on campus of services available to our veterans here at the University. VISION co-hosted the College of Law’s third annual Veterans Day Celebration in a ceremony that honored service. The ceremony featured the senior uniformed lawyer in the U.S. Army, LTG Charles N. Pede, who shared his perspectives on the origin of Veterans Day and why our nation celebrates Veterans’ service with the College of Law Community.

In the spring semester, VISION hosted a virtual “Career Talk” called “From Syracuse to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims with newly appointed US Court of Appeal for Veterans Claims Judge Grant Jaquith and his Judicial Law Clerk Laura Grasso L’20” on April 16, 2021. This Career Talk was attended by members of the campus community, local veteran’s law attorneys and advocates, and members of the Army’s Fort Drum Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Judge Jaquith and Clerk Grasso discussed current veterans’ legal issues, advocacy tips, and advice for pursuing careers in veteran’s law. VISION also hosted a virtual “Women Veteran Advocates Panel” in partnership with the Women Law Students Association on March 25, 2021, featuring recent SU Law graduates Anna Castillo, an attorney at the VA’s Office of General Counsel and Katie Becker, attorney at Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, Ltd. The recent women law grads discussed their experiences in veterans’ law in both government and private practice, and shared insights into successfully navigating your first few years as a new attorney.
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 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Army 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.

The MVJ program had a successful year, despite COVID-19. Most 2020-2021 classes were held in a hybrid format, with a few classes online and in-person. The successful 2021 military class has left to fill positions at commands such as AFN Italy, Space Operations Command, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and USMC Communications--Pentagon.

DEFENSE COMPTROLLERSHIP PROGRAM (DCP)

Since 1952, Syracuse University’s Martin J. Whitman School of Management has been home to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP). The DCP represents a unique cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. The curriculum is a 60-credit hour program that the students complete in fourteen months. Graduates are awarded a Master of Business (MBA) degree and an Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) degree. Students take 42 credits at the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and eighteen credits at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. The name was changed from the Army Comptrollership Program (ACP) to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP) starting with the class of 2006. Since its inception, the DCP program boasts 2,039 graduates including 28 participants in the class of 2021.
VETERAN CAREER SERVICES

Syracuse University Veteran Career Services (VCS) is a dedicated resource, which continues to address the career development and employment needs of Syracuse University’s student veterans. For the fifth consecutive year, Veteran Career Services achieved 100% job placement for graduating undergraduate student veterans.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR GRADUATING STUDENT VETERANS 2020

*According to the OVMA First Destination Survey (FDS) —Veteran-Class 2020 Outcomes

STUDENT VETERANS CLASS 2019-2020 BY COLLEGE CLASS 2019-2020

Graduate Student Veterans (by Colleges)

Undergraduate Student Veterans

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Working 98.5%
(Includes Working, Continuing Education, Military and Volunteering)
Still Looking 0%
Not Seeking 1.5%

WHO HIRES SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY STUDENT VETERANS

TOP EMPLOYERS

U.S. Department of Defense
Syracuse University
Amazon
Veterans Affairs (VA)
General Electric
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
L3Harris Technologies
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Oracle
Wells Fargo

AVERAGE SALARY

Average salary for Undergrad Student Veterans:
Syracuse University (FDS): $55,978
Students Nationally (NACE) $50,000
Syracuse University Student Veterans (FDS) $63,505

RESPONSE BREAK DOWN BY TYPE OF WORK

Military 14.81%
Continuing Education 11.85%
Working 71.85%
Volunteering 0% | Still Seeking 0%

RESPONSE BY LOCATION

Where Student Veterans work after graduation?

Majority of those student veterans who responded worked within the Northeastern Corridor.
2021 NEW CAREER SERVICES OFFERED

**Purepost**
OVMA has partnered with Purepost to ensure student veterans get the highest value from their education and work experience.

Purepost is a free service for student veterans that analyzes military experience and converts it to civilian skills. With free registration, the “Purepost Sherpa” will make a student veteran’s military resume easily comprehensible to civilian employers. Students first create a personalized profile that will optimize their job search. Military occupations entered will generate “achievement statements” that can be used on a resume. These statements have been developed to help describe the many duties, leadership capabilities and technical skills embedded in a military job title.

**Career Corner Digital Video Library**
The Career Corner Digital Library is a collection of videos produced exclusively for student veterans. Each video touches upon a variety of career-related topics. Student veterans have an opportunity to hear from employers, alumni, experts, and peers as they share their insights and advice on a variety of career-related topics to prepare and develop student veterans’ paths to employment.

The series, called “Gathering Your Tools,” (GYT) was added to the digital career library and is tailored to student veterans who are on the go and want to learn career advice from experts on their own time in preparation for their career of choice after college. These videos are available on OVMA’s YouTube Channel.

**Undergraduate Internship Award**
In response to a growing demand for student veteran internships and to eliminate financial barriers, OVMA launched the Syracuse University Student Veteran Undergraduate Internship Award. This provides financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate student veterans at Syracuse University during the summer semester to increase access to internships that create career pathways to employment. The internship award covers the cost of 1-internship credit hour, travel, living expenses, up to $5,000.

This year, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the OVMA awarded one internship award.

**Student Veteran Virtual Career and Internship Fair**
Student Veteran Virtual Career and Internship Fair, exclusively for student veterans and employers to connect virtually for job and internship openings. The Virtual Fair was an opportunity for student veterans to get to know companies that understand the value of hiring veterans for careers within their organization. Veterans also built out their network and related to industry leaders in a virtual environment.
**U.S ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (USASMA)**

The Syracuse University School of Education and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy began a partnership in August 2019 to offer USASMA. The fellows will complete master’s degrees in instructional design, development and evaluation (IDD&E), offered fully online through the School of Education. The fellows, who are assigned to Fort Bliss for three years, will finish their degrees within a year and go on to design and instruct the academy’s Sergeants Major Course, which educates the military’s enlisted personnel to operate on all levels of leadership. The second cohort of ten USASMA fellows began in Summer 2020.

Because of what you accomplished here at this place, you are equipped with the tools and knowledge to literally make the Army better each and every day.

—Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie to 2021 USASMA Graduates

**PEER ADVISORS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION (PAVE)**

Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) is a peer support program that connects incoming student veterans on college campuses with student veterans who are trained as Peer Advisors. These advisors help them navigate college life by addressing challenges they may face with referrals to appropriate resources on and off campus and providing ongoing support.

Successful student veterans are trained as Peer Advisors to work one-on-one with student veterans to help them transition to campus life. The program is managed on each campus by a student veteran Team Leader with the help of the Veteran Services Coordinator (VSC) and support of a University Champion—a leader in the veteran space at the university who advocates for student veterans.

As a PAVE partner for the fifth year, Syracuse University’s PAVE team is led by team leader Daniel Rubio ’22. Rubio. This year the PAVE team consisted of ten Peer Advisors serving 62 undergraduate student veterans.
NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony
Onondaga Nation Tadodaho Sid Hill offering a Thanksgiving Address at the NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony
NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (NVRC)

NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony
The opening of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building was recognized at the start of the fall 2020 semester with a flag raising ceremony. Flags representing the United States, New York State, all five military branches, the Haudenosaunee, and Syracuse University were raised in front of the NVRC by individual military-connected Syracuse University students, alumni, and staff during a small ceremony. The flags flying before the NVRC represent the University’s deep connection to the indigenous lands, its commitment to veteran service, and its pursuit of knowledge.

The ceremony paid significant homage to the University’s connection to the Onondaga Nation. Tadodaho, Sidney Hill, offered the traditional Haudenosaunee “Thanksgiving Prayer” and attended in recognition of the service on behalf of Indigenous men and women. Indigenous men and women historically have served in the military at a rate higher than almost any other segment of the U.S. population. Sam Babcock, a WWII veteran, and the oldest living veteran of the Onondaga Nation was also in attendance. In his honor, Suzanne Hill ’20, Babcock’s grandniece and US Marine Corps veteran raised the Haudenosaunee Flag.

NVRC Wall of Service
On Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) unveiled the new “Wall of Service” inside of the National Veteran Resource Center.

This digital display, located on the ground floor between the Gallery and Hall of Honor, tells the individual stories of our current military-connected students, veteran alumni and employees using self-submitted content. These stories play an important role in making Syracuse University the “Best Place for Veterans™.” Veteran and military-connected alumni, to include family members that would like a bio featured in the Wall of Service can contact vma@syr.edu to be included.

SSG Arthur Harrison (US Army) Community Room
The SSG Arthur Harrison Community Room in the NVRC was completed in the spring of 2020. This room is named in honor of WWII veteran Arthur “Art” Harrison, in memory of his service in the 44th Infantry Division. This room was made possible thanks to generous donations from Sara Harrison Johnston ’86 and Family, the Jon Ben Snow Foundation & Memorial Trust, the Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation, and LeChase Construction Services, LLC. Throughout the adjacent halls are photos from around the Central New York Community which depict the region’s strong commitment to veterans, military service members and their families. This room will be used for community gatherings and meetings once the building is officially open to the public.
In response to COVID-19, U.S. Army Cadet Command made changes to their summer training programs. This included Operation Agile Leader (OAL) which adjusted most Advanced Camp tasks to both on-campus training and a rigorous, task-force level off-campus field training exercise during the fall and spring semesters. Operation Agile Leader trained Army ROTC MSIV cadets at Fort Drum, NY in August 2020. Cadets were transported to Fort Drum for OAL in Chinook helicopters from Syracuse University’s South Campus.
Marion Dorfer

When Associate Professor Marion Dorfer joined the U.S. Army, she did so even though her mother, father and brother had all served in the US Air Force. “I think I joined the Army instead of the Air Force because I was more of a rebel. I wanted something different,” says Dorfer, who has taught surface pattern design, computer-aided pattern design and computer design classes in the College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Design since 1992. Dorfer served four years in the Army.

James E. Baker

The Hon. James E. Baker has always known that he was meant for a life of public service. Growing up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he was raised—as his mother once told him—to be a teacher. But he had other plans. “I came to the conclusion at a young age that anybody who had the educational opportunities I was given had an obligation to perform public service,” says Judge Baker, a professor in Syracuse University’s College of Law and director of the Institute for Security Policy and Law. “Teaching is public service, but I embraced the concept of the citizen-soldier.”

Baker joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18. He started his military career as an infantry officer in the Marine Corps and subsequently joined the staff of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, a federal civilian court that hears military justice appeals, for 15 years before retiring in 2015.

Miguel Pica

Miguel Pica is a student veteran, majoring in biology with a minor in public health, a path he is pursuing to connect his interest in medicine with his desire to help people. When his son was born at the end of this summer, Pica, who is also majoring in history in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School, started to focus on what he may want to do in the next chapter of his life.

Janina Rios

Growing up, Janina Rios did not think that going to college was a fit. “Coming out of high school, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. I knew higher education wasn’t for me,” she says. That belief has certainly changed now that she is in her first semester at Syracuse University. After graduating from Suffolk County Community College earlier this year with an associate degree in radio and television production, she is now pursuing a bachelor’s degree in film in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

In the National Guard, Rios served as a 25U, also known as a...
signal support systems specialist. Her job included working with communications signal support systems and terminal devices. After serving for nearly seven years, Rios decided it was time to think about her next chapter. Now, Rios is at Syracuse chasing her dreams. In addition to her film major, Rios is considering minors in photography and psychology.

Mike Frasciello

Mike Frasciello served on active duty for 10 years. He says he was fortunate to be assigned to squadrons that valued developing junior enlisted airmen into future leaders. “I was actively encouraged to take advantage of leadership development programs, pathways, and opportunities,” he says.

Frasciello worked as an airman during the day and took college courses at night and on weekends. His dedication allowed him to finish three degrees. Twenty years after leaving the Air Force, Frasciello completed a Ph.D. while working full-time. Today he serves as dean of The College of Professional Studies, Syracuse University’s gateway for part-time students whose goal is to pursue a degree or earn a certificate or credential from any of the University’s schools and colleges. “So maybe college was for me,” he says.

Scott Taylor

As the director of transfer and veteran admissions in the Office of Admissions, Taylor recruits, admits, and enrolls student veterans into undergraduate programs at Syracuse University. Additionally, his office helps veterans adjust to life in higher education and find the support they need to succeed at Syracuse University and beyond.

A veteran himself, Taylor served the country for 20 years as part of the United States Army. Over the course of his career, Taylor worked in a variety of roles around the world. He served in Korea working on stateside assignments, was deployed to Afghanistan three times including once in October 2001, right after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A Syracuse University Alum, Taylor attended graduate school at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, graduating in 2006.

Shannon Meeks

Originally from South Korea, Shannon Meeks met her now-husband while he was stationed there. After they married and returned to the US, she recalls having difficulty figuring out what she wanted to do for work. “When I first came to the US, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” she says. “Even though I spoke English as my second language, it seemed difficult to find opportunities for myself.” As a military spouse and familiar with the Army through her husband, she ultimately decided to enlist alongside her husband.

Following her first contract, Meeks, a new mom at the time, entered civil service. After working for 12 years in civil service as a budget analyst, she took a three-week finance course at Syracuse University. Here, she learned about the University’s Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP), a unique cooperative endeavor between the University and the Department of Defense in which candidates earn both a master’s degree in business administration (MBA) and an Executive Master’s Degree of Public Administration (EMPA) degree.

Jennifer Vollbrecht

When Jennifer Vollbrecht returned from serving in the US Marine Corps, she was not sure what her next step would be. Now the owner and primary consultant at J Vollbrecht Consulting, Inc., Vollbrecht’s path to entrepreneurship started with the skills and traits she developed during her military service.

Vollbrecht discovered Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV), a program created by Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) that offers cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans and family members. Vollbrecht attended EBV through the UCLA chapter. “I went in without a business plan or idea,” she says. “In EBV, I gathered information, soaked it up, and became super motivated to start my own business.”

Scott and Lauren Deutsch

It is common for children to follow in a parent’s footsteps by attending their alma mater. But attending the same law school at the same time is much more unique. At the College of Law, father-daughter duo Scott and Lauren Deutsch are making pursuing a J.D. a family activity.

“We’re not just a 1L and 2L—we’re father and daughter,” says Scott, who is in his second year of his studies in the JDinteractive (JDi) program, Syracuse’s fully online law degree program.

Scott is a veteran of the U.S. Army, retiring as a captain after serving both as an enlisted soldier and officer.
2020–2021
HOMETOWN HERO

SU vs Georgia Tech
September 26, 2020
U.S. Air Force Veteran, Laura Buys ‘18, G ‘21

SU vs Duke
October 10, 2020
U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Kirsten Brandes

SU vs Liberty
October 17, 2020
Army ROTC Cadet and NY Army National Guard Sergeant Felicia Showers ‘21

SU vs Wake Forest
October 31, 2020
U.S Army Captain Jay Knight G ‘21

SU vs Boston College
November 7, 2020
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Charlie Poag ‘22

SU vs NC State
November 28, 2020
U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Joseph Hernon
Laura Buys

In its fourth year as one of just 15 Pat Tillman Foundation University Partners, Syracuse University announced Laura Buys ’18, G’21 as its 2020 Tillman Scholar. Buys was one of only 60 students nationwide to be awarded the prestigious scholarship in 2020.

After honorably separating in 2017, Laura was able to fully immerse herself in a career in human services, choosing to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Women’s and Gender Studies and a Master of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. Laura also served as the school’s disability services liaison for student veterans, a confidential program where she helps connect student veterans like herself to the Center for Disability Resources and other community and campus wellness programs.

“Syracuse University truly is the best place for veterans—I know this from experience, having earned almost two degrees here. There are so many resources for military-connected students and veterans. I can’t say enough good things about the opportunities I’ve been given here,” says Laura Buys ’18, G’21.

Dan Rubio

Dan Rubio is one of the many student veterans here at the University using his post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to pursue his academic goals. In his case, this means a dual major in biology and environment, sustainability and policy in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Rubio is also the team leader for Peer Advisors for Veterans Education (PAVE), a peer support network that connects incoming undergraduate student veterans on campus with other student veterans who can help them navigate college life, address challenges, refer them to appropriate resources on and off-campus, and provide ongoing support.

Chinedu Nwankwoala

If money makes the world go around, then military finance officers are a vital link connecting our nation’s military and its commitment to the U.S. taxpayer. For Major Chinedu Nwankwoala, a member of the National Guard, a career in finance was a gateway to explore a much larger world—even larger than either of the continents he grew up on. Nwankwoala attended Syracuse University through the Defense Comptrollership Program. The DCP at Whitman School and the Maxwell School is a joint program between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. Being a finance guy, Nwankwoala was not initially excited about the EMPA part of his studies, but that quickly changed once classes started.

“When I signed up for this program, they told me it comes with this EMPA, and I didn’t care too much back then,” says Nwankwoala. “Now, that statement couldn’t be further from the truth. It helped me not only reflect on my time as a military officer, but also as husband, dad, and a person. I didn’t know there were techniques out there to help me deal with some of the things I was dealing with.”

Divyne Hutchinson

Divyne Hutchinson ’24 has always wanted to fly. The ambitious first-year Syracuse University student has been fascinated by airplanes since she was a child, and after her uncle enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, she was inspired to pursue the same dream. Hutchinson got her first glimpse of Syracuse University on the way back from a high school trip to Canada. After that visit, chatting with a university representative at her high school, and some research into the aerospace engineering program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, she knew she wanted to apply.

Shaei Rodriguez

Some people graduate from high school knowing exactly what they want to study in college. Others go straight into the workforce. For Shaei Rodriguez ’22, the path wasn’t so clear. He joined the United States Air Force after high school to gain some wisdom and experience, and to help with the financial aspects of higher education.

Rodriguez is a senior airman (soon to be staff sergeant) at Camp Springs, Maryland, where he works as a knowledge manager administering the base’s SharePoint system. To expand his expertise, he decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree in knowledge management online at Syracuse University. Rodriguez is not physically located on the Syracuse University campus, but he says he still feels part of the Orange community.
Aaron Cass

As a mortarman with the US Army, Aaron Cass ’21 knows a thing or two about camaraderie, which is why he was pleasantly surprised by the sense of teamwork he discovered while pursuing his degree in Syracuse University’s School of Architecture.

Looking to gain some independence, Cass joined the Army out of high school to find out who he was and what he wanted to do in life, ultimately deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. His four years in the service provided him with “nuggets of gold” for which he is thankful.

“Syracuse really values its veterans. Whether you are in a five-year program like me or a four-year program—or going into law enforcement like many veterans do, or even a more creative field—it is important to have those opportunities. That is why it’s great that the University is so welcoming,” says Aaron Cass ’21.

Darasha Singleton

Darasha Singleton is a military-connected student. She has three veteran parents—her mother, father, and stepfather. Now a graduate student studying broadcast journalism at the nation’s leading communications school, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, she’s proud Syracuse University makes veterans and their families a priority.

“I’m forever a military child. Looking back, I see what a huge sacrifice they made on their part, for the country and for me. It’s something that is very near and dear and you don’t understand until you look back.” - Darasha Singleton

Vincent Miczek

Vincent Miczek ’21 recently earned a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) and commissioned into the United States Air Force and will be headed to Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. At the end of 2021, he will start pilot training.

Joshua Reid

For Joshua Reid, an active-duty soldier now stationed in Japan, his training gave him the tools he needed to “continue the climb” while finishing his degree through University College at Syracuse University. “As a 10th Mountain Division soldier, the climb to glory for me is being a role model for my nieces and nephews, and also to my friends and in my community,” he says.

Reid says that the time management and discipline he is learned serving in the military helped him accomplish his goal. “I accept my duties as a soldier and a scholar with a deep reverence.”

Miczek says his degree will be applied almost immediately as he learns the intricacies of his assigned aircraft. “I can’t wait to start this next chapter in my life,” he says.
Syracuse University Veterans Affinity Group is an inclusive organization that is open to all members of the University community who’ve served in the Armed Forces or those who support those who have served our country. The group consists of employees from all areas of the University and represents all branches of service.
This past year’s Veteran Affinity Group highlights include:

BUILDING COMMUNITY
Members of the Affinity Group come together every month to host presentations on a wide range of topics from speakers from across the University and beyond. Highlights from this year’s presentation include Chancellor and President of Syracuse University, Kent Syverud, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, Mike Haynie, IVMF Research and Analytics Team, College of Law’s VISION, Syracuse Vet Center, and ViacomCBS Veterans Network.

SERVICE PROJECTS
Despite the challenges over this past year, the Affinity Group was able to come together once again to clean and give honor to the Veterans section of Oakwood Cemetery. We continued our support to the veterans at Oakwood Cemetery as part of our participation in the national initiative Wreaths Across America.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT
The Veterans Affinity Group participated in the flag-raising ceremony for the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello building raising one of the flags and playing accompaniment music. Speaking at this year’s Veterans Day Ceremony, was Affinity Group member Kari Mickinkle from the Office of Veteran Success, who shared the history of the creation of what is today’s Veterans Day.
STUDENT VETERANS’ ORGANIZATION

SVO AWARDS
In an awards ceremony at the National Veterans Resource Center, the Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and the OVMA awarded several annual recognitions, including the Best for Vets Award, the Community Support Award, the Danny Facto Student Veteran Work-Study Award, and the Student Veteran of the Year. The SVO also introduced its new slate of officers to lead the Syracuse University chapter beginning this month.

SVO’s Best for Vets Award was given to Ryan Marquette. Marquette is currently pursuing a J.D. from the College of Law and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

SVO’s Community Support Award went to Daniel Rubio. Rubio has supported new student veterans, as the Team Leader for the Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) chapter at Syracuse University.

The Danny Facto Student Veteran Work-Study Award was given to Miguel Pica. Pica has worked with the Syracuse University admissions team over the last year. Pica is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, a Bachelor of Arts in history in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School, and a minor in public health in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics.

Laura Buys was named Student Veteran of the Year. During her time at Syracuse University, Laura has been committed to the veteran community at Syracuse University. In 2019, Laura became a Disability Services Liaison (DSL) to better serve her peers. Laura’s work as a DSL highlighted her passion of social work and serving student veterans with disabilities. Additionally, Laura was selected as the 2020 Tillman Scholar for Syracuse University.

In addition, to these awards, the SVO announced new executive leaders for the 2021-2022 academic year:

-President: Janina Rios
-Vice President: Anthony Ruscitto
-Secretary: Harris Krahn
-Public Affairs Officer: Daniel Szarek
-Treasurer: Sam Tanner
ARMY AND AIR FORCE ROTC

University’s ROTC Cadets Bring the Fight to COVID-19

On October 6, the University’s Public Health Team identified an emerging cluster of positive COVID-19 cases on campus. Testing revealed more than 60 new cases over the next four days. After consulting with the Onondaga County Health Department, the University determined that aggressive action was needed. This new threat demanded enhanced surveillance testing. “We needed a lot of help and support,” says Pruthvi Kilaru, program manager in the Department of Public Health in the Falk College. Volunteers were needed to swab and log samples at the stadium on a mass scale. The Public Health Team also needed assistance in the lab to pool samples before they were sent to the lab.

The University’s Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) answered the call. Led by political science and Middle Eastern studies major Zach Baxter ’21 since October 7 a total of forty-three (43) cadets have logged 175 volunteer hours and facilitated an estimated 6000 tests. “Zach has been an integral part in getting people signed up and getting us staffed. They have really been amazing,” says Kilaru.

CHANCELLOR’S REVIEW

At the Annual Chancellor’s Review Ceremony, ROTC cadets who have distinguished themselves through superior performance in academics, ROTC, and extracurricular activities were recognized with awards sponsored by civilian and military organizations. Syracuse University’s ROTC is the longest consecutively running program in the United States. Among the many awards recognized, the OVMA awarded the “Commitment to Service award to one cadet from both the Army and Air Force Program. This year’s Commitment to Service award recipients were Army ROTC cadet Stanley Smudin ’22 and Air Force cadet Tyler Pirro ’21.

This year’s awards ceremony was held in the National Veterans Resource Center. Traditionally held in the university’s stadium, the Pass in Review portion of this year’s ceremony was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Air Force ROTC Leadership Labs

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, Air Force ROTC cadets participated in weekly leadership labs where cadets and applicants learned about guidon procedures, stationary drill, flag folding, reporting-in procedures, warrior knowledge, building entry procedures, stationary drill, first aid, and more.

Army ROTC Field Training Exercise

In April 2021, Army ROTC cadets traveled to U.S. Army Fort Drum, 10th Mountain Division to conduct a joint training exercise with Clarkson Universities Army ROTC Golden Knight Battalion, Cornell Army ROTC, and Mohawk Army ROTC. Cadets practiced qualifying at the range, land navigation skills, and conducting Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes.

Ranger Challenge Competition

Syracuse University Army ROTC cadets took part in the “Ranger Challenge” competition at Fort Dix, New Jersey in March 2021. The Syracuse team took first place in the “Place the Burden” challenge and second place in the tug-of-war.

Bataan Memorial Death March

Stalwart Battalion cadets participated remotely in the Bataan Memorial Death March on April 10, 2021. The annual Bataan Death March commemorates the tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers who, on April 9, 1942, were surrendered to Japanese forces and were forced to march more than 60 miles in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died and those who survived faced the hardships of prisoner of war camps. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging and grueling march that tests both mental and physical abilities. For the 2021 virtual experience, marchers were encouraged to choose a challenging stretch of road or trail in honor of the historical march. Cadets completed the 26.2-mile ruck march at the Erie Canal Trail.

Staff Ride

In May 2021, Senior Army ROTC cadets participated in a staff ride to Sackets Harbor where they completed a battlefield analysis of the War of 1812 battles on Lake Ontario, NY.
Syracuse ROTC Cadets Get First Opportunity to Attend Special Operations Civil Affairs Branch Assessment and Selection Course
Syracuse University Army ROTC cadets Madeleine Gordon and Patrick Little became the first cadets from any ROTC college program in the nation to attend the U.S. Army Special Operations Civil Affairs Assessment and Selection Course (CAAS) in December 2020 held at Fort Bragg, NC. Working alongside active-duty officers and enlisted soldiers, Gordon and Little applied lessons learned inside and outside of the classroom and were selected as future special operations civil affairs leaders.

ROTC Alumni Network
A special bond unites graduates of the Syracuse University U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Launched on LinkedIn in April 2021, the Syracuse University ROTC Alumni Network gives ROTC alumni the opportunity to connect with each other as well as network with current cadets. Alumni can share career opportunities, offer expertise as a mentor, leverage personal connections to help fellow ROTC alumni and cadets advance, and discover what their peers have been up to since graduation.

To join the ROTC Alumni Network on LinkedIn, please email vma@syr.edu.
OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following military-connected scholarships were awarded during the 2020-2021 school year. Scholarship support is the gift of opportunity and knowledge. Endowed and current-use scholarships enable Syracuse University to deliver the best education experience possible for military-connected students.

Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Undergraduate Student Veteran Scholarship
John Nipper ’23
Charlie Poag ’22

Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Military Family Member Scholarship
Sarah Hoag L ’23
Britney Kokesh ’22

Gerald B. Faigle Jr. and Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship
Scott Deutsch L ’22
Lucy and Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship
Shaei Rodriguez ’22
Michael Griffin ’21
Dania Tompkins ’24

Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students
Kyle Huff ’21
Divyne Hutchinson ’24
Jarod Okamura ’22
Hanna McNabb ’21

Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship
Hanna McNabb ’21
Michael Hahn-Rauch ’22
Amanda Lalonde ’23

Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans
Brian Mixon ’23

Dottle Family Endowed Scholarship
Madeline Messare ’22
Robert N. Fraser ’24
Michael McDonough ’24
Jason P. Yu ’24
Gerrit VanVranken ’24
Mingeun Song ’22
Quinn Pelichoff ’23
Nikolaus Sarisky ’21
OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS
National Veterans Resource Center Donor Roll

The National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at Syracuse University serves as a class-leading national exemplar of academic, government, and community collaboration positioned to empower those who have served in defense of our nation. The following donors have provided capital support for this historic endeavor.

Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello Building
Mr. Daniel A. D’Aniello & Mrs. Gayle V. D’Aniello

K.G. Tan Auditorium
Dr. Kwang G. Tan

Bisignano Family Program and Services Wing
Mr. Frank Bisignano, Mrs. Tracy S. Bisignano & their children

Captain Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder Hall of Honor
Mr. Clifford J. Ensley & Mrs. Susan Ensley
Mr. Theodore A. Lachowicz & Mrs. Cheryl H. Lachowicz
Ms. Felicia L. Walker & Mr. Jeffrey D. Saferstein

SSGT Arthur Harrison Community Room
Mrs. Sara H. Harrison Johnston & Family
The John Ben Snow Foundation & Memorial Trust
The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation
LeChase Construction Service, LLC

Haydon Student Veteran Study Room
Mr. Richard L. Haydon & Mrs. Helen F. Haydon

J. Michael Haynie Conference Room
Anonymous Donor

Col James C. Dottle, U.S. Army, Retired Office
Mr. Paul M. Dottle & Family

Ginsburg Family Office
CSM Gary I. Ginsburg, USA, Retired

Dick & Jean Thompson Operations Office
Mrs. C. Jean Thompson & Mr. Richard L. Thompson

James P. Russo Family Office
Ms. Christine A. Carona & Mr. Joseph R. Malarney

SSGT W. Harold Fuss Commander’s Office
Dr. J. Michael Haynie

Westervelt Family Office
Mr. Mark E. Westervelt & Mrs. Jeanne M. Westervelt

Novakovic Family Office
Mrs. Phebe B. Novakovic & Lt. Col. Michael Novakovic
Ms. Phebe N. Novakovic

Korean Association of Syracuse/Central New York
Jungah Kim Hahn & Seung S. Hahn
Han Garam Inc.
James S. Hong & Yu Jin Hwang
Myongsun Huh
Chae K. Kraemer
Eunkyu & Eun Lee
Jay Kyoon & Young Hee Lee
Sung & Karen Lee
Joon S. Park
Kyung Jin Park
Nak & So Ok Shim
Bong Hee & Kihui Woo

Tihić Family Fountain
Mr. Mirza Tihić & Family
PROVIDING ACCESS FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

Scholarship support is the gift of opportunity and knowledge. Endowed and current-use scholarships enable Syracuse University to deliver the best education experience possible for military-connected students. The following individuals have empowered student success by providing transformative levels of support.

- **Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship**
  Mr. Paul M. Dottle & Family
- **Gerald B. & Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship**
  Mr. Gerald B. Faigle Jr. & Mrs. Roberta M. Faigle
- **Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**
  Mr. Barry G. Flanik & Mrs. Kirsten P. Flanik
- **Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship**
  Mr. Millard Hall, Jr., & Dr. Lynette G. Hall
- **Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military Connected Students**
  Mr. Wilder J. Leavitt & Ms. Mary P. Morningstar
- **Louis A. & Patricia H. Mautino Endowed Veteran Scholarship**
  Mr. Louis A. Mautino & Mrs. Patricia H. Mautino
- **Lucy & Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship Endowed Fund**
  Mr. Ernest L. Herrman & Dr. Kathleen Herrman
- **Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents**
  Mr. F. Glenn Richardson & Mrs. Carol Richardson
- **Spall Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans**
  Mr. Theodore F. Spall & Mrs. Suzanne A. Spall

(NVRC donor roll continued)
**IMPARTIAL AREAS OF SUPPORT**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships provide access to the best education experience and are a tremendous way to show your support for military-connected students.

Consider establishing a scholarship to show your support for military-connected students.

**The Millard Hall, Jr. G ‘86 and Lynette G. Hall ‘89, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**

The Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in January 2021 to enable minority student veterans to attend Syracuse University and experience the benefits of a Syracuse University education and the opportunity to become “Forever Orange”.

With a desire to promote a diverse student body, the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and military connected students pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“Syracuse University provided a foundation that continues to favorably impact our lives, professional development and career growth. This scholarship is an opportunity for us to give back and bless someone else,” says Mickay, who earned an MBA from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management through the U.S. Army Comptrollership Program. “I consider ‘you’ to include my family,” he says. “They have also sacrificed quite a bit over the years in support of our great nation. My job was always to grab my pack and go, while they each had to make huge adjustments to their lives.”

**The Wilder J. Leavitt ‘86 and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**

The Wilder J. Leavitt ‘86 and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in Spring 2020 to empower students to their fullest potential.

With a preference for students studying science or engineering, the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and ROTC cadets pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“The award will significantly contribute to my success and will be a driving force on my journey to a degree in aerospace engineering and commissioning into the world’s greatest Air Force. Thank you for helping my dreams become a reality.”

**The Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**

With a gift in support of the Forever Orange campaign, Barry ’93 and Kirsten Flanik have established the Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans.

“Kirsten and I are proud of SU’s well-earned reputation as the country’s top private school for veterans, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to help those who have done so much for our country.”

The Inaugural Flanik Family Scholarship was awarded to student veteran Brian Mixon.

An U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army veteran, Brian is pursuing his degree part-time in Cybersecurity Administration at Syracuse University while working full-time in federal cybersecurity.

“In my mind though, when I hear ‘thank you for your service’, I consider ‘you’ to include my family,” he says. “They have also sacrificed quite a bit over the years in support of our great nation. My job was always to grab my pack and go, while they each subsequently held senior operational leadership positions with Coca-Cola, Valassis Communications and ISS Facility Services.

Lynette attended Syracuse through the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). Between HEOP and other scholarships, she was able to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing with minimal educational expenses and went on to earn a master’s in nursing from Emory University in 1992 and a doctorate of nursing practice from Georgia State University in 2015. She is currently a family nurse practitioner at the Southeast Permanente Medical Group. “The opportunity to attend Syracuse provided the foundation for my career in nursing,” she says. “Every nurse has a desire to care, to serve, or to help and I can pay it forward by creating a scholarship for minority students like me.”

The Halls’ scholarship is the first through the OTHC program created specifically for a veteran.

**IMPACTFUL AREAS OF SUPPORT**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships provide access to the best education experience and are a tremendous way to show your support for military-connected students.

Consider establishing a scholarship to show your support for military-connected students.

The Millard Hall, Jr. G ‘86 and Lynette G. Hall ‘89, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in January 2021 to enable minority student veterans to attend Syracuse University and experience the benefits of a Syracuse University education and the opportunity to become “Forever Orange”.

With a desire to promote a diverse student body, the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and military connected students pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“Syracuse University provided a foundation that continues to favorably impact our lives, professional development and career growth. This scholarship is an opportunity for us to give back and bless someone else,” says Mickay, who earned an MBA from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management through the U.S. Army Comptrollership Program. “I consider ‘you’ to include my family,” he says. “They have also sacrificed quite a bit over the years in support of our great nation. My job was always to grab my pack and go, while they each had to make huge adjustments to their lives.”

The Wilder J. Leavitt ‘86 and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in Spring 2020 to empower students to their fullest potential.

With a preference for students studying science or engineering, the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and ROTC cadets pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“This award will significantly contribute to my success and will be a driving force on my journey to a degree in aerospace engineering and commissioning into the world’s greatest Air Force. Thank you for helping my dreams become a reality.”

**The Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**

With a gift in support of the Forever Orange campaign, Barry ’93 and Kirsten Flanik have established the Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans.

“Kirsten and I are proud of SU’s well-earned reputation as the country’s top private school for veterans, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to help those who have done so much for our country.”

The Inaugural Flanik Family Scholarship was awarded to student veteran Brian Mixon.

An U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army veteran, Brian is pursuing his degree part-time in Cybersecurity Administration at Syracuse University while working full-time in federal cybersecurity.

“In my mind though, when I hear ‘thank you for your service’, I consider ‘you’ to include my family,” he says. “They have also sacrificed quite a bit over the years in support of our great nation. My job was always to grab my pack and go, while they each subsequently held senior operational leadership positions with Coca-Cola, Valassis Communications and ISS Facility Services.

Lynette attended Syracuse through the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). Between HEOP and other scholarships, she was able to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing with minimal educational expenses and went on to earn a master’s in nursing from Emory University in 1992 and a doctorate of nursing practice from Georgia State University in 2015. She is currently a family nurse practitioner at the Southeast Permanente Medical Group. “The opportunity to attend Syracuse provided the foundation for my career in nursing,” she says. “Every nurse has a desire to care, to serve, or to help and I can pay it forward by creating a scholarship for minority students like me.”

The Halls’ scholarship is the first through the OTHC program created specifically for a veteran.
CAREER IMMERSION

A gift to The Veteran and Military-Connected Student Career Immersion Program will help prepare students to successfully secure civilian careers upon graduation. The Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program prepares students for civilian careers upon graduation. Through a combination of skills assessment, preparatory career-focused seminars and courses, and a three-day immersion trip to major metropolitan areas across the country, this experiential offering provides student veterans with valuable career networking and engagement opportunities.

“My family is honored to be part of everything that is happening at Syracuse University in support of veteran and military-connected students on campus. A unique challenge faced by many of our student veterans is the task of navigating career opportunities. That is why I chose to endow the Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program. As a veteran and a proud father of a former U.S. Air Force officer, I can’t imagine a better cause to support.”

—Paul Dottle
Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Chair

Air Force ROTC Cadet Divyne Hutchinson

ROTC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A gift to the ROTC Professional Development Fund empowers aspiring cadets to develop management, team building, and communication skills to unleash their potential as future leaders. ROTC Professional Development helps to support additional leadership training and activities that enhances the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. It offers numerous opportunities for cadets to participate in staff rides, retreats, lectures, and seminars to learn how to effectively inspire, develop, and lead others.

“The University helped to shape me into the person I am today, and I am tremendously proud of my alma mater as they support and empower my fellow veterans, service members and their families. I established the ROTC Professional Development Fund to ensure cadets would have the opportunity to test their mental agility, communication skills and overall leadership abilities.”

—Retired Major General Peggy Combs ’85
Highest-ranking female military officer to graduate from Syracuse University, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Member
Veteran Legacy Fund (VLF)

The Veteran Legacy Fund provides unrestricted support to the Syracuse University military-connected community. We would like to thank the donors who made a gift to the Veteran Legacy Fund between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

We are grateful to the those listed below for their gifts and continued generosity:

THANK YOU

Syracuse University

VETERAN LEGACY FUND
Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle

Members of the Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle 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.

Current Leadership Circle Members

To all our current members, thank you for your generous support and leadership.

Mr. William B. Barnes
Mr. Michael F. Bocketti & Mrs. Donna M. Bocketti
Maj. Timothy P. Brady USA, Ret. & Ms. Bernadette H. Brady
Col. David E. Bronner Jr., USA Ret. & Mrs. Angelika K. Bronner
Mr. George T. Bruckman
Ms. Carol A. Campbell
Ms. Mary J. Coleman
Col. Eileen M. Collins USAF Ret. & Mr. James P. Youngs, Jr.
Mrs. Ingrid C. Coutts & Mr. Robert B. Coutts
Mr. Paul M. Dottle & Family
Mr. David J. Evangelista & Ms. Belinda G. Evangelista
Dr. Anne Fantini & Maj. Gen. Michael Fantini
Ms. Elizabeth A. Fantini
Mr. Barry G. Flanik & Mrs. Kirsten P. Flanik
Mrs. Cheryl L. Gilberg & Mr. Stephen J. Gilberg
Maj. Harold B. Gilbert USAF Ret. & Mrs. Mary Gilbert
CSM Gary I. Ginsburg, USA Ret.
Mr. John W. Golden, Jr. & Mrs. Gloria K. Golden
Dr. Patrick B. Gregory, USN Ret. & Mrs. Julie M. Gregory
Lt. Col. Millard Hall Jr., USA Ret. & Dr. Lynette G. Hall
Dr. J. Michael Haynie
Mr. Ernest L. Hermann & Dr. Kathleen Herrmann
Ms. Cydney M. Johnson
Mr. Wilder J. Leavitt & Ms. Mary P. Morningstar
Mr. James P. Lee & Mrs. Lou Ann Lee
Col. John L. Litzenberger USAF Ret. & Mrs. Barbara H. Litzenberger
Mr. Jeffrey C. Mason
Mr. James F. McCaffery
Col. Paul F. Meagher
The Hon. Norman A. Mordue & Mrs. Christina P. Mordue
Mr. James E. Morley, Jr. & Mrs. Elizabeth Morley
Col. Dr. Lawrence Myers Jr., USA Ret.
The Novack Family
Mrs. Kristen H. Patel & Mr. Malcolm D. Patel
Dr. Mark M. Pollitt & Mrs. Jane B. Pollitt
Mr. Kenneth L. Quaglio & Ms. Valerie H. Quaglio
Mr. Carl H. Reimerdes
Mr. F. Glenn Richardson & Mrs. Carol Richardson
Mr. Arnold J. Rubenstein & Mrs. Libby Rubenstein
* Mark William Ryan

Mr. Harold I. Steinberg & Mrs. Lana G. Steinberg
Dr. Melvin T. Stith & Dr. Patricia L. Stith
Dr. Barbara M. Tagg & Mr. David J. Tagg, Sr.
Mr. Mark E. Westervelt & Mrs. Jeanne M. Westervelt
Mrs. Maureen Wilkin & Mr. Michael J. Wilkin
Lt. Col. Robert C. Wright USAF Ret. & Ms. Suzanne L. Wright
Anonymous Alumni, Parents, & Friends

*Deceased
Veteran Legacy Fund 1944 Circle

We believe each supporter of the VLF deserves special recognition. Understanding the challenges our recent graduates face as they transition to the workforce, start new careers, and begin to continue raising families, OVMA created the “1944 Circle” as a way to recognize “graduates of the last decade” (G.O.L.D.), who desire to take their commitment a step further. Veteran Legacy Fund 1944 Circle members make a gift of $250 or more annually to provide unrestricted support to our military-connected students.

Current 1944 Circle Members
To all our current members, thank you for your generous support and leadership.

Col. Andrew P. Ewanitz III
Mr. Zachary A. Kubala
Ms. Jennifer R. Pluta & Mr. Arthur T. Pluta, Jr.
Mr. Adam M. Westervelt
OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Ms. Susan E. Upward
Mr. William E. Utley
Anne Utley
Mr. Kurt F. Van Atta
Mr. Jonathan L. Vanderhoef
Ms. Kimberly Vanderhoef
Mr. Robert C. Warden
Ms. Patricia Warden
Ms. Cynthia E. Weixel
Mr. Frank R. Surette
Col. Tom Wellman, Jr.
Mr. George R. Wells, Jr.
Mrs. Sharon Wells
Maj. Gen. Mark W. Westergren
Mr. John W. White
Mrs. Barbara P. Whitney
Mr. David C. Whitney
Mr. Carlos K. Wiest
Mrs. Kathleen O. Wiest
Col. Paul L. Williams USAF Ret.
Mrs. Diana D. Williams
Connor Williams
Miss Sherry M. Wilson
Mr. David W. Woodmansee
Mary Jo M. Woodmansee
Ms. Vivien Wu
Michael York
Anonymous Alumni, Parents & Friends

VETERAN LEGACY
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mr. Ronald D. Aarons
1st Lt. Natalia A. Akin Ret.
Mr. William E. Barnes, Jr.
Col. Lawrence W. Bishop

Mrs. Stephanie Boatman
Mrs. Marjorie I. Bonavia
Dr. Grant H. Bonavia
Mrs. Donna M. Borras
Ms. Pamela J. Brady
Mr. Jeffrey G. Braxton
Ms. Jill S. Brody
Mr. Anthony L. Bucci
Mrs. Antonina Bucci
Dr. Donald R. Callihan
Mrs. Sally Callihan
Mr. Howard E. Carpenter
Ms. Cecilia Carroll
Col. Sean P. Cassidy USAF Ret.
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cirelli
Col. Joseph F. Cirelli USA Ret.
Mr. David E. Clayton
Mrs. Lynn A. Clayton
Lt. Col. Robert B. Clemens J.D.
Mrs. Carol A. Clemens
Mr. Simon T. Cole
Mrs. Charlotte L. Cole
Col. Leslie C. Conwell USAF Ret.
Col. Christopher R. Cronin
Mrs. Debra Cureton
Mr. Philip D. Cureton
Mr. Ronald H. Damrath
Mr. Robert F. DeForest III
Ms. Jennifer L. Dottle
Dennis S. Driggers Ph.D.
Mr. Michael T. Ferrara
Ms. Catherine Ferrara
Mr. Paul A. Finocchiaro
Maria Finocchiaro
Maj. Paul R. Gandolfo
Mr. John Gardner

Mr. James A. Goulet
Mrs. Kathleen Green
Mr. Ronald S. Green
Lt. Col. Millard Hall Jr., USA Ret.
Dr. Lynnette G. Hall
Dr. Nathan Hare
Ms. Rachel M. Hare
Mr. John H. Hartman
Mrs. Carol D. Hartman
Mr. Erik R. Hauge
Mr. Kevin M. Hawley
Dr. Aimee L. Hawley
Mrs. Arlene J. Hayes
Jessie Hill
Col. Ralph M. Hockley USA Ret.
Ms. Carolyn G. Hockley
Lt. Col. Victor Holman
Mrs. Dakota Holman
Mrs. Leslie K. Holmberg
Mr. Charles E. Holmberg
Mr. William R. Irvin II
Mrs. Margaret Irvin
Lt. Col. Laurell Jones
Thomas Jones
Mrs. Eileen S. Joransen
Mr. Timothy W. Joransen
Mr. Grant E. Kaufman
Mr. David L. Kuiper
Mrs. Sueann M. Kuiper
Dr. Robert B. Lorenz
Mrs. Barbara A. Maksim
Mr. John W. Maksim
Mr. M. Scott Mingledoff
Ms. Lisa M. Murray
Mr. Timothy C. Murtha
Mr. Eric J. Nielsen
Mr. James J. O’Donnell
Dr. Lois P. O’Donnell
Mr. James A. Ouimet
Mrs. Kathleen Green
Mr. Ronald S. Green
Lt. Col. Millard Hall Jr., USA Ret.
Dr. Lynnette G. Hall
Dr. Nathan Hare
Ms. Rachel M. Hare
Mr. John H. Hartman
Mrs. Carol D. Hartman
Mr. Erik R. Hauge
Mr. Kevin M. Hawley
Dr. Aimee L. Hawley
Mrs. Arlene J. Hayes

Mr. Brent A. Penny
Col. W. Pennypacker, Jr.
Ms. Deborah R. Pennypacker
Lt. Col. Ronald W. Propst
Mr. David G. Rauscher
Mrs. Kathleen H. Rauscher
Mrs. Judy L. Reed
Mr. Lawrence E. Reed
Mr. Joseph W. Robinson
Mr. Michael T. Ryland
Marc J. Schaertl
Tracey A. Schaertl
Col. Howard R. Seamens
Dr. Aubrey L. Sejuit
Mr. Matthew D. Sejuit
Col. Thomas D. Shearer
Lt. Col. Pamela A. Mason-Shearer
Felicia L. Showers
Mrs. Susan H. Slayman
Mr. Kelso S. Slayman
Col. Ronald C. Smith USAF Ret.
Ms. Barbara K. Soldovieri
Mr. Joseph Soldovieri
Mr. Edward J. Spencer III
Ms. Stephanie L. Stevens
Mr. Albert E. Straus
Mr. Michael J. Shor
Eileen M. Stuart-Shor
Col. T. Bruce Sweeney
Mr. William W. Tague
Dr. William J. Tracz USA Ret.
Mrs. Geraldine J. Tracz
Col. Richard R. Tupy Jr., USA Ret.
Ms. Elaine Tupy
Maj. Gen. Mark W. Westergren
Col. Wayne M. White
Mrs. Cynthia G. White
Col. Paul L. Williams USAF Ret.
Mrs. Diana D. Williams

Ms. Jean M. Wiseman
Mrs. Carol L. Woodward
Capt. Stephen S. Woodward
Ms. Vivien Wu
Dr. George R. Yoder

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs is the recipient of many gifts each year that honor or memorialize our friends, patrons and loved ones. We are grateful to the following who made such gifts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

In Honor of
Lt. Col. Millard Hall Jr., USA Ret. &
Dr. Lynnette G. Hall in Honor of Military Veterans
Ms. Kathleen Gleason in Honor of Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey D. Filipkowski
Ms. Maureen E. Casey in Honor of my colleagues in the IVMF and OVMA who are deeply committed to those who have worn our nation’s uniform

In Memory of
Ms. Cydney M. Johnson &
Mr. Jeffry J. Comanici in Memory of Sidney L. Johnson
Mr. James P. Lee & Mrs. Lou Ann Lee in Memory of Mr. Harold Lee
Ms. Jill S. Brody in Memory of Mr. William B. Smith
Mr. Erik R. Hauge in Memory of Olaf F. Hauge
Mrs. Sara J. Althouse in Memory of Mr. James W. Althouse III