

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear Armed Services Member,

I invite you to discover the School of General Studies (GS) of Columbia University. GS is the finest liberal arts college in the country created specifically for students with nontraditional backgrounds who seek a traditional and rigorous Ivy League education. What you may not know is that GS has been educating military veterans for over 60 years.

Since World War II, the School of General Studies has served veterans who interrupted their education to serve their country. Like these military service women and men, most of the 1,200 degree students at GS have, for personal or professional reasons, interrupted their education, never attended college, or can only attend part-time. They bring a wealth of life experience to the classroom, and contribute in a unique way to the diversity and cultural richness of the University.

As two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, David Herbert Donald said recently to the History News Network, "In 1947 I received my first teaching appointment. It was at Columbia University in the School of General Studies, where most of the students were veterans whose education had been interrupted by World War II. Many were much older than I, and all knew much more of the world than I.... I have found that I can best teach students if I am willing to learn from them."

Columbia's commitment to military veterans, reservists, and active duty service members continues today for the very reasons Dr. Donald describes; we believe strongly that the experience and talents these students bring to Columbia enhance immeasurably the academic discourse in the classroom. At GS we continue the tradition of seeking out veterans to join our academic community so we can not only teach them, but also learn from them.

From a student's first semester, throughout his or her undergraduate career, and extending into the graduate's professional life, the transforming impact of a Columbia education is evident. We find that women and men from the United States armed forces have been and continue to be excellent candidates for our degree program.

We are very proud of our tradition of educating women and men from the armed services, and we hope to continue that tradition long into the future. We invite you to learn more about the School of General Studies of Columbia University by visiting our website www.columbia.edu/cu/gm/military.

Sincerely,

Professor Peter J. Awn
Dean