When Bryan Russelburg graduated from USI with a commission from ROTC he always knew that he would return to campus someday. What he could not have known was that he would return to help our student and community veterans find jobs.

When he is not serving as a Field Artillery Officer with the Indiana Army National Guard, he is working as an Employment Transition Coordinator with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in the USI Career and Internship office in the Orr Center.

In his short time in this position, Russelburg has created opportunities working with non-profit organizations and tri-state businesses who realize the importance of hiring veterans in career positions.

He has recruited job-seeking veterans, counseled them on career opportunities, helped make them more marketable to civilian employers, and taught networking skills.

As part of the streamlining process for job-seekers, Russelburg also enjoys putting veterans in touch with other agencies who are ready and available to help. He enjoys being a resource for veterans who have so many options but may not know where to turn.

The Employment Transition Coordinator performs specific functions and responsibilities in assisting members of the National Guard and Reserve Components, and their families, in obtaining career oriented employment opportunities. His position will be responsible for executing and administering operations and services established by the ESGR Employment Initiative Program through close cooperation with the local ESGR Committee, leaders and members of the Guard and Reserves, federal and state veterans and employment service agencies, and a broad spectrum of employers, business and civic leaders and other organizations involved in employee recruiting and employment.

The placement in our Career and Internship office will broaden the employer base and outreach efforts for our student and community veterans.

Mr. Russelburg can be contacted in his office at 812-228-5034 or email at bsrusselbu@usi.edu or bryan.s.russelburg.ctr@mail.mil.

See his announcement on page 2.
Mr. Joel Matherly, Manager  
(812) 461-5302  
jsmatherly@usi.edu

Mrs. Debra Mabern, Associate  
(812) 461-1857  
dlmabern@usi.edu

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**From the Desk: Student Veterans Association - Mr. Mike Benner**

As you read from the first page, we will attend the 2016 Midwest Regional Conference on April 22-23 in South Bend, Indiana. This is a great event for us because it gives us an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in the topic areas, but it also enables us to promote our SVA at USI on a much bigger scale.

Through these events, we can engage other SVA/SVO’s and determine what programs work, what does not, how their campuses address student veteran concerns and what initiatives we can look into for the betterment of our student veteran community.

If you are interested in attending, I need to know by the week of spring break so we can plan your travel (transportation, accommodations and per diem). This is a great opportunity to represent our campus and veteran program.

Please contact me today so we can place you on a roster. Messages can be left at 812-464-1857 or gmbenner@eagles.usi.edu.

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**From the Desk: American Legion Post 324 - Mr. Pete Snowden**

As a reminder, we have a big event coming up the first part of April. We will host the District 8 meeting on April 3, 2016 at the University Center Room 2218.

It is a very rare honor to get to host a meeting of this magnitude especially as one of the youngest posts in the district.

We would like as many of our members to attend to not only show support to our post, but to let the district know that we are here and have a voice to share. The district meeting is the largest Legion meeting the average Legionnaire ever attends. At every district meeting there will usually be dignitaries of The American Legion or the Auxiliary present. This event is a great way to represent our campus and American Legion Post, but can also serve as a means of networking and being part of the future of our post and benefits that surround our service.

If you have not joined, it’s not too late. Join today by contacting me at rpsnowden@eagles.usi.edu or call our office at 812-464-1878.

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**From the Desk: ESGR On-Campus Employment Coordinator - Mr. Bryan Russelburg**

I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself to you as the latest edition to the University of Southern Indiana campus. My name is Bryan Russelburg and I am an Employment Coordinator with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). As a graduate of USI, I am very excited to return to campus in this capacity.

My position allows me the opportunity to work with veterans of all eras and an employer base throughout the region that can be utilized to get our veterans back to work.

There are resources available to you that you may not even know of. I am able to assist you in resume and interview skills and can find additional community resources to help you find your career.

I am very excited to work with you and look forward to seeing you at campus and community events. Please also stop by the USI Career and Internship office to familiarize yourself with all of the great resources they offer our students.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, I can be contacted in his office at 812-228-5034 or email at bsrusselbu@usi.edu or bryan.s.russelburg.ctr@mail.mil.

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**Did You Know?**

Disabled veteran license plates are the same as handicap plates in the State of Indiana. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs who also verifies the veterans eligibility.
DoD Launches New Tutoring Pilot Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Program is offering a pilot program that provides online tutoring to DoD Service members at no cost (See Attachment). Service members can connect to a live tutor online at any time for one-to-one anonymous help with homework, test preparation, proofreading and more. The program was established to help ensure Service members have the necessary tools and resources to reach their higher learning and professional development goals.

The program provides tutoring services with background-checked experts able to help with more than 40 college subjects, to include English, Algebra, Statistics, Physics, Accounting, History, Physiology and World Languages, in addition to writing projects such as research papers and creative essays.

Services include:

* Free Around-the-Clock Help -- Access for military students is provided at no cost, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with no appointment necessary. Regardless of where Service members attend school or where they are stationed, students can access the online service by using an internet-enabled device, including smart phones. Tutors are available on-demand or students can schedule tutor sessions or drop off papers for offline tutor review.

* Help in 40+ Subjects, All Skill Levels -- Tutors provide help in Math, English, Writing, Science, Social Studies, World Languages and more. Tutoring in Spanish for native Spanish speakers is also available in some subjects.

* Expert Tutor services are Safe, Secure, Anonymous -- Every tutor is a carefully screened, background-checked expert, and every tutoring session is anonymous. A team of more than 3,000 tutors includes certified teachers, college professors and other education professionals. Tutors and students communicate in a secure online classroom using text chat and by drawing on an interactive whiteboard; no webcams or telephones are used. No personal information is shared between the tutor and student.

To create an account, visit www.tutor.com/military <http://www.tutor.com/military> and click the blue button that corresponds to your branch of service.

If you have questions about the Tutor.com for U.S. Military program, please email militarysupport@tutor.com or contact:

Harold W. Hall
Education Services Specialist
317-964-7147 Extension: 77147
Email: harold.w.hall6.civ@mail.mil

From the Desk: Vet Center On-Campus Counselor - Mrs. Wendy Freeman

At the Vet Center, we are asked a lot of different questions, so I wanted to use this month to answer some of the more popular ones so you can be informed for yourself or someone you know.

1. Where are you located?
We recently opened a brand new facility off of Burkhardt Road (Raffi’s location) in front of the Evansville VA Clinic. We have a mobile vet center and available family counseling. FREE daily tours with no obligation. Come in and see us.

2. Are there services for your family?
The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act, Section 304 provides authorization for a wide range of services to Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND) and members of their immediate families including: peer outreach, peer support, readjustment counseling and mental health services.

3. How do I or my family schedule an appointment?
To make arrangements for counseling services, please contact your local OEF/OIF/OND Program Manager or contact the Vet Center Combat Call Center at 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or contact or Evansville office at 812-476-5993.

Your local Vet Center is here to help.

Monthly Quote

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

VETERAN HOLDS—Veteran holds are placed on the Monday following the 100% drop/add period and run until priority registration. They are reestablished after the PR period ends and will come off during finals.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION—If you are currently using VA Benefits (GI Bill), you qualify for priority registration regardless your academic alignment (Freshman—Senior). Plan your next semester before this date and schedule an appointment with your advisor.

VA CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT FORM DUE EACH SEMESTER you plan to use benefits. Find this form at http://www.usi.edu/reg/ssl/vaformlogin.asp. Complete yours as soon as you register for classes.

VFW 1114 Dining Room Open to Public—Friday, Saturday, Sunday Brunch Breakfast $6.00 1st/3rd Saturday Prime Rib 1st/3rd Saturday Buffet Friday Night $9.95

File your DD214 for FREE: Vanderburgh County Chief Deputy Recorder at 1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 231 Evansville IN 47708 812.435.5215

EACH SEMESTER ENROLLMENT FORM DUE

File your VA Certificate of Enrollment by the end of the drop/add period.

VA CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT FORM DUE EACH SEMESTER
USI Dental Hygiene Clinic to Offer FREE Dental Cleanings for All Veterans of All Era’s Again for the Second Year

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide FREE dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans this spring on February 29 and March 2. Dental Hygiene faculty have expanded the appointment schedule to include evening hours for the first time in attempt to serve more veterans.

The USI Dental Hygiene program collaborates with Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) and USI’s Veteran, Military & Family Resource Center to offer these special clinic hours for veterans.

USI Dental Hygiene faculty will supervise the students who will be working in the clinic. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 812-464-1706. Proof of military affiliation and a picture identification is required.

The USI Dental Hygiene Clinic is located on the USI campus in the Health Professions Center Room 1040, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712.

The Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Southern Indiana is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education.

Southwest Indiana AHEC began as a regional center in 2008, and it is hosted by the University of Southern Indiana in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. SWI-AHEC is part of a national network with a mission to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for under-served communities.

We are pleased that this program has returned to our campus. This was a pilot program from the spring semester which was extremely well received. The program is open to all Veterans of all eras and current military.

Four Hot Jobs for Ex-Military Personnel - Military.com

The U.S. military is arguably the best-trained workforce in the world, and personnel who leave military service have skills that translate to virtually any career.

Here’s a look at four popular jobs that give those who’ve served an opportunity to make a difference and move up.

Information Technology (IT) Specialist
Former members of the military have worked with some of the most advanced technology in the world, they can use that hands-on experience in a civilian capacity as an IT professional.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, “computer scientists and database administrators are expected to be among the fastest growing occupations through 2014.”

In addition to enjoying a demand for services, one can also exercise entrepreneurial side as an IT specialist and become a certified contractor.

Police Officer
Former military personnel hold a special place in the heart of police department recruiters across the United States. The qualities of a great police officer are virtually identical to those of a great service member: both have a desire to serve their country and community and protect people and their rights.

A career in law-enforcement may appeal to those with military service due to its similarities with military structure and practices. Because vets are in such high demand, many police departments offer hiring perks, including extra points on the entrance exam, an age deduction from the maximum age limit, GI Bill benefits, retirement perks and more.

Math or Science Teacher
Former military personnel with technology backgrounds can make wonderful teachers, as they are familiar with maintaining order and instilling a sense of pride in others.

And, being a teacher has other rewards: generous vacation time (including summers off), opportunities to earn extra income through tutoring or by teaching additional classes, and coaching.

Entrepreneur
According to SCORE, a nonprofit partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration that dispenses free business advice, almost one in four U.S. veterans buys or launches a new business or is seriously considering it. Many ex-military members thrive through discipline. It’s also a quality that every business owner needs for her company to survive its first few years and become a viable operation.

From franchising to starting a company from scratch, there are many ways for military personnel to pursue entrepreneurship. Visit score.org and eauth.com to learn about additional opportunities and resources just for veterans.

The above list is just a start. People who have served in the military have a vast array of transferable skills that they can leverage to continue careers.
According to his wife, Brittney Whitman, the wars completely changed Samuel’s life. By the time he returned home to Brittney and their 5-year-old daughter, Charlotte, he had suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury and was struggling with severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

“In many ways, Samuel is no longer the same person,” said Brittney. “He sacrificed his life, mind and body, and now it’s an everyday struggle to keep moving forward.”

The appeals process: Appeals at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals - By Catherine Trombley, DVA

In my previous two posts, I discussed the difference between a claim and an appeal and the appeals process that occurs at the VA regional office. If you have not read those posts, I suggest you start with those, as this post builds on those.

There is a perception that a lot of the regional offices’ decisions are appealed to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. This is not accurate. Historically, only 4 percent of all claims the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) decides are appealed to the board. The perception probably comes from the increasing number of pending appeals, but that growth is explained by looking at the math. In the last four years, VBA has completed more claims than ever before in its history. Because VBA has completed so many more claims, the volume of appeals has also increased, even though the rate of appeals of VA decisions has remained steady.

If after receiving a statement of the case (SOC) from the regional office you still are not satisfied with the regional office’s decision, you can file a VA Form 9, Appeal to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, within 60 days from the date the SOC is mailed.

**Appeals at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals**

Once the board receives your appeal, it assigns a docket date based on the date VA received your Form 9. This date is important: under the law, the board must work appeals in docket order. Currently, the median, or middle, docket date of appeals the board is working is July 2014. Some newer appeals can be pushed to the front of the line: those from older Veterans and survivors, those who are terminally-ill or those who have documented financial hardship, etc. It’s important to know that if the board remands (returns) your appeal to the regional office to gather more evidence, you won’t lose your place on the board’s docket.

Just like in the regional offices, several Veterans service organizations are located at the board. If you choose not to have a hearing before the board, your representative will write a legal argument on your behalf. The board will consider that argument when it conducts its own de novo review of your claim. If you choose to have a hearing, your representative will help you explain your case at that hearing. VA will transcribe the hearing and put it in your file. The board can do one of three things: grant your appeal, deny your appeal or send (remand) it back to the regional office for more action.

If you disagree with the board’s decision, you may pursue an appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). If the CAVC denies your appeal, you can appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. If you lose the appeal there, you can petition the U.S. Supreme Court for review. The Supreme Court grants review in very few appeals. Generally, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court review only legal matters in an appeal, not agency decisions.
Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday Each Month at the VFW Post 1114

Contact Barbara Kortz - 812-568-4274
tristatetowomenvet@aol.com
Facebook: Tri-State Womens Veterans

FREE DENTAL CLEANING FOR VETERANS

February 29 and March 2, 2016
Dental Hygiene Clinic
University of Southern Indiana Campus
Health Professions Center - Room 1040
8800 University Boulevard - Evansville, Indiana

SERVICES LIMITED TO:
Cleaning • X-Rays • Fluoride

Appointments required! Limited Spots - Call now: 812-464-1706

- Proof of military affiliation required at the time of your appointment. Picture identification may be required if the source is a membership card.
- A medical history form will need to be completed prior to your appointment.
- If you have a medical condition that requires consultation with a physician, dental hygiene treatment may be delayed until written approval for treatment is received from your physician.
- All services will be performed by students and supervised by US Dental Hygiene faculty.

The Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Southern Indiana is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a scientiﬁc and educational body committed to the advancement of dental education and the delivery of quality patient care through education and research.

American Legion 8th District Meeting

April 3, 2016
University of Southern Indiana, Sgt. Brock Babbs Post 324
University Center, Room 2218

TIME LINE OF EVENTS:
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Luncheon begins
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Cash Bar Open
1:00 p.m. - District Meeting begins - Room 2218
3:00 p.m. - Sons of the American Legion Meeting begins - Room 2226
1:00 p.m. - American Legion Auxiliary Meeting begins - Room 2207

Letterhead:
Garden salad with Italian dressing
Salad with Italian dressing
Chili
Tourist Chicken Casserole
Chicken Parmesan
Garlic Bread sticks
Parmesan Cheese

Directions:
Highway 61 to University Boulevard East onto University Boulevard toward the University of Southern Indiana
Continue on University Boulevard and turn left into U of S for parking
Enter into the theatre (Lettuce Door), elevator or at
Take elevator to the second floor
UC 207 is immediately off the elevator to the left

HOMELESS or NEARLY HOMELESS? NEED HELP?

One Day • One Stop • One Mission
Get the help you need - on one day - at one stop (for free)

Thursday, March 17, 2016 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Old National Events Plaza

Contact: 812-464-1706

More Information:
https://www.southernindiana.edu
ANNOUNCEMENTS & FAMILY EVENTS

OPERATION
HIRE A HOOSIER VET

SERVING MILITARY VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SAVE THE DATE!!!

1. LARGEST CAREER FAIR IN INDIANA FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
2. REGISTRATION OPENS 2/17/2016 AT WWW.OHHV.ORG
3. PREP WORKSHOP 4/3/2016 LOCATION TBA
4. COME DRESSED TO INTERVIEW
5. LUNCH PROVIDED FOR THOSE THAT PRE-REGISTER

APRIL 20, 2016

LOCATION: INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
OVER 165 EMPLOYERS ATTENDED IN 2015

10am-3pm in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building

Follow us on:
Facebook@facebook.com/operationhivet or Twitter@operationhivet
#OHHV2016

Women Veteran Conference
April 15, 2016 Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Register ONLINE:
www.IN.gov/dva or winvet-conference.eventbrite.com
or by PHONE
317-232-3910

Speakers include:
Lt Gov Sue Ellspermann, State Rep
Karlee Moyer, AF Col Anna Schulte
Workshops: VA Health Care and VA Benefits, Resume Building, Self Defense, Art Therapy, Positive Child Discipline
FREE Makeovers, Massages, Lunch

Benefits, Employment, Education, Building
Women Veteran Connections
Workshops Led By Accredited Experts

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Western Kentucky Women Veterans
Regional Conference

“Kentucky Women Veterans: Today's Leaders”

Knicely Center
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green

Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton
Keynote Speaker

Workshops, Entertainment and Lunch

No Charge for Admission, But Registration Required

Conference Details Here

In 2016, KDVA will be focusing on two regional women veteran’s conferences in Western and Eastern, Ky. with our statewide conference being planned for Spring 2017. As with all of our events, women veterans from all across the Commonwealth are invited to attend any and every event hosted by KDVA. We are excited to host outreach opportunities to bring services, information and programs closer to you in your community. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.