



**WILLIAM JAMES  
COLLEGE**

**September 29, 2022**



## **MVP and TVTV Newsletter**

*Your newsletter for all important updates related to Military and Veterans Psychology and the Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs.*

**September 2022**

Dear WJC Community Members, Students, Faculty and Staff,

September is Suicide Awareness month. Eighteen veterans die by suicide each day, according to 2019 Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, a rate 1.5 times higher than the general population. Nearly 70% (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2019) of veterans lost to suicide use firearms to take their lives, not surprisingly, veterans own more firearms than their civilian counterparts. Some of the most overlooked yet effective interventions for suicide include safer lethal means storage and lethal means counseling. These interventions restrict lethal means access and allow individuals to create more time between suicidal thoughts and potential actions. The individual then has more opportunity to manage the emotional pain and get vital support before acting on these emotions.



Our awareness of this crisis of preventable deaths should not be restricted to September, the work of preventing suicide continues year-round. To learn more about ways in which you

can help, please check out the Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Program at <https://www.mass.gov/suicide-prevention-program>. In addition, a new number—988 (Veterans Press 1) was rolled out to ease the process of accessing support for those who have thoughts of suicide.

Please take an active role as a gatekeeper in this process of ending one of the leading preventable causes of death, death by suicide.

Jenny D'Olympia, PsyD, LMHC, LP, HSP (she/her)  
Assistant Professor and Assistant Chair, Counseling and Behavioral Health Department  
Director, Military Veteran Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs  
Director, Master of Arts in Psychology (online) Program

## Announcements

### **Military and Veterans Psychology Experiential Groups**

The Military and Veteran Psychology (MVP) Program's experiential learning group is underway, but we are still taking new participants. While students in the MVP concentration are required to participate in the experiential group during one year of their studies, the group is also open to any interested WJC student or alum.

These group is offered in person. Dr. David Haddad's group will meet on campus Mondays at 12 pm.

A follow-up email will be sent with more specific information to those who RSVP. To RSVP, please email [mvp@williamjames.edu](mailto:mvp@williamjames.edu).

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### **Upcoming Veteran Colloquium**

**The Exploration of Why Veterans Become Mental Health Clinicians**

**Presented by:** Marissa Ellis

**Date and Time:** October 6th at 10am EST  
**Zoom Meeting ID:** 858 7607 4030

## Upcoming CE Events

### Suicide Prevention for Military Veterans Through Lethal Means Counseling

**Date:** October 14th, 2022 10AM - 2:30PM

**Location:** Station Training Room, 1 William H Welch Way, Framingham, MA 01702

This program will provide clinicians with the background knowledge about firearms, safe firearms storage, firearms safety and the laws of firearms ownership in Massachusetts to improve their knowledge, vernacular and confidence, when discussing suicide prevention as it relates to firearms and safer firearms storage with military and veterans in the community. This training will also discuss the relationship between veterans and firearm ownership. It will provide an overview of tools for suicide risk screening and will offer specific questioning and scenarios related to risk of death by suicide with firearms demonstrated and practiced through role play.

[Register Here](#)

## Previous CE Events

If you would like to review any previous CE events, you can find the links to recordings on our website.

[Visit our Website!](#)

## Faculty Spotlight

### Patricia Matlock

Patricia Matlock is a native of Rhode Island. She served as a commissioned logistics officer in the U.S. Army for nearly thirty years, retiring from

active duty in 2016.

Colonel (Retired) Matlock served in a variety of operational positions from platoon leader through deputy brigade commander in the United States, Somalia, Iraq, and Egypt. Her last operational assignment was as both the Chief of Support, Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), and Deputy Commander, Task Force Sinai (U.S. Army MFO contingent). She completed her service as an instructor at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle PA. After separating from the service, she served as a principal analyst and consultant on programs, policies, and organizational strategies at Headquarters, Department of the Army.



Patricia's education includes a bachelor's degree in Russian and German Area Studies from Providence College, a master's degree in Logistics Management from Florida Institute of Technology, and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Patricia's personal interests include reading, travel, and outside adventures.

## Student Spotlights

### Tanjira Spaulding



Tanjira Spaulding is a 3rd year student in WJC's clinical psychology doctoral program. She is currently completing her advanced practicum internship at Stanley Street Treatment Center providing medically assisted treatment in one of the Massachusetts communities hit most hard by the opioid epidemic. Tanjira also serves as a student leader of the Asian Mental Health Alliance, working to educate, advocate, promote, and cultivate learning about the Asian

community. Her research interests include the efficacy of harm reduction strategies as well as looking at factors that influence early separation in the military and how the utilization or non-utilization of mental health resources impact retention. After graduation, Tanjira hopes to obtain a position at the only APA-accredited post-doctoral fellowship in forensic psychology at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). Her main goal is to help improve mental health outcomes for soldiers, veterans, and their families.

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## LaTashia Raymond

LaTashia is a 4th-year student at William James College who is working towards a concentration in Military and Veteran Psychology and an emphasis in Latino Mental Health. She is a mother of two and Master Sergeant (pending Sergeant Major) in the Army with over 24 years of service.



She has served in positions such as Human Resource Sergeant, Equal Opportunity Advisor, Master Resilience Trainer, Master Fitness Trainer, Drill Sergeant, Observer Controller/Trainer, etc. Her doctoral project focuses on military regulations and practices that impact treatment seeking. Upon graduation, LaTashia plans on returning to active duty so that she may serve her brothers and sisters in arms.

## Contact Us!

[mvp@williamjames.edu](mailto:mvp@williamjames.edu)

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