



Student Veterans of America  
Midwest Regional Director  
rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org  
www.studentveterans.org

## *The Midwest Update*

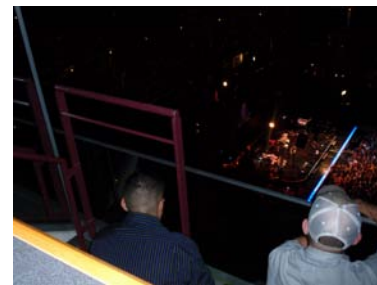
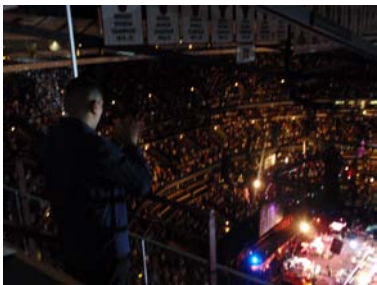
Volume 1, Issue # 8

June 1, 2009

Hello Midwest Regional student veterans,

I hope this email finds you well. Please distribute to your members as this monthly update will introduce student veterans to the Midwest region. This update will contain information on new benefits, student veteran events occurring throughout the Midwest, updates from our member chapters, job fairs, scholarships & critical benefit updates. In addition to ***The Midwest Update***, you will receive an official Student Veterans of America national newsletter. If your student veterans would like to add any event, knowledge, specific benefit for your particular state, or any other pertinent information to either newsletter, do not hesitate to contact your new Regional Director at [gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org](mailto:gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org). We will continue to work together to provide the necessary tools for the success of all student veterans (current & future).

1. **SVA-MIDWEST & OSOT-IL SEND STUDENT VETERANS TO CONCERT:** On May 20, 2009, SVA-MIDWEST, OSOT-IL and a private donor allowed 2 SVA associated veterans to attend a Bruce Springsteen Concert. SVA student veterans were treated to an all-inclusive concert box service including food, drinks and a private venue. Thank you to our donors for donating the concert tickets to our student veterans and to each recipient who work the ground (campuses & events) tirelessly for SVA.



2. **NEW MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR: GERALD KAPINOS** from UW-Madison is the new Midwest Regional Director effective June 1, 2009. He is a committed and devoted individual and he will continue the Midwest mantra of being #1. He has my full confidence and will have ready access to me and the state directors for a smooth transition as we continue to build several programs/services for the Midwest including more publications, member benefits, financial benefits, and communications. I appreciate all the support you have given me and I will continue to work with the national office in our attempt replicate Midwest successes nationwide.
3. **G.I. BILL UPDATE 1:** Between 1 & 15 MAY more than 25,000 veterans signed up for the new GI Bill when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) opened its online registration site on 1 MAY. There is a concern is that the program could be so enticing that many service members will leave the military to go to school. Some observers believe there is going to be a giant sucking sound from a large number of individuals saying, 'Why wouldn't I go to college, this is a great opportunity'. Cindy Williams, a security analyst at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge said, "I would say nobody knows. In particular, the VA doesn't know



Student Veterans of America

Midwest Regional Director

rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org

www.studentveterans.org

and the Department of Defense doesn't really know." The new GI Bill is an overhaul of the original 1944 law that was responsible for sending a generation of veterans to college. It will not replace the World War II-vintage bill, known as the Montgomery GI Bill. It is an additional offering by the VA. The new bill is proving more popular, though, because it pays the full cost of tuition for public undergraduate schools. The Montgomery bill pays a flat rate. This bill will cost taxpayers \$62 billion during the next decade as it aims to reward some of the 2.1 million veterans who served any time after 9/11 for at least 30 days. [Source: Mary Knox, CS Monitor 15 May 2009]

4. **VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM:** This program offered to disabled veterans by Oklahoma State University. As you know, more and more veterans are returning from the battlefield disabled -- our program helps these men and women attain the dream of becoming entrepreneurs. VEP offers cutting edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines disabled during their service supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. VEP trains veterans to recognize and embrace the entrepreneurial spirit, and it gives them the tools to turn their dreams into a passion and a way of life. The VEP program is offered entirely free to any veteran accepted into the program. We cover the cost of transport to Stillwater, accommodation, the online and live courses, instructors, books, materials, all food costs and outings that are part of the program. The program is rigorous, unfolds over twelve months and involves some of the top educators and subject matter experts. I need to get this information out to as many veterans I as can, and what I need from you is to pass on this information. I do not want any qualified veteran to miss this great opportunity. I have attached a brochure about VEP. For more information, please visit the Web site <http://eee.okstate.edu/vep> or call 405-744-3325. See attachments. [Source: Abby Speed, VEP 15 May 2009]
5. **AMERICAN CORPORATE PARTNERS:** ACP is a non-profit organization based in New York City providing corporate mentors to the men and women of our armed services who have served on active duty since 2001. Participation in the program is completely free. At ACP, they recognize that America's veterans are among the best-trained and experienced individuals in the job market, but are often in need of career transition assistance. ACP has partnered with eleven major corporations and two universities that are providing high-quality mentors to young veterans looking to transition out of the military into Corporate America. ACP mentors are providing invaluable career assistance, work-life guidance, and networking opportunities that are leading to great improvements in the personal and professional paths of the veterans in the program. ACP's corporate mentors come from Campbell Soup Company, Energy Future Holdings, General Electric Company, The Home Depot, Inc., IBM Corporation, MacAndrews & Forbes Holdings, Inc., Morgan Stanley, News Corporation, PepsiCo, Inc., URS Corporation, Verizon Communications Inc., The University of Oklahoma and The University of Texas System- and they represent a variety of careers and industry experience. Visit the website [www.acp-usa.org](http://www.acp-usa.org) for more detailed information about the mission of the program and exactly how it works. To apply as a Veteran Protege, click on the "Veterans" tab and click on the application button. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with the staff at American Corporate Partners at [info@acp-usa.org](mailto:info@acp-usa.org) should you have any questions. See attachments. [Source: John Powers, Student Veterans of America 15 May 2009]
6. **VETERAN'S CORP:** Amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to direct the Corporation for National and Community Service to establish the Veterans Engaged for Tomorrow Corps (VET Corps), composed of veterans, retired military personnel, and their family members to: (1) help veterans, retired military personnel, and their family members obtain training, certification, or access to education or employers and otherwise to serve their communities through national and community service programs; (2) support existing outreach efforts to inform veterans about available services and benefits; (3) act as a clearinghouse for persons desiring to serve the veteran population; (4) coordinate with other departments and agencies to identify and address existing and future needs and challenges of veterans; and (5) provide veterans with opportunities to adjust to civilian life. Allows individuals to serve as VET Corps members for up to 24 months. Outlines VET Corps membership requirements and authorized benefits while performing or



Student Veterans of America  
Midwest Regional Director  
rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org  
www.studentveterans.org

participating in VET Corps projects. Directs the Corporation to make grants to veteran service organizations, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, state or local governments, or institutions of higher education for establishing, operating, and supporting VET Corps projects. Questions? Call 1-800-942-2677 or email [questions@americorps.org](mailto:questions@americorps.org) [Source: [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov) 15 May 2009]

7. MDVA WEBCAST: Massachusetts is the national leader in veterans' services. This 90-minute live webcast will focus on the many programs and services available to all military veterans and their families living in Massachusetts or beyond its borders. Veterans' services experts will explain the benefits available and will take questions LIVE via instant messaging throughout the program. Open to any veteran from any state. The site is already up to sign up to learn more about and register for the webcast: [www.WeOweU.org](http://www.WeOweU.org). Interested veterans and family members can also submit YouTube video questions in advance to the following address: [www.youtube.com/massdvs](http://www.youtube.com/massdvs) See attachments. [Source: John Powers, Student Veterans of America 15 May 2009]
8. NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS: I would like to personally welcome the 1 new addition to the Midwest. They are: Kirkwood Community College. Greetings... Please let us know what we can do to help.
9. **SVA CHAPTERS IN THE NEWS: UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT VETERANS:** The Des Moines Register is reporting that Senate File 451 has passed the Iowa House & Senate and is going to Gov. Culver. This bill is part of the University of Iowa Veterans Association 2009 Legislative Action Plan. The Daily Iowan reported on the UIVA's lobbying efforts in January, and we would like everyone to know that those efforts are now bearing fruit. The legislation directs that qualified veterans and active duty military personnel and their dependents be classified as residents for the purpose of receiving in-state tuition. The allows nonresident student veterans to get the most from their education benefits while the universities can take advantage of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill and become more attractive to out-of-state vets. This may also help increase the amount of financial aid benefits available to the student body as veterans under the new GI Bill will not have as much financial need with their benefits paying 100% undergrad tuition level. For more information, please click [here](#). [Source: Thomas Beaumont Des Moines Register & The Daily Iowan 20 April 2009] **UPDATE:** Tuition bill created by SVA Chapter at UI signed by Governor on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.
10. **SVA CHAPTERS IN THE NEWS: MORAINE VALLEY STUDENT VETERANS:** The Veterans Club would like to invite you to a veteran session focusing on starting a business and becoming an entrepreneur. Learn about: writing a business plan, small business loans, how small businesses survive tough economic times and the Entrepreneur series offered by Moraine Valley Community College. Please contact the Moraine Valley at [willsd6@morainevalley.edu](mailto:willsd6@morainevalley.edu) or at (708) 974-5759. See attachment. [Source: Debbie Wills, Moraine Valley Community College 15 May 2009]
11. UPCOMING EVENTS:
  - a. June 12, 2009: SVA Chapter - Moraine Valley Community College Info Session (see attached)
  - b. June 16, 2009: MDVA - Live Webcast
  - c. September 25, 2009: SVA Indiana - State Conference @ IUPUI
12. ATTACHMENTS: Attached you will find the VEP Letter & Brochures, the American Corporate Partners Program, Moraine Valley CC Info Session Program and the MDVA Webcast Program.

It's been 18 months since the inception of SVA which began with 12 chapter members. Today, we are approaching almost 180 chapter members throughout the United States. As a relatively new organization, we will continually strive to provide additional resources and benefits for our chapter members to succeed. It's been an explosive year and we continually learn what our



Student Veterans of America  
Midwest Regional Director  
rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org  
www.studentveterans.org

any members need, want and require. I am pleased to have the veterans from across the Midwest as part of the national coalition. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or check out our website for more information. We will continuously update it to reflect new benefits, information and scholarships among many others.

***Yesterday's Warriors, Today's Scholars, & Tomorrow's Leaders***

Rodrigo Garcia  
Midwest Regional Director  
Student Veterans of America  
[www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org)

E-Mail: [rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org](mailto:rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org)