Professional Spotlight: Veterans and Military Student Services Center

The Veterans and Military Student Services Center provides several services to veterans, service members and their families. These services are designed to support and assist our student veterans as they pursue their academic and personal interests, integrate into the campus community and ultimately ensure a successful experience. The recently renamed office expands services offered to qualifying students under the leadership of Marcellina “MJ” James, a U.S. Navy veteran who joined UofM staff early in the semester.

MJ works collaboratively with campus staff, faculty and administrators in coordinating programs for students including: orientation, social programs, recognition events, advising and campus engagement. In addition, James functions as an advisor for the Student Veterans Organization (SVO).

To learn more about VMSSC visit [http://www.memphis.edu/veterans/](http://www.memphis.edu/veterans/).
Food for Thought: Article Discussion

The Professional Development Committee has identified a few articles that provide interesting “food for thought” for your personal development or use in a staff development experience.

The Cost of Balancing Academia and Racism (LINK)

By Adrienne Green | The Atlantic, January 21, 2016

Green writes about the mental health implications for black students as a result of systemic discrimination at colleges and universities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What strategies might we use to confront systemic racism in educational institutions? What opportunities exist to dismantle discriminative institutions and practices?
2. What implications for practice does this article have—particularly around the concepts of grit and resilience?
3. How might this fit into larger conversations around mental health on college campuses? What practices should we encourage to adequately address this population?

Prominent Scholar Calls Growth Mindset a Cancerous Idea, in Isolation (LINK)

By Adriel A. Hilton, Ph.D. | Huffington Post, November 12, 2017

Hilton discusses the research of Dr. Luke Wood, a distinguished professor of education at San Diego State University around the impact of Growth Mindset on black men.

Discussion Questions

1. How might we rethink affirmation as a tool for self-efficacy, particularly for students belonging to marginalized groups?
2. How does your advising and support style shift to meet the needs of the students you work with? What are the constants, and what features are flexible?
3. What other frameworks or paradigms in our work cater to the majority perspective? How might we challenge these assumptions in our work?

Have an idea for a Food for Thought article? Send it to Scott Radimer at slrdimer@memphis.edu!
Give Thanks & Give Back

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and enter into the holiday season many opportunities exist to give back to our campus and local community. Consider making an impact with the following:

SLI Partnership with Volunteer Odyssey

Student Leadership & Involvement is proud to partner with Volunteer Odyssey as our official service partner. This partnership allows the University to provide vetted service opportunities to students that contribute to real community needs. Volunteer Odyssey was founded by Dr. Sarah Petschonek in 2013 with the mission to develop a pathway to volunteering that enriches the lives and communities within Memphis. The corporation launched the country’s first virtual volunteer fair, called Volio, and supplies volunteers to more than 50 nonprofits in the Memphis area.

One of the ways to connect to Volunteer Odyssey is through VolunteerCompass—an online platform to register and track the University’s service commitment. Simply log in using your UofM username and password and explore the multitude of daily opportunities available. Check it out here!

Tiger Pantry Opportunities

Tiger pantry is a food and toiletry pantry available to current students, faculty, and staff in need. Items needed to stock the pantry are listed below. You may also contribute to Tiger Pantry with a monetary donation by visiting UofM Annual Giving, selecting “Fund Not Listed” and typing Tiger Pantry as a special instruction.

**Food**

- Pasta, Pasta Sauce
- Soup
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Canned Beans
- Granola Bars, Breakfast Bars
- Chili
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Rice
- Canned Protein (Chicken, Tuna)
- Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit
- Snack crackers

**Toiletries and Household Items**

- Women’s Deodorant
- Tampons & Pads
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Dryer Sheets
- Trash Bags
- Dish Soap
- Sponges
- Can Openers
- Shaving cream

*Tiger Pantry accepts donations on business days from 8am-4:30pm at UC 359, UC Helpdesk and AD 235. Food must be non-perishable and non-expired.*
Upcoming Conferences

NASPA Annual Conference
March 3-7 | Philadelphia, PA

The NASPA Annual Conference is the premier student affairs professional development event. With over 5,000 student affairs educators, the NASPA Annual Conference is the largest event of its kind. With featured speakers who engage participants in thoughtful reflection on the field, over 500 educational sessions presented by student affairs professionals, and networking events that both engage and inspire us to do our work on campus, this event is one not to be missed!

This year’s featured speakers are U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and President/CEO of UNCF Dr. Michael Lomax.

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 15, 2017- Dec 12, 2017</td>
<td>Early Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13, 2017-Feb 2, 2018</td>
<td>Regular Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3, 2018-Mar 7, 2018</td>
<td>Late Registration</td>
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For more information visit: https://conference2018.naspa.org/

Do you have ideas or suggestions for professional development initiatives for future newsletters or programs your like to see happen? Share them with Scott Radimer at x2826 or slrdimer@memphis.edu