As increasing numbers of veterans return from the service, some with special challenges, it is clear that we have an obligation to help them with the transition to college life. Through the University of Maryland Veterans Initiative the University will take the lead nationally in providing services to our veterans, and become a model for other colleges and universities developing a comprehensive approach to the needs of veterans. The UM Veterans Initiative will provide the incentive and support necessary to help veterans achieve their academic and personal goals and enhance the support offered by the GI Bill.

The University of Maryland believes it is a privilege and a responsibility to provide the best possible opportunity for veterans to obtain the education and skills they desire. These men and women have made enormous sacrifices for our nation, and the University takes pride in promoting their readjustment to academic and civilian life and their continued success. We invite interested donors to join us in this important endeavor.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
- Developed a committee to advocate for veterans and to coordinate services.
- Created a website.
- Established policies for deployed students to use University e-mail accounts.
- Provided mental health services and specialized training for mental health service providers.
- Created a veterans liaison position to advise veteran student organization, create community and enhance communication.
- Initiated an annual event to publicly recognize the services of our veteran students and alumni.

“Student veterans face issues beyond those of the average student. The University has the unique capability to address their concerns and needs and make a difference in their lives and those of their families through the Veterans Initiative.”

— LINDA M. CLEMENT
Vice President for Student Affairs
THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Recognized nationally for many of its programs, services and staff, the Division of Student Affairs works collectively to offer students a world-class experience while at Maryland. We strive to provide every student the opportunity to gain skills necessary to contribute to our global society and to explore leadership in all of its various forms. We believe students must graduate with the skills not only necessary to succeed in the work place, but also to live healthy, balanced and civically engaged lives.

VETERANS INITIATIVES PRIORITIES

- **Endow Veterans Scholarships**: Current scholarships, GI Benefits and other federal assistance do not meet costs for students. Without support, student veterans either must work significant hours or incur onerous debt burdens to pay full tuition, fees, and living costs.

- **Endow the Veterans Initiatives Fund**: The Veterans Initiative Fund will provide much needed financial support to our comprehensive efforts aimed at improving the transition to UM and the quality of each student’s experience while on campus. Key priorities of the Veterans Initiative Fund include: veterans programming, coordination of services, outreach and recognition efforts, student organization support and mental health, social and family services support.

ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- **Garden of Reflection and Remembrance**: Inspiring the University and surrounding communities to take the time to contemplate and enjoy the quiet of nature. Used by several classes integrating the labyrinth into the curriculum; and as an outdoor laboratory for classes such as Landscape Architecture.

- **Student Crisis Fund**: Removing financial burden and worry for students who have had major challenges – funds to replace books, assist in times of family emergencies and medical need.

- **Contemporary Art Purchasing Program**: Opening the eyes of students and community members to the varied perspectives and cultures of contemporary artists. Giving students the unique occasion to meet with artists, gallery managers and curators to learn the world of art as a business.

- **America Reads*Amercia Counts and Partners in Print**: Giving students the opportunity to not only make a difference in the life of a young person at risk, but also to consider careers in teaching and the non-profit sector.

- **Alternative Breaks**: Developing critical thinking skills while giving students the opportunity to better understand the impact one citizen’s involvement can have locally and globally. Deep education on issues such as border awareness, the justice system, HIV/AIDS, poverty and education.

We call on all those who value our work – alumni, students, faculty, partners and friends – to come forward, contribute their knowledge, energy and financial resources, and help us improve student lives so that they, in turn will change the world.

Join with us to achieve **Great Expectations**!