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Six New Cadets are Commissioned!

On June 16, 2013, at 5 p.m. at the Redlands Bowl in Redlands, the United States Air Force commissioned six new second lieutenants. Commissioned were Aundrea Chapman, Roger Hazel, Kyle Holifield, Nethania Penrod, Luke Unrath and Scott Unrath. All six completed Air Force ROTC at Detachment 002, California State University, San Bernardino. Lieutenants Holifield, L. Unrath, and S. Unrath are departing for undergraduate pilot training, Lieutenant Hazel is off to remotely piloted aircraft training, and Lieutenants Chapman and Penrod will begin their careers as force support officers in Texas.

These six successfully completed either the three year or four year program spending 28 days at field training in Alabama and Mississippi. Additionally, three of the six were cadet wing commanders leading the cadet wing over the past two years. Their success reflects great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

The United States Department of the Air Force was created by the National Security Act of 1947. That act became effective Sept. 18, 1947, when the first secretary of the Air Force took office. On Sept. 21, 1947, the Army Air Forces became the United States Air Force - a separate and equal element of the United States Armed Forces. As we celebrate the establishment of the United States Air Force as a separate service, we are reminded of their proud heritage and promising future.

On Sept. 27, 2013, from 1:30 - 3 p.m., please join the Veterans Success Center in collaboration with the CSUSB Air Force ROTC, Det. 002 to celebrate the 66th Air Force Birthday. The festivities will take place on the Pfau Library Lawn and the Recital Hall in the Theater Arts Building. Once again, the Korean War era T-34s from the March Aero Club will be gracing the skies over our campus, followed by the new Air Force ROTC Commander Chas Peterson who will provide welcoming remarks, then join us for cake and lemonade, followed by living legend Colonel Paul Green. Colonel Green overcame his childhood upbringing in the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphans Home to become one of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, a dedicated and determined group of young men who became America's first Black military airmen. Green ended his prestigious career as the base commander of Norton Air Force Base. Don’t forget to drop by starting Sept. 20 to get your airplane kit for a chance to win prizes for most innovative, longest flight and best stunts.

On behalf of the Coyote family, we thank ASI for sponsoring the T-34s and all those who are serving in the Air Force or have served for their sacrifice and commitment to the defense of our nation. Through your daily efforts, you sustain the legacy for future generations of proud airmen.

**Model Fighter Jet Competition**

The Veterans Success Center invites student leaders and departments on campus to participate in the model fighter jets aircraft decoration, and longest flight and best stunts competition. Please visit the VSC or contact us at the information below to sign up and receive your model fighter jet tool kit. Make sure you are signed up by Sept. 20 for a chance to win exciting prizes!

Phone: 909-537-5195  
E-mail: espjj310@coyote.csusb.edu  

**Coordinator’s Corner!**

We hope that you had a wonderful summer break and are ready for the upcoming academic year. Over the break, the Veterans Success Center staff worked tirelessly to plan activities, programs and services to help with your academic success. For example, we have added a monthly lunchtime lecture series where you will gain important insights on topics pertinent to your academic success and well-being. Topics include, How to Build Successful Relationships, Stress Management, Happiness, Simple Yet Profound, How to Increase Well-Being and Success and the latest and most innovative study skills and techniques. A free lunch will be provided to those attending.

Please stop by on Sept. 19 to see what’s new at the center, catch up with friends and enjoy the “Welcome Back” festivities.
Hiring Our Heroes: 
Career Development for Student Veterans

In remembrance of the heroism of service members on 9/11, the VSC hosted the Inland Empire Education Collaborative for an informative workshop “Hiring Our Heroes: Career Development for Student Veterans.” At the Veterans Success Center, we work with student veterans every day to help them transition from the military to an academic environment. Of course the journey does not stop there, helping veterans reintegrate into the civilian workforce is a critical effort for the nation's economy and military. The unemployment rate for veterans is more than 10 percent among post-9/11 enlistees, which is higher than the national rate of 7.9 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

This important training, which was held at the San Bernardino EDD office, focused on the most current strategies to guide student veterans to transition from the academic environment to gainful employment; and informed participants about new programs that are available to help the Inland Empire’s population of veterans and service members which are effective and have opened up rewarding career paths in a range of fields.

Both U.S. government programs and private industry are heeding the call to assist those job seekers who made the ultimate commitment to country. First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden head the Joining Forces jobs initiative, which has brought together 2,000 domestic companies with the pledge of hiring 100,000 veterans, as well as the spouses of active duty military members, by the end of this year.

A Word from the ASA II

“The summer vibe is coming to an end. As our fellow COYOTES are returning to continue their education to get closer to their dreams, do not forget to visit the Veterans Success Center to participate in our upcoming seminars and events.”

Jaime Espinoza
On Wednesday, June 5, 2013, the Veterans Success Center and Student Veterans Organization held the third Veterans Graduation Celebration. The event was not only centered on the graduates, but their support system as well including their families, friends, colleagues, staff and many others. Forty students veterans were on-hand to receive their graduation stoles adorned with the American flag, branch patch and embroidered with CSUSB. Twenty-nine graduating veterans also received honor chords and a one-year paid membership to the SALUTE National Honor Society.

Paula Akwaboah, a member of the team that put together the event, remarked, “I was truly proud to see each veteran receive their graduation regalia for they truly deserved it. I am pleased to have enjoyed this moment with all of the graduating veterans of the Class of 2013 and wish them the best of luck in the future!”

The student Marines of CSUSB are hosting the 2nd Annual Marine Corps Birthday Celebration Banquet for the Marine Corps’ 238th Birthday. This year, the event will be held on Friday, Nov. 1. Registration begins at 6 p.m., and the event concludes at 9 p.m. There will be an authentic Marine Corps birthday ceremony, dinner and dessert. The birthday celebration is open to all, free-of-charge; however seating is limited. Everyone who would like to attend is encouraged to RSVP to Reuben Perales at peralesr@coyote.csusb.edu or Kenny Jacobs at jacok301@coyote.csusb.edu.
July 3rd Open House

The Veterans Success Center would like to thank the more than 160 members of the CSUSB community for attending our July 3rd Open House in celebration of our nation’s birthday. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for students, staff and faculty to ask questions about our student veterans and the services we provide for them at the center and to tour the facility. We think it’s important to educate our community about the services we offer because almost every one of us knows someone in the Armed Forces.

Our center is proud to serve America’s heroes and educate the university on the importance of veterans to our nation. Independence Day reminds us that we are the “Home of the Free Because of the Brave.”

The Veterans Success Center also recognized Dr. Frank Rincon, former vice president of Student Affairs, as a great leader and educator who not only served in the U.S. Air Force, but also dedicated a large part of his life leading students to success here at CSUSB. Jaime Espinoza stated, “The VSC is very happy to have had you as our vice president for Students Affairs. Dr. Rincon you are a great leader and have set the example of what it means to be an American.”

The VSC created a book, dedicated to Dr. Rincon, featuring the VSC’s first year of operation. The book designed by Kenny Jacobs contains pictures from the grand opening up to our first anniversary and quotes from our student veterans. We made an extra copy which is in the center’s library collection so that visitors, student veterans, staff and faculty are able to view it.

We are truly honored to have the campus community join us in celebration of our nation’s 237th birthday. The 4th of July, 2013, finds our country facing many challenges and we're rising to meet them. Today and every day, we are grateful for our freedom and proud to be Americans.
Tim Abarca, a Marine Corps veteran, got married on August 3rd to Arlene Abarca in Temecula at Wiens Winery, where 120 guests were in attendance. In Tim’s own words, “It’s been a wonderful ride and I can’t wait to see the road ahead!”

Catching Up with Our Veterans

Some of our veterans shared what they have been doing over the summer. Here are photos and stories of what they have been doing.

Joshua Jones, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

This summer Joshua Jones, student and Marine Corps veteran, (far right) and fellow students and friends (from left to right) Reece Cote, Mike Keulker, Phil Ruddle and Lauren Pacheco played paintball as a team at SC Village in Chino. Josh also attended the San Manuel baseball game with fellow student Joshua Elder and his father who was a medic during Vietnam.

Jennifer Iacolino
U.S. Army Veteran

I attended summer classes taking Dr. Reimer’s Psych 100 and Dr. Perry’s Humanities 385. These classes were so informative and useful. My humanities class was an eye opener, which helped me to understand clothing and identity. Psychology 100 is a definite must - I believe my daughter needs this class immediately upon entering college. Other than school, my daughter Victoria danced at the Dancin Dayz Competition in Palm Springs. My second daughter Maddie Baker - Iacolino, met her father who is a veteran of the U.S. Army and lives in New York for the very first time, and we went to Disneyland. She also started kindergarten at Phelan Elementary!

Tim Abarca, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Tim with his wife after the wedding
Fred Cervantes, U.S. Army Veteran

Fishing at June Lake is a family tradition that has been going on for more than 30 years. This year was special for me because it had been a while since my last trip and it was the year after my Uncle David who started the tradition passed away. It was a bittersweet vacation. Although I did not catch the winning fish, my relatives and I had an amazing time that was full of reminiscing, beer drinking, and BBQ-ing. Now that my cousins are older, we hope to keep this tradition alive for my kids and future generations.

David Briggs, U.S. Army Veteran

David Briggs spent the summer in Jordan studying classical Arabic. He says of the experience, “It was a very intense program and was a great experience. I enjoyed visiting important landmarks throughout Jordan like Petra, Ajloun, Gerash, Jabal Qala, and the Dead and Red seas.”

Lawrence McCrary, U.S. Army Veteran

This summer, Lawrence McCrary, who is a communications major at CSUSB, participated in running the Live Coyote Radio during the regular summer session for 2013. During his time on the radio, he gave regular shout outs to groups such as the Veterans Success Center and even played local band music from San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties on the radio. During the fall quarter, Lawrence will be announcing the news on the radio. Lawrence likes the job and looks forward to continuing it for a while.
Antonio Silva, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

It has been an eventful summer filled with many different enriching experiences. It began with applying to pharmacy school and writing my personal statement, which is still in progress. I then followed it with an internship as a pharmacy technician at St. Bernadine Medical Center. Thankfully, this internship opportunity was provided by the associate director of Community Engagement, Bryant Fairley. The internship required that I complete one hundred hours throughout the summer break which I began on July 25. Some of the duties I was assigned in the pharmacy were to receive medical shipments, scan items, store medications in their proper place, restock empty bins throughout the pharmacy, prepare unit doses for patients, and prepare the adult and infant crash carts belonging to all the hospital units. Most importantly, the internship allowed me to network with their pharmacist, who in turn wrote a letter of recommendation that I will use in my pharmacy school application. During this time I took two course requirements, a kinesiology class and the upper division writing. The writing class was an intense four and a half weeks of reading and analyzing course materials as well as writing an analytical response to the readings, collaborative essay on a particular genre and a research paper on a genre related to a field of interest with a PowerPoint presentation and a one page summary of the report. Although intense, I feel that the class strengthened my analytical skills and improved my writing.

Kenny Jacobs, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves

Kenny Jacobs, a student assistant at the Veterans Success Center and a Marine Corps reservist, rode his new motorcycle to Pismo beach this summer. Kenny enjoys sun filled days riding in the summer weather on his motorcycle. Kenny rides his motorcycle safely and encourages other riders to do the same.

Luca Daley
U.S. Marine Corps Dependent

Luca at Huntington Beach with his sister

VSC student assistant Luca Daley took a couple of weeks off during summer to enjoy his time diving, surfing and relaxing by the beach. He recounted how he sliced open his foot on some coral after a long day of diving. After spending weeks on the San Diego and Orange County beaches, he says he is excited for what nature will bring in winter.

Kenny on his ride at Pismo Beach

Antonio Silva poses with his uniform

This newsletter was written and published by the staff and students of the California State University, San Bernardino’s Veteran’s Success Center.